The work is based upon Die grosse politik der europäischen kabinette 1871-1914; sammlung der diplomatischen akten des Auswärtigen amtes, being a selection of those documents which specially concern Great Britain. It contains not only the documents but the German notes printed without comment and without criticism.

He handed in his resignation on April 22, mainly as a consequence of domestic criticism and before German pressure became strong, but immediately consented to resume office. At his final resignation on June 6 (of which there is a dramatic account by M. Chaumie, minister of justice, which is printed in an appendix) he claimed to have a written promise of support from England of which "he read the text" and "believed that there was every interest in concluding this alliance" (VI, 602).