

THE GERMANS

Habsburg Dynasty (Kings of Austria & Holy Roman Emperors)

- 1438-9 Albert II
- 1440-93 Frederick III
- 1493-1519 **Maximilian I**

Expanded the Habsburg holdings through war & especially marriage/Arranged a double marriage treaty between two of his children (Phillip the Fair & Margaret of Austria) and two children of Ferdinand & Isabella of Spain (Juana the Mad & Juan, Prince of Asturias)/The marriage of Phillip the Fair and Juana the Mad had a son who became Emperor Charles V

- 1519-56 **Charles V**

Charles V, who ruled over more territory than anyone in human history, was the heir of 4 great European dynasties (Habsburg, Valois of Burgundy, Trastamara of Castile, & the House of Aragon)/Charles' possessions included Spain, the Spanish conquests in America and Africa, the Netherlands, Burgundy, the Italian states of Naples, Sicily, and Sardinia, and the Habsburg lands of central Europe/His grandparents were Emperor Maximilian I, Mary of Burgundy, Isabella I of Castile, and Ferdinand II of Aragon/Charles was a devout Catholic who happened to be Emperor at the outbreak of the Reformation/In 1556 Charles abdicated giving his Austrian lands and title of HRE to his brother Ferdinand, and his Spanish Empire (Spain, the Americas, the Netherlands, and the Italian possessions) to his son **Phillip II**/Phillip II became the first of the **Spanish Habsburgs**

- 1556-64 Ferdinand I
- 1564-76 Maximilian II
- 1576-1612 Rudolf II
- 1612-37 **Ferdinand II**

Ferdinand's election as HRE and his stance against the religious liberties of Protestants leads to the outbreak of the Thirty Years War

- 1637-57 Ferdinand III
- 1658-1705 Leopold I
- 1705-1711 Joseph I
- 1711-1740 Charles VI
- 1740-65 **Maria Theresa**

In 1713, Emperor Charles VII convinced many European rulers to agree to the **Pragmatic Sanction** allowing his daughter Maria Theresa to assume the Habsburg throne (in violation of Salic law)/The War of Austrian Succession was fought to prevent Maria Theresa from becoming the Habsburg heir and a rival Emperor was even crowned (Charles VII)/ Maria Theresa became one of the most capable Habsburg rulers ever and was a major player in 18th century Europe/Maria Theresa strengthened Austria's political ties through strategic marriage arrangements of her 16 children (including Marie Antoinette, the youngest)

- 1765-90 Joseph II
- 1790-2 Leopold II
- 1792-1806 Franz II

Habsburg Emperors of Austria (Austrian Empire, 1804-67) (Austro-Hungarian Empire, 1867-1918)

- 1804-35 Franz I

- 1835-48 Ferdinand I
- 1848-1916 **Franz Joseph I**

In 1848, Europe erupted in liberal & nationalistic revolutions against conservative, old regime style governments. The rebels wanted liberal reforms and/or national independence. In Austria, the **Revolution of 1848** caused the resignation of the Chancellor, Prince Metternich & the abdication of the Austrian Emperor Ferdinand I in favor of his 18yr old nephew Franz Joseph I. Franz Joseph I would rule Austria & then Austria-Hungary until his death in 1916 during WWI. The Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary was created during his reign by the **Compromise of 1867**.

- 1916-18 Charles I

Kings of Prussia (Hohenzollern Dynasty)

- 1701-13 Frederick I
- 1713-40 Frederick William I
- 1740-86 **Frederick II “Frederick the Great”**

Frederick the Great was a proponent of “enlightened absolutism”/This means that he ruled absolutely but was influenced by many of the ideas of the enlightenment such as rationalism, freedom of religion, and the right to hold private property/He also was a great patron of the arts and was an accomplished musician in his own right/Frederick’s fame came primarily from his military success/He was involved in several wars during his reign and the Prussian army became known for it’s strength/Frederick started the **War of Austrian Succession (1740-48)** in which Prussia gained the region of Silesia/At the beginning of Frederick’s reign Prussia consisted of 2 disconnected areas divided by Poland/In the **First Partition of Poland (1772)**, Frederick unified the 2 halves by acquiring a large piece of Poland

- 1786-97 Frederick William II
- 1797-1840 Frederick William III
- 1840-61 Frederick William IV
- 1861-88 **Wilhelm I**

Wilhelm’s greatest political move was the appointment of **Otto von Bismarck** as Chancellor of Prussia/Bismarck would lead Prussia to the expansion that would result in the **unification of Germany** into the German Empire (2nd Reich) in 1871/Bismarck would continue to be one of the leading political figures in Europe until his dismissal in 1890

Hohenzollern Emperors of Germany (German Empire, 1871-1918)

- 1871-88 **Wilhelm I**
- 1888 Frederick III
- 1888-1918 **Wilhelm II**

Came to power after his father died of throat cancer 6 months after assuming the throne/Wilhelm II was immediately at odds with Chancellor Otto von Bismarck/Bismarck favored a careful foreign policy based on **realpolitik**/Wilhelm II was concerned that Germany not lose her “**place in the sun**” and set a “**new course**” that included an aggressive **weltpolitik** (“**world policy**”)/Wilhelm’s new policies were a contributing factor to the outbreak of WWI

Weimar Republic

- 1919-33

The Weimar Republic was the German government that existed in the inter-war years between WWI & WWII/The Weimar constitution was the most progressive in Europe at the time providing universal suffrage to both men & women (the first to allow women to vote)/The Weimar government was doomed to fail because of the unpopularity of the Treaty of Versailles and it’s crippling effect on Germany, and also the economic effects of the Great Depression/The Weimar period was a high mark for art & culture

The 3rd Reich (Nazi Germany)

- 1933-45 **Adolf Hitler**

Adolf Hitler and the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933 in a strange mix of democratic elections, political posturing, and physical intimidation/The moved quickly to secure their absolute power in Germany by eliminating all potential threats to their power/Within a short time Adolf Hitler's power over the lives of German citizens was absolute (more so than any divine right king of the 17th & 18th centuries)/Hitler used his power to create a nightmare totalitarian regime, start a second world war, and carry out a racial war against Jews, Slavs, Gypsies, and other social minorities throughout Europe

Occupied Germany

- 1945-49

At the Yalta Conference of 1945, the Allies came together and agreed that Germany would be divided into 4 zones of occupation after the war (Russian, French, British, and American zones)

German Democratic Republic (East Germany) & Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany)

- 1949-89

In 1949 a permanent settlement was reached and the zones of occupation were ended in Germany/The Soviet zone became East Germany a communist totalitarian regime/The French, British, and American zones were combined to form West Germany a democratic capitalist country which became an important ally of the Western powers

Federal Republic of Germany

- 1989-present

In 1989 revolutions broke out throughout the Eastern Bloc/In Germany this resulted in the collapse of the East German regime/The Berlin Wall was torn down and the 2 divided countries merged into the Federal Republic of Germany/Contemporary Germany has assumed it's place among the world economic & political powers and is a leader in many industries