

Frederick The Great And His Times Volume One

"Frederick II (German: Friedrich II.; 24 January 1712? 17 August 1786) was King in Prussia (1740?1786) of the Hohenzollern dynasty. He is best known for his brilliance in military campaigning and organization of Prussian armies. He became known as Frederick the Great (Friedrich der Große) and was nicknamed Der Alte Fritz ("Old Fritz"). He was a grandson of George I of Great Britain, and a nephew of George II."--Wikipedia.

CHAPTER I. THE QUEEN SOPHIA DOROTHEA. The palace glittered with light and splendor; the servants ran here and there, arranging the sofas and chairs; the court gardener cast a searching glance at the groups of flowers which he had placed in the saloons; and the major domo superintended the tables in the picture gallery. The guests of the queen will enjoy to-night a rich and costly feast. Every thing wore the gay and festive appearance which, in the good old times, the king's palace in Berlin had been wont to exhibit. Jesting and merrymaking were the order of the day, and even the busy servants were good-humored and smiling, knowing that this evening there was no danger of blows and kicks, of fierce threats and trembling terror. Happily the king could not appear at this ball, which he had commanded Sophia to give to the court and nobility of Berlin. The king was ill, the gout chained him to his chamber, and during the last few sleepless nights a presentiment weighed upon the spirit of the ruler of Prussia. He felt that the reign of Frederick the First would soon be at an end; that the doors of his royal vault would soon open to receive a kingly corpse, and a new king would mount the throne of Prussia. This last thought filled the heart of the king with rage and bitterness. Frederick William would not die! he would not that his son should reign in his stead; that this weak, riotous youth, this dreamer, surrounded in Rheinsberg with poets and musicians, sowing flowers and composing ballads, should take the place which Frederick the First had filled so many years with glory and great results. Prussia had no need of this sentimental boy, this hero of fashion, who adorned himself like a French fop, and preferred the life of a sybarite, in his romantic castle, to the battle-field and the night-parade; who found the tones of his flute sweeter than the sounds of trumpets and drums; who declared that there were not only kings by "the grace of God, but kings by the power of genius and intellect, and that Voltaire was as great a king-yes, greater than all the kings anointed by the Pope!" What use has Prussia for such a sovereign? No, Frederick William would not, could not die! His son should not reign in Prussia, destroying what his father had built up! Never should Prussia fall into the hands of a dreaming poet! The king was resolved, therefore, that no one should know he was ill; no one should believe that he had any disease but gout; this was insignificant, never fatal. A man can live to be eighty years old with the gout; it is like a faithful wife, who lives with us even to old age, and with whom we can celebrate a golden wedding. The king confessed to himself that he was once more clasped in her tender embraces, but the people and the prince should not hope that his life was threatened. For this reason should Sophia give a ball, and the world should see that the queen and her daughters were gay and happy. The queen was indeed really gay to-day; she was free. It seemed as if the chains which bound her had fallen apart, and the yoke to which she had bowed her royal neck was removed....

"[...] FREDERICK THE GREAT AND HIS COURT. BOOK I. CHAPTER I. THE QUEEN SOPHIA DOROTHEA.[...]"

Literary Nonfiction. Translated by Dennis McCort. An intimate insightful biography of Frederick the Great written by two of his royal descendants, Princess Sibylle and Prince Frederick William of Prussia. Deemphasizing the King's political and military achievements while highlighting his personal relationships, interests, moods and even quirks, this book gives us Frederick II as full-blooded, highly sensitive and compassionate Mensch rather than as Olympian monarch. His tortured relationship with his martinet father, the "Soldier King;" his extraordinary devotion to his dogs, his deep feelings for his elder sister Wilhelmine or for Count Rothenburg.; his passion for reading and for the ideals of Enlightenment philosophy as guiding forces in government; the seemingly ceaseless tide of grief he had to endure over the rapid succession of deaths of those closest to him; even his less than fastidious table manners in cutting up bits of meat on the tablecloth for his nearby dogs--these and many other facets of a charismatic personality make this a volume that is for history buffs virtually "unputdownable."

Prussian discipline is legendary. Central to debates about modern German history is the view that an oppressive Prussian state cast a shadow on the development of civil society. In particular, historians have seen the absence of a revolution in the eighteenth century as a symptom of a delayed and incomplete emancipation of the Prussian bourgeoisie. Prussia's urban dwellers have often been portrayed as poor relations of the self-reliant and assertive bourgeois of Western Europe and the Atlantic world. Economically backward and politically oppressed, they were allegedly in no position to challenge the iron grip of the state and question the authority of the Hohenzollern dynasty. Drawing from extensive and original research, Florian Schui challenges the accepted view and argues that Prussians in the eighteenth century were much more willing to challenge the state than has been recognised. Schui explores several instances where urban Prussians successfully resisted government policies and forced Frederick the Great and his successors to give in to their demands. Rebellious Prussians thus sheds light on a little-known historical reality in which weak Hohenzollern monarchs - and a still weaker Prussian bureaucracy - were confronted with prosperous, fearless, argumentative, and occasionally violent Prussian burghers. Such conflicts between state and citizens were by no means unique to Prussia. Rather the events in Prussia were, on many levels, connected to similar contemporary developments in other parts of Europe and North America. Florian Schui systematically explores these links and thus develops a new European and Atlantic perspective on Prussian history in the eighteenth century.

Translated from the German by Mrs. Chapman Coleman and Her Daughters.

After decades of stagnation, the performing arts began to flourish in Berlin under Frederick the Great. A group of musician-composers were recruited who were to form the basis of a brilliant court ensemble, including C.P.E. Bach and the Graun brothers, encouraged by the presence of Ludwig Christian Hesse. They wrote music for the viola da gamba, an instrument which was already becoming obsolete elsewhere. This study shows how the unique situation in Berlin produced the last major corpus of music written for the viola da gamba, and how the more virtuosic works were probably the result of close collaboration between Hesse and the Berlin School composers. The book will appeal to professional and amateur viola da gamba players as well as to scholars of eighteenth-century German music.

A fascinating look at Frederick the Great reveals the often misunderstood king as not only a feared conqueror, but also a patron of the arts and a progressive lawmaker who helped make Berlin one of Europe's great capital cities. Reprint. 15,000 first printing.

For tactical and strategic ingenuity, for daring and ruthless determination and the capacity to inspire troops, Frederick the Great was without equal. In this detailed life of 'Old Fritz', Christopher Duffy, who has written widely on the army of Frederick and on the armies of his adversaries, Austria and Russia, has produced a definitive account of his military genius.

In this volume, French author Pierre Gaxotte offers a straightforward biography of the eighteenth-century Prussian ruler known as Frederick the Great. Now translated into English, it is satisfactorily detailed and written for the modern reader.

