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The Habsburgs: Embodying Empire



Synopsis

The Habsburgs have been described at one extreme as demons – responsible for a long history of atrocities; and, at the other, as dodos – living fossils unable to adapt to the modern world. In reality, the flamboyant royal family appear, in many ways, to have behaved much like most other monarchies. Their story, however, is none the less enthralling for that. It is populated by such unforgettable figures as mad Queen Juana, progressing through Spain with her husband's decaying body; the heroically fertile Maria Theresa, and the quixotic Maximilian, Emperor of Mexico.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Andrew Wheatcroft has written and lectured widely on European and Middle Eastern history. His books include *The Ottomans* and *The Hapsburgs*.

After visiting Vienna, I really wanted to learn more about the Hapsburgs. To my surprise, very little is available in English. This book does a great job of telling the beginnings and the interplay between the Spanish and Austrian dynasties. However, it does fall apart when you get into the late 19th century and the actual fall of the empire. It left me wanting to know more. I'm still looking for another book that covers the fall. This book is worth the time but if you're looking for the conclusion, it never comes.

Very interesting take on the history of the Hapsburg family and their successes and failures in

molding an empire within the context of the near modern European nation-state idea.

This book is very readable. It weaves the various stories about the personalities involved in an extremely presentable way. You find yourself drawn inexorably forward through the history which by itself might seem to be dry and forbidding. Wonderful presentation!!

The book covers a wide length of time and covers the entire empire, Spain, Netherlands, Austria and Hungary. While I learned a lot, there is much more to the empire than can be covered in this book. It is easy to tell the writer is passionate about the subject and has created in me an interest in learn more about the specific rulers and territories.

This is an enjoyable good narrative and extraordinary journey through the history of this Family. Read it and enjoy learning about The Habsburgs

I purchased this book to further my understanding of our lineage. The copy was in great shape and I have enjoyed the read.

Lots of details of what for me was an unknown period of European history. Very helpful as a primer when travelling in the area.

A much-needed comprehensive, accessible history about a unique family.

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