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978-0-521-03819-5 - Royalty and Diplomacy in Europe, 1890-1914

Roderick R. Mclean

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## ROYALTY AND DIPLOMACY IN EUROPE, 1890-1914

This book examines the diplomatic role of royal families in the era before the outbreak of the First World War. It argues that previous historians have neglected for political reasons the important political and diplomatic role of monarchs during the period. In so doing, it opens up an alternative approach that places monarchs at the centre of diplomatic developments in the last years of peace before 1914.

Particular attention is given to the Prusso-German, Russian and British monarchies. The Prusso-German and Russian monarchies played a central role in their countries' diplomacy and foreign policy, primarily as a result of their control over diplomatic and political appointments. However, the book also argues that the British monarchy played a much more influential role in British diplomacy than has been accepted hitherto by historians.

Individual themes examined include relations between the Prussian and Russian monarchies in the era of Kaiser Wilhelm II and Tsar Nicholas II, the political significance of the ill-feeling between Wilhelm II and his uncle King Edward VII, the role of Edward VII in British diplomacy, and the impact of royal visits on Anglo-German relations before 1914. The book argues that royal influence in diplomacy remained a political reality in early twentieth-century Europe. The analysis is supported by a wealth of archival evidence, much of which has never before been brought to light.

RODERICK R. MCLEAN was educated at the Universities of Edinburgh and Sussex, and subsequently taught at Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow. He is now employed by the Scottish Executive.

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To my parents and to Frédérique

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I would like to record my thanks to Her Majesty The Queen for granting me permission to publish the photographs, all of which come from the Royal Archives, Windsor Castle.

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<i>BD</i>	<i>British Documents on the Origins of the War, 1898–1914</i> , ed. G. P. Gooch and Harold Temperley, 11 vols. (London, 1926–38)
<i>BKW</i>	<i>Briefe Kaiser Wilhelms II. an den Zaren 1894–1914</i> , ed. W. Goetz (Berlin, 1920)
<i>DDF</i>	<i>Documents diplomatiques français, 1871–1914</i> , Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, 32 vols. (Paris, 1929–62)
<i>DdR</i>	Chlodwig Fürst zu Hohenlohe-Schillingsfürst, <i>Denkwürdigkeiten der Reichskanzlerzeit</i> , ed. Alexander von Müller (Berlin, 1931)
<i>EK</i>	<i>Philipp Eulenburgs politische Korrespondenz</i> , ed. John C. G. Röhl, 3 vols. (Boppard am Rhein, 1975–83)
<i>ESHR</i>	Esher Papers, Churchill College, Cambridge
<i>GP</i>	<i>Die grosse Politik der europäischen Kabinette, 1871–1914</i> , ed. Johannes Lepsius et al., 40 vols. (Berlin, 1922–7)
<i>GStA Berlin</i> (BPH)	Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin (Brandenburg-Preussisches Hausarchiv)
<i>GStA</i> Merseburg (HA)	Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Merseburg (Haus Archiv)
<i>HNP</i>	<i>Botschafter Paul Graf von Hatzfeldt: nachgelassene Papiere 1838–1901</i> , ed. Gerhard Ebel, 2 vols. (Boppard am Rhein, 1976–7)
<i>HP</i>	<i>The Holstein Papers</i> , ed. Norman Rich and M. H. Fisher, 4 vols. (Cambridge, 1955–63)
<i>HStA</i> Darmstadt	Hessisches Staatsarchiv, Darmstadt

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*List of abbreviations**LQV**The Letters of Queen Victoria*, ed. George E. Buckle, 3rd series, 3 vols. (London, 1930–2)*ÖUA**Österreich-Ungarns Aussenpolitik von der Bosnischen Krise 1908 bis zum Kriegsausbruch 1914*, ed. Ludwig Bittner and Hans Uebersberger, 8 vols. (Vienna, 1930)

PA Bonn

Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes, Bonn

PRO FO

Public Records Office, London, Foreign Office

RA

Royal Archives, Windsor Castle