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Henry IV of Germany, 1056–1106

This is the first book in English devoted to the German king and emperor Henry IV (1056–1106), whose reign was one of the most momentous in German history and a turning-point in the history of the medieval empire (the kingdoms of Germany, Italy and Burgundy).

The reign was marked by continuous rebellions and fluctuating fortune. Earlier monarchs had also witnessed conflict between crown and aristocracy, but Henry IV's reign differed in that his conflicts could never be definitively resolved either by negotiation or by resorting to war. During the 1070s the young king, in strengthening his authority over the key province of Saxony, gained a reputation for tyranny which he could never afterwards shake off. Simultaneously his assertion of the crown's traditional rights over the imperial church aroused the opposition of the newly reformed papacy, implementing a programme of ecclesiastical liberty. The alliance between the German princes and the papacy haunted Henry IV for the rest of his life. He meanwhile, by turns a bold opportunist and a flexible compromiser, dedicated himself at all times to preserving the traditional rights of the monarchy.

I. S. ROBINSON is Associate Professor of Medieval History, Trinity College, Dublin. His previous publications include *The Papacy, 1073–1198: Continuity and Innovation* (Cambridge, 1990).

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PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom www.cup.cam.ac.uk
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA www.cup.org
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain

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First published 1999

Printed in the United Kingdom at the University Press, Cambridge

Typeset in 11/13pt Abode Garamond in QuarkXPress™ [SE]

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN 0 521 65113 1 hardback

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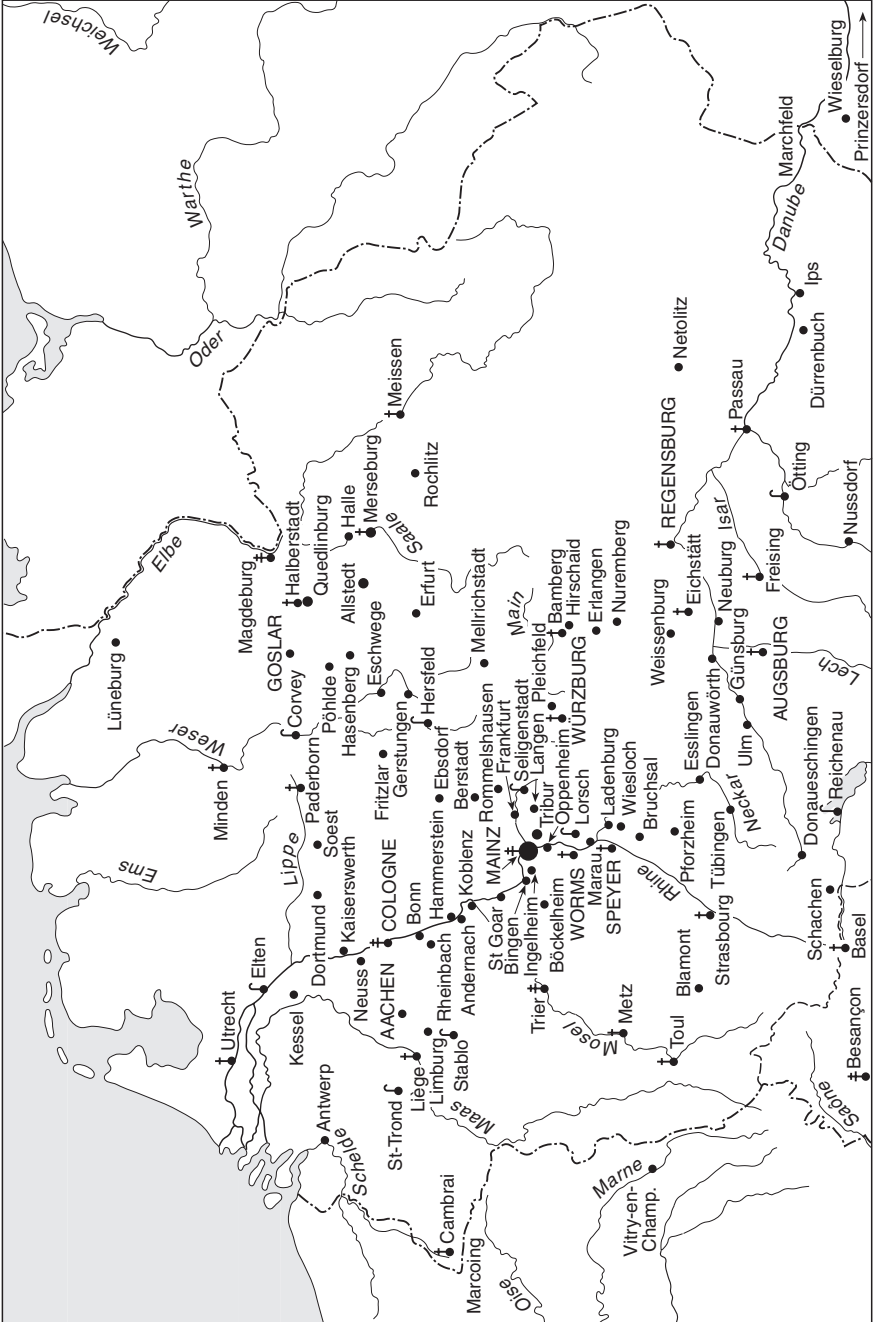
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In writing this introduction to the reign of Henry IV, king of the Germans and emperor, I have received the generous help and advice of many distinguished scholars. My grateful thanks are due to the Reverend Mr H. E. J. Cowdrey (Oxford), Professor Dr Horst Fuhrmann (Munich), Professor Dr Wilfried Hartmann (Tübingen), Dr Irmgard Höss, Professor Dr Rudolf Schieffer (Munich), Dr Wolfram Setz (Munich) and Professor Dr Tilman Struve (Cologne).

Mr William Davies of the Cambridge University Press has been unfailingly helpful and encouraging. The later stages of the research for this book were made possible by a grant from the Arts and Social Sciences Research Fund, Trinity College, Dublin, which I acknowledge with gratitude. The staff of the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, have been extremely generous with their time and their assistance and I must express my particular thanks to Roy Stanley, Anne Walsh and Mary Higgins. I am grateful also for the help of the librarians of the Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Munich, the Historical Seminar and the University Library of Bonn and the University Library of Freiburg im Breisgau. Important material was sent to me by friends working in other libraries: by Elizabeth Rublack-Diamond (Tübingen), Dr Virginia Davis and Dr John McLoughlin (London), Dr Benedikt Stuchtey and Henriette Stuchtey (Freiburg), Dr Niall O Ciosáin (Paris), Dr Mark Humphries (St Andrews), Douglas Carver (Washington and Rome) and by my nephew, Daniel Becker (Cologne).

I have been most fortunate in the encouragement of my friends in Dublin, Mary and Aidan Clarke and Margaret and Patrick Kelly; of my friends in Freiburg, Dr Ellen Gottlieb-Schramm and Professor Dr Gottfried Schramm; and of my family in Bad Godesberg and in Nassau, Waldi and Werner Becker and Dagmar and Walter Hammerstein. I wish to record my grateful thanks to them and above all to my wife, Dr Helga Robinson-Hammerstein, without whose patient help, encouragement and scholarly advice this book would *never* have been completed.





The kingdoms of Germany, Burgundy and Italy in the reign of Henry IV

The map shows all the places visited by Henry IV. The most frequently visited places are given in capital letters.