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0521824087 - The Kaiser: New Research on Wilhelm II's Role in Imperial Germany

Edited by Annika Mombauer and Wilhelm Deist

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## THE KAISER

This is a collection of innovative essays examining the role of Wilhelm II in Imperial Germany, focusing in particular on the later years of the monarch's reign. The essays highlight the Kaiser's relationship with statesmen and rulers, at home and abroad; his role in international relations; the erosion of his power during the First World War; and his ultimate downfall in 1918.

The book demonstrates the extent to which Wilhelm II was able to exercise 'personal rule', largely unopposed by the responsible government, and supported in his decision-making by his influential entourage. But it also shows that there was no lack of contemporary critics of Wilhelm and *Wilhelminismus*. The essays are based on the latest research and on a wide range of archival sources, and provide an up-to-date evaluation of the role and importance of this controversial monarch. They have been written to honour the innovative work of John Röhl, Wilhelm II's most famous biographer, on his sixty-fifth birthday.

ANNIKA MOMBAUER is Lecturer in European History, The Open University. Her previous publications include *Helmuth von Moltke and the Origins of the First World War* (Cambridge 2001), and *The Origins of the First World War. Controversies and Consensus* (Longman 2002).

WILHELM DEIST was Honorary Professor in the History Department, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, Germany. His many books include *The Wehrmacht and German Rearmament* (Macmillan 1981) and *Militär, Staat und Gesellschaft* (Oldenbourg 1991).

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*New Research on Wilhelm II's role  
in Imperial Germany*

EDITED BY

ANNIKA MOMBAUER AND WILHELM DEIST



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*Dedicated to John C. G. Röhl  
on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday  
31 May 2003*

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*Nachrichtenbüro des Reichsmarineamtes, 1897–1914*, Stuttgart 1976; *The German Military in the Age of Total War*, Leamington Spa 1985; 'The Rearmament of the Wehrmacht', in *Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt* (ed.), *Germany and the Second World War*, vol. I, *The Build-up of German Aggression*, Oxford 1990, pp. 373–540; 'Die Reichswehr und der Krieg der Zukunft', *Militärgeschichtliche Mitteilungen* 1 (1989); *Militär, Staat und Gesellschaft. Studien zur preußisch-deutschen Militärgeschichte*, Munich 1991; 'The German Army, the Authoritarian Nation-state and Total War', in John Horne (ed.), *State, Society and Mobilization in Europe during the First World War*, Cambridge 1997. Wilhelm Deist died in June 2003 just before this volume was finished.

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Even a *Festschrift* is subject to strict word limits, and the editors regret that it was unfortunately not possible to approach everyone who would have liked to add a contribution to this volume as a way of congratulating John Röhl on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday.

A. M. and W. D.  
May 2003

## *Postscript*

Sadly, Wilhelm Deist did not live to see the completion of this volume. Until the end, he worked tirelessly on this and other projects, and despite his severe illness, he was determined to contribute to the making of this *Festschrift* for his friend John Röhl. Wilhelm Deist's death in June 2003 is a great loss to his family, friends, and colleagues, but also to German history. It has been a privilege and a pleasure working with him, and I am extremely grateful to him for his enthusiastic support of this volume over the last two years.

Annika Mombauer  
July 2003

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AA	Auswärtiges Amt
AA-PA	Auswärtiges Amt, Politische Abteilung
AEG	Allgemeine Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft
BA	Bundesarchiv
BA-MA	Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv
<i>BD</i>	<i>British Documents on the Origins of the War</i>
<i>DDF</i>	<i>Documents Diplomatiques Français</i>
<i>EK</i>	<i>Eulenburgs Politische Korrespondenz</i>
FO	Foreign Office
<i>FRUS</i>	<i>Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States</i>
GLA	General-Landesarchiv
<i>GP</i>	<i>Die Große Politik der Europäischen Kabinette 1871–1914</i>
GStA	Geheimes Staatsarchiv
HHSA	Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv
<i>HP</i>	Holstein Papers
HSA	Hauptstaatsarchiv
IWM	Imperial War Museum
LC	Library of Congress
<i>MGM</i>	<i>Militärgeschichtliche Mitteilungen</i>
N, NL	Nachlass
NA	National Archives
<i>NAZ</i>	<i>Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung</i>
NFMG	Notes from Foreign Missions, Germany
<i>NPZ</i>	<i>Neue Preussische Kreuz-Zeitung</i>
OHL	Oberste Heeresleitung
PA	Politisches Archiv
PAAA	Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes
PRO	Public Record Office
RA	Royal Archives
SA	Staatsarchiv
SPD	Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands
VStNA	Vereinigte Staaten von Nord-Amerika