

Further Reading

1 Histories of Germany

There are a number of general histories of Germany in the eighteenth century which offer a useful survey of the Habsburg-Hohenzollern conflict. One of the most recent is:

J. Gagliardo, *Germany under the Old Regime* (Longman, 1991)

This covers our period in four chapters and offers a balanced view of all the main characters. The book is well-written, interesting and well researched. The bibliography is a useful place to start if you are attempting to locate the most helpful specialist books.

Much older, but reliable and packed with information is:

H. Holborn, *A History of Modern Germany, 1648–1840* (Eyre & Spottiswoode, 1965)

There are several good histories of Prussia. I particularly recommend:

H.W. Koch, *A History of Prussia* (Longman, 1978)

It is supported by a range of useful primary sources, and gives equal balance to domestic and foreign policy issues.

General histories of the Austrian Empire are harder to find:

E. Wangermann, *The Austrian Achievement* (Thames & Hudson, 1973)

This offers a competent and reliable survey of the period, and is probably the best book you are likely to find.

Lighter but more accessible is:

E. Crankshaw, *The Habsburgs* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1971)

This offers sympathetic portraits of Charles VI and Maria Theresa and has attractive illustrations. However, it does not go into any great detail and is perhaps unduly kind to these monarchs.

2 Biographies

There is no biography of Charles VI in English, and the only biography of Frederick William I is now over fifty years old and difficult to get hold of. However, there is no shortage of biographies of Frederick II and Maria Theresa.

For Maria Theresa, the best biography remains:

E. Crankshaw, *Maria Theresa* (Longman, 1969)

This contains a range of primary sources. Crankshaw is sympathetic to

Maria Theresa and concludes that she achieved a great deal, but also accepts that she sometimes failed and made mistakes. It is rather better than its chief rival:

C. Macartney, *Maria Theresa and the House of Austria* (Lawrence Verry, 1969)

Macartney deals with domestic policies rather too briefly for your purposes.

Historians have always been attracted to the personality and achievements of Frederick II. There have therefore been many biographies about him. Two are more useful than the others:

L. Reiners, *Frederick the Great* (New English Library, 1978)

Reiners gives equal emphasis to his domestic and foreign policies. You should find this helpful, as long as you take into account the bias in favour of his subject. It is rather more interesting to read than:

D.B. Horn, *Frederick the Great and the Rise of Prussia* (English University Press, 1964)

However, Horn does have the advantage of discussing Frederick's impact on the later history of Germany.

3 Specialist studies

For those interested in finding out more about the Partitions of Poland and the wars against the Ottoman Empire, there is

A. Stiles, *Russia, Poland and the Ottoman Empire* (Hodder & Stoughton Access to History Series, 1991)

This offers a clear description of the causes and effects of the Partitions and analyses the Partitions from the Russian and Polish viewpoints.

A detailed analysis of Frederick's military campaigns and a strong argument for his military genius can be found in:

C. Duffy, *Frederick the Great: A Military Life* (Routledge, 1985)

This will be found heavy going by all but the most enthusiastic students of war.

H.M. Scott (Ed), *Enlightened Absolutism* (Macmillan, 1990)

Includes essays on Austria and Maria Theresa's policies towards Hungary.

The growing influence of Joseph on Maria Theresa's later policies is covered in detail in two books:

D. Beales, *Joseph II: Volume I* (Cambridge University Press, 1987)

This covers Joseph's early life in great detail. You may find it easier to read than:

T.C.W. Blanning, *Joseph II and Enlightened Despotism* (Longman, 1970)

Chapter 2 covers the reforms of Maria Theresa and Joseph's frustrating years of apprenticeship.