
The End of Prussia

Gordon A. Craig

One of the livelier debates among historians concerns the dates of the beginning and, particularly, the end of Prussian history. In this new work, a collection of four Curti lectures given at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in September of 1982, the eminent historian Gordon A. Craig explores the slow death of Prussia by examining several key individuals and their actions at four distinct periods of Prussian history. The resulting work offers valuable insights into an extended period of modern German history and politics.

Craig begins with a consideration of Freiherr Karl Friedrich vom Stein and F. A. L. von der Marwitz in the so-called Period of Reform after 1807, and in subsequent chapters goes on to consider Bettina von Arnim and the young Bismarck in the 1840s, the novelist Theodor Fontane and Emperor William II after Prussia had unified Germany, and finally, in the Weimar period, the socialist minister president of Prussia Otto Braun and the Rhineland politician Konrad Adenauer.

Gordon A. Craig, Professor of History at Stanford University since 1961 and Past President of the American Historical Association, has had a long and distinguished career. He is the author of ten books on Germany and modern Europe and the coauthor or editor of several more. Among his most recent works are *The Germans* (1982) and, with Alexander L. George, *Force and Statecraft: Diplomatic Problems of Our Time* (1982).

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