



The Habsburg Monarchy, 1809-1918: A History of the Austrian Empire and Austria-Hungary, A. J. P. Taylor, University of Chicago Press, 1976, 0226791459, 9780226791456, 279 pages. First published in 1941, The Habsburg Monarchy has become indispensable to students of nineteenth-century European history. Not only a chronological report of actions and changes, Taylor's work is a provocative exploration into the historical process of the most eventful hundred years of the Habsburg monarchy..

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The Survival of the Habsburg Empire Radetzky, the Imperial Army and the Class War, 1848, A. Sked, 1979, History, 289 pages. .

Habsburgs , , , . .

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A History of the Habsburg Empire, 1526-1918 , Robert A. Kann, 1980, History, 646 pages. A political, cultural, and socioeconomic history of the Habsburg empire, discussing the rise of Habsburg power, its subsequent status and action as a great power, and its

The Habsburg Empire, 1804-1918 , Hans Kohn, 1961, History, 187 pages. .

Emperor Francis Joseph Life, Death And the Fall of the Habsburg Empire, John Van Der Kiste,

2005, , 246 pages. In 1848, 28-year-old Francis Joseph became King of Hungary and Emperor of Austria. He would reign for almost 68 years, the longest of any modern European monarch. Focusing on

First published in 1941, *The Habsburg Monarchy* has become indispensable to students of nineteenth-century European history. Not only a chronological report of actions and changes, Taylor's work is a provocative exploration into the historical process of the most eventful hundred years of the Habsburg monarchy.

Published in 1948, this concise book is a good overview of the Habsburg monarchy over the last century of its existence. It is written with the wit and sometimes sarcastic judgements for which Taylor was known well. Taylor's theme is the attempt of the Empire to cope simultaneously with the internal pressures exerted by the awakening of nationalism among the subject peoples of the regime and the external pressures of dealing with the rising powers of Germany and Russia. This is primarily a political history but draws astutely on relevant social and intellectual history. This book can only be read by individuals with a good basic knowledge of 19th century European history. Taylor shows that the survival of the Habsburg state was a paradoxical function of internal and external conflicts that embroiled it. The aggressive Hungarians, for example, wished to preserve it because it provided a vehicle for their domination of other ethnic groups within the historic borders of Hungary. Bismarck wanted to preserve the Habsburg state to avoid the diplomatic and internal political complications that would follow its dissolution. For decades, external and internal conflicts existed in uncomfortable equipoise punctuated by recurrent conflicts that never resolved any of the basic issues. Taylor provides a sophisticated analysis of this problem and interesting characterizations of the major interest groups and political figures involved. A particularly interesting aspect of this book is the concise analysis of developing nationalism. While this is not the main theme, Taylor provides some interesting insights into the development of nationalism in the various parts of the Habsburg state. He shows, in particular, the dynamic quality of nationalism, its origin in most cases as Romantic intellectual movements, and its development as being tied up in many cases with the organs of the Habsburg bureaucracy. There has been much written in recent years about the social construction of nationalism and recent events in the Balkans have given this topic a great deal of relevance. Taylor's analysis antedates by decades the writing of scholars like Benedict Anderson, whose book *Imagined Communities* has been very influential, but these recent scholars would have taught Taylor nothing. An interesting example of rediscovering the wheel. Read more ›

This was the first book I read on the topic that later became the basis for my dissertation. Taylor captured the big picture best, wrote the best, brought in enough detail to tell the story vividly, stated his biases and viewpoint clearly, and did it in far fewer pages than most others. Absolutely necessary, but not for beginners. This should be your second book. All the more important today as the Soviet Empire breakup and discussion of the American "empire" bear close comparison with a REAL dynastic empire.

Edward Crankshaw's book on "The Fall of the House of Habsburg," while ostensibly starting in 1848, is a good suggestion for the "first" book called for by so many reviews. Crankshaw, an intelligent old-school conservative, appears to have written his book in part as a retort to Taylor (judging by his comments in the text). Very readable, though without Taylor's wit.

A.J.P. Taylor first had this book (*THE HAPSBURG MONARCH:1809-1918*) published in 1948 which Harper and Row republished in 1965. This book is a solid summary of the gradual disintegration of the Hapsburg Monarchy and Empire. Taylor clearly and effectively diagnosed the political and diplomatic problems that undermined the Hapsburgs by the end of World War I.

The early sections of the this book dealt with the problems the Hapsburgs faced from the 16th. to the early 19th. century. The problems of the Reformation and Counter Reformation plus the serious Turkish invasions were concisely treated and gave readers a clear historical understanding the problems the Hapsburgs faced prior to the French Revolution and the rise and fall of the

Napoleonic Empire.

Taylor then introduced readers the problems the Hapsburgs faced when their armies were decisively defeated by Napoleon's armies in 1806 and 1809. These defeats showed signs of political ineptness and weakness. The "subject nationalities" were not slow to recognize these weaknesses. Taylor made clear the reason why Metternich (1773-1859) was the guiding force at the Congress of Vienna (1814-1815). Metternich knew very well that if the subject nationalities such as the Czechs, Polish, Reuthenians (Little Russians), Serbs, Italians, etc. ever got political independence, that would be the end of the Hapsburg Empire. The Hapsburgs had to do a political balancing act both within their empire and with the Russians, Prussians (Northern Germans), and some of the Italian rulers. The Quadruple Alliance worked tolerably well. However when the Hapsburg Emperor Francis died in 1835, he was replaced by Ferdinand (1835-1848) who was lazy and incompetent. Taylor made clear that Ferdinand was NOT the one to keep the Empire intact. To do so required someone who was intelligent and politically astute, and even with the most skilled political and diplomatic figures this was difficult at best.

Ferdinand's incompetence was in part the reason for the 1848 revolutions which erupted throughout Europe and especially in the Hapsburg Empire. Franz Joseph (1848-1916) replaced Ferdinand and used the Hapsburg armies to crush rebellions in Austria, Italy, etc. The one area that the Hapsburg troops could not subdue was Hungary where the Magyars led by Louis Kossuth (1802-1894) were not crushed until Russian troops under Czar Nicholas II (1825-1855) intervened. Taylor stated the reason for Hungarian military successes was the fact that the Hungarian army was basically a Hapsburg army. As Taylor stated, Franz Joseph and Hapsburg aristocrats knew that changes were needed such as eliminating the Robot or forced labor imposed on workers and peasants. Both the German and Magyar aristocrats knew very well that their future was with the Emperor rather than national loyalty. Another interesting event was the Crimean War (1854-1855) whereby the Russians expected Hapsburg help but were threatened by Hapsburg troops. The Hapsburgs figured that the Russians were a threat since they would champion Slavic nationalism within the Hapsburg Empire.

The next major crisis for the Hapsburgs was the Seven Weeks War (1866) when the Prussian German troops shocked the Hapsburgs and forced the Hapsburgs to sign the Treaty of Prague which effectively ended Hapsburgs' control in what is today Germany. The Hapsburgs also lost most of their lands and political control in Italy and had to "retrench."

The Hapsburgs approved the National School Act in 1867 whereby students age 6-12 years could be taught in their native language. There was also a sham Diet or Parliament which gave the appearance political representation. This system worked tolerably well and was very effective from 1879-1893. However, the Young Czech Movement and other nationalities made any work in the Diet almost impossible thereafter. Franz Joseph had to rule mostly by edict from 1867 to 1914. Taylor noted that the Hapsburgs got breathing space in 1908 when they got control of Bosnia which prevented a South Slavic State (Yugoslavia). One of the problems that Taylor noted that most appointments re business, university teaching, etc. was state approved which led to nationality resentment that the "wrong" people were chosen.

Taylor made a good point when he argued that dynastic loyalty and clericalism were not enough to insure loyalty. Nationalism and the masses were what counted which the Hapsburgs feared as did the aristocrats. The days of the old loyalties were over. World War I ended the Hapsburg Empire. Taylor had a good quote on page 232 when he wrote, "War can only accelerate: it makes a dictatorial state more dictatorial, a democratic state more democratic, an industrial state more industrial, and-as with Austria-Hungary-a rotten state more rotten."

The "allies" of World War I had little interest in what was left of the Hapsburg Empire. No reform or economic aid were used. As Taylor noted, the "allies" were more interested in stemming Bolshevism that promote sensible nationalism. The power vacuum left after the disintegration of the Hapsburg Empire was an inviting target for the resurgent Germans and Soviets.

The undersigned's only criticism of Taylor's book is that he could have more carefully investigated

the actual causes and events of the assassination of the Arch Duke Ferdinand on June 28, 1914 which precipitated World War I. However, Taylor wrote an informative book that is concise and clearly written. Readers will be impressed with Taylor's thorough research, concise written expression, and wry sense of humor.

Like AJP Taylor's other books written in the 40/50s, this is an immensely intelligent and investigated piece of work yet difficult to read. Some of the information is shocking, and gives great perspective to subsequent events. For example, to question what the Sudeten Germans were doing before 1918, why Trieste was considered Italian (Italian was a naval language of the earlier period), or similarly, to examine the real racial history of balkans. Most shocking of all perhaps, the observation that German was almost a "class" in central europe. So, an excellent book which really enlightens the reader. However, I found it difficult to read in sessions of more than thirty pages, mostly because of the blow-by-blow account (same as Struggle for Mastery in Europe) that predates his improved writing style of the 60s, such as Origins of the Second World War. Still, I am immensely positive about the book.

This book, first published in the late 1940s, traces the policy of the Austrian emperor and his ministers. It is a brilliantly analytical study of the empire's weaknesses and the problems of holding together and governing a collection of lands and peoples with nothing in common beyond having been acquired at some point in history by the Habsburg dynasty. The book is not, and doesn't attempt to be, a general history of Austria-Hungary in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Tension builds as the end approaches and Taylor's epilogue, summarising events in Central Europe after 1918, foretells in an almost uncanny way events since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mr Taylor compared the Habsburg monarchy to the plaster cast around a broken limb, in that while it sustained Eastern Europe, it had to be shattered to bring freedom. Now that the region has broken free of the Communist cast, his book provides an excellent study of the region and its place in the Balance of Power.

The book punctures many myths, not least the 'inevitalist' view, that Austria was destined to collapse no matter what. The epilogue dealing with the postwar problems of the replacement multinationals, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, is particularly prescient, forecasting the difficulties both of these states would face. There is a very slight bias in favour of the Czechs and Serbs, but the overall picture is fair and balanced. I cannot recommend it too highly.

I like the comment that the monarchy tried to hide behind customs and sentiment. The Czech nationalists realised that if the roof collapsed in their meeting room then the national struggle would have ended. So they took the decision to change the nationalist struggle from the question of rights to a question of money distribution. It was a decision that influenced us all.

It's a bit like being on a roller coaster after a big meal and getting indigestion, or you may want to throw up! Or, another analogy would be that it is a skeleton with no flesh on it. We have the bare bones, but it would have been more interesting if there were more details of the echelons of society and character of leading protagonists. So many important personages are mentioned but without much detail. Mention is made of what the echelons of society were, but with mere mentions of how they affected the politics, nothing more.

I recently visited Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna, and in Emperor Franz (why did he have to anglicise his name?) Joseph's bedroom it was interesting to be informed that he rose at 5am every morning, toileted and dressed and then moved across the room to sit at his desk working, with meals brought to him there, until late at night. From this book you don't get a sense that he took his responsibilities seriously.

It took a lot of reading to come away with some sense of the history of the complicated conglomeration of states and nationalities which once made up the empire. Also, one could get why Serbia thought and still possibly thinks it should reign supreme over its neighbours and hated and still hates the Muslims. Presumably historically they must have come from the Ottoman Empire, and

before that Asia, and as humankind has done since its beginning, migrated further and further west. Only Tito was able to maintain the disparate states of different ethnic backgrounds, which was Yugoslavia. The Hapsburg Empire of Franz Joseph consisted of so many disparate states that only an emperor who could never make up his mind and therefore never made political decisions until his hand was forced, could have held them together for so long.

A good book to which I have returned several times since I first read it in 1966 for history A level. He writes well on the empire and its rulers with many Tayloresque asides - for example, his introduction to the second chapter is masterly but wry. Since it first appeared, the dual monarchy has found more supporters than existed for much of the time after its collapse in 1918. The fall of the communist successor states with the horrors of the civil wars in the Balkans, the transition to democra...more A good book to which I have returned several times since I first read it in 1966 for history A level. He writes well on the empire and its rulers with many Tayloresque asides - for example, his introduction to the second chapter is masterly but wry. Since it first appeared, the dual monarchy has found more supporters than existed for much of the time after its collapse in 1918. The fall of the communist successor states with the horrors of the civil wars in the Balkans, the transition to democracy and their entry into the EU have put the multi-national political entity that was the empire into a different light. (less)

The Habsburg Monarchy, 1809-1918: A History of the Austrian Empire and Austria-Hungary, is a detailed monograph that places the politics and foreign affairs of the Habsburg Empire from 1809 to 1918 under a microscope. The book is exclusively dedicated to the political history of the Habsburg Empire between 1809 and 1918, although the author very briefly describes earlier crucial historical events and the multinational character of the Empire in order to provide context for the reader. The late A

Taylor claimed that the Austrian Empire rose from the ashes of Austerlitz-- the devastating battle against Napoleon in the war of 1809-- to once again become the premier German state; however, after the Revolutions of 1848 the Austrian Empire made a series of concessions that lead to the Dualism, which resulted in the lose of both Imperial and German hegemony in the Empire. Taylor started the focus of his analysis with the appointment of Metternich as Foreign Minister for the Habsburgs in 1809, because Taylor believed that he best personified the Empire with his pliant and ingenious diplomacy that lead to Habsburg dominance and decline. Taylor used the agreement of Mnichovo Hradiste in 1833 to highlight the apex of both Meternichâ€™s diplomacy and the Pre-March Austrian Empire. In the agreement, Metternich successfully hid Austriaâ€™s weakness and entered into a conservative alliance with Russia and later Prussia that preserved the Empire as a European necessity for stability and the prevention of revolutions throughout Europe. Taylor then illustrated the decline of Metternich and the old Austrian Empire in the Revolutions of 1848 when the doctrine of the Rights of Man challenged dynastic rule-- and thus the Habsburg Monarchy and the old Austrian Empire-- and Metternich was forced to resign. Taylor further argued that the Habsburg Monarchy survived in a battered state after the revolutions; furthermore, he contended that the Habsburgs were forced to make large concessions that lead to the Dualism and a substantial loss in their hegemony.

Taylor argued that the Habsburg Monarchy was forced to use political expedients in order to maintain its supremacy. He claimed that the declaration of war on Serbia-- which caused WWI-- was the clearest and most profound example of how the Habsburgs fought to maintain their hegemony within the new Austrian-Hungarian Empire. He contended that the war was fought with the intention of reasserting the power of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire over Serbia, which would also reinforce Habsburg authority to both the master nations of Austria and Hungary and the subject nations like Serbia. Taylor ended his analysis and argument of the Habsburg Monarchy in reflection on the war with Serbia by stating: â€œIt ended both greatness and independence.â€•

The book treated the legacy of the Habsburg Monarchy and politics within the Empire with intense attention to detail and a lot of scholarly thoughtfulness, however it lacked clarity in both the chronology of events and the context in which they occurred. Taylor showed his dedication for detail and accuracy in his use of ethnically proper names of different locations and not the Germanized or

Italianated names. He only used the German or other popularized names for convenience to reader and he always made the reader aware of the discrepancy. The book sacrificed clearness for detail though. The diction and sentence structure through much of the book was cumbersome. In addition, Taylor failed in including many helpful maps that might have been more effective in illustrating his points concerning the different ethnicities and the land that was gained and lost as result of treaties and wars. The book also lacked sufficient chronology. Taylor did not include enough references to dates or other events that might have better articulated the chronology.

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