
Contents

| | |
|---|---------------|
| <i>List of illustrations</i> | <i>page x</i> |
| <i>Preface to the English edition</i> | xv |
| <i>Preface to the German edition</i> | xxii |
| 1 Death and transfiguration | 1 |
| 2 The Kaiser and England during the Boer War | 18 |
| 3 'I am the balance of power in Europe.' Wilhelm between Britain, Russia and France | 48 |
| 4 The Boxer Rebellion and the Baghdad railway | 73 |
| 5 The shabby compromise: Wilhelm II and Bülow's Chancellorship | 96 |
| 6 Wilhelm II and the Germans, 1900 to 1904 | 127 |
| 7 'We two make history and destiny is in our hands!' Kaiser and Tsar on the eve of the Russo-Japanese War | 163 |
| 8 The Anglo-German antagonism: the Kaiser, the King and public opinion | 190 |
| 9 The Kaiser and America | 212 |
| 10 Uncle and nephew: Edward VII and the 'encirclement' of Germany | 245 |
| 11 East Asia in flames: the Russo-Japanese War and its consequences | 263 |
| 12 Operational plans for a war in western Europe | 294 |
| 13 'Paris must get one in the eye from us one day!' The Kaiser and the first Morocco crisis | 329 |
| 14 'A turning-point in the history of Europe' or the fiasco of Björkö | 354 |

| | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 15 | Balance of power or hegemony? The Anglo-German conflict and the quarrel with King Edward | 381 |
| 16 | Humiliation in Algeciras | 418 |
| 17 | 'Encirclement': caught in the web of the Entente | 437 |
| 18 | Germany's 'Dreadnought Leap'. The Kaiser and 'his' navy | 464 |
| 19 | The zenith of Personal Monarchy. The Kaiser and the government on the eve of the great crisis | 498 |
| 20 | 'Kings are only human, after all.' Scandals at the Hohenzollern court | 522 |
| 21 | Prince Eulenburg's downfall. The campaign against the Liebenberg 'Camarilla' | 545 |
| 22 | The Kaiser's visit to Windsor and Highcliffe, November to December 1907 | 581 |
| 23 | The hot summer of 1908. On the verge of war with Britain | 605 |
| 24 | 'Our Kaiser and his People!' The crisis of Wilhelm's Personal Monarchy | 644 |
| 25 | Nemesis. Wilhelm II and the <i>Daily Telegraph</i> affair | 662 |
| 26 | Upheaval in the Balkans. Kaiser Wilhelm and the Bosnian annexation crisis of 1908 to 1909 | 696 |
| 27 | The 'pantomime': from Bülow to Bethmann Hollweg | 729 |
| 28 | Wilhelm and the direction of foreign policy under Bethmann Hollweg | 749 |
| 29 | The King is dead, or new hopes of an agreement with England | 769 |
| 30 | Agadir: the leap of the <i>Panther</i> | 794 |
| 31 | 'The enemy identified.' The acceleration of the naval race and the growing menace of war | 814 |
| 32 | 'Already leader of the United States of Europe?' Wilhelm and the debacle of the Haldane mission | 838 |
| 33 | November 1912: the strategic switch from west to east | 874 |
| 34 | Deterrence: the unresolved problem of Britain's neutrality | 899 |
| 35 | 'Berlin has warned us off again.' The 'postponed racial war against Slavdom' | 917 |
| 36 | Kaiser and Reich. Wilhelm's Personal Monarchy on the eve of war | 954 |
| 37 | 'With head held high and hand on sword-hilt!' Preparations for war 1913 to 1914 | 980 |

| | | |
|----|--|------|
| 38 | Summer 1914: the decision for war | 1008 |
| 39 | The Kaiser's last Norwegian cruise | 1029 |
| 40 | Confusion in Potsdam: the fear of Britain's involvement | 1046 |
| 41 | Into the abyss: the outbreak of war | 1084 |
| 42 | The Supreme War Lord in the First World War | 1108 |
| 43 | The Kaiser's war aims | 1135 |
| 44 | Downfall. The collapse of the Hohenzollern Monarchy | 1164 |
| 45 | The unicorn in winter. A new life in exile | 1188 |
| 46 | 'Blood must flow, much blood!' The Kaiser and the 'swinish' Weimar Republic | 1214 |
| 47 | Monarch by the grace of Hitler? Wilhelm II and the Third Reich | 1240 |
| | <i>Notes</i> | 1268 |
| | <i>Archival sources</i> | 1474 |
| | <i>Bibliography</i> | 1478 |
| | <i>Index</i> | 1503 |