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Austrian Foreign Policy 1908-18

Alfred Francis Pribram



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AUSTRIAN FOREIGN POLICY
1908-18



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AUSTRIAN FOREIGN POLICY. 1908-18

BY

ALFRED FRANCIS PRIBRAM

Professor of History in the University of Vienna

WITH A FOREWORD BY

G. P. GOOCH



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FOREWORD

IN the summer of 1922 Professor Pribram was invited to deliver three lectures on the Foreign Policy of Austria before the University of London. It was a well-deserved compliment to the most distinguished of living Austrian historians. His writings on the reign of the Emperor Leopold I and his collection of the treaties between his country and our own have long been familiar to students ; but it is through *The Secret Treaties of Austria-Hungary* that his name has become known to wider circles. When the realm of the Habsburgs ceased to exist in 1918, he obtained permission from the Government of the Austrian Republic to examine and publish the agreements concluded between 1879, when the Austro-German Alliance was formed, and the outbreak of the Great War. No single volume published during the present century has thrown such a flood of light on the European system which produced and perished in the catastrophe of 1914. An American translation of the work has appeared, and a French version is in preparation.

The present volume offers a brief but masterly

survey of Austrian diplomacy from the annexation of Bosnia in 1908 to the collapse of the Central Powers in 1918. In addition to furnishing information based on the Vienna archives, it enables us to form a clearer vision of the policy and personality of Aehrenthal and Berchtold, Czernin and Burian, of the aged Francis Joseph, the choleric Francis Ferdinand and the luckless Charles. But the main value of the lectures is that they narrate the origins and vicissitudes of the greatest struggle in history, as they are reflected in the lens of a highly-trained and singularly dispassionate mind in Central Europe. If we are to understand the conflict, we must inquire how its problems strike observers not only in London and Rome, Paris and Petrograd, but in Berlin and Vienna, Budapest, Sofia and Constantinople. It is of special importance for us in the West of Europe to realize the nature of the rivalry between Austria and Russia, which was the main cause of the war of 1914.

I commend this little book to the attention not only of historical students, but of all who take an intelligent interest in foreign affairs.

G. P. GOOCH.

PREFACE

THE following account of Austrian Foreign Policy and its directors during the decade 1908-18 coincides in part with that contained in the articles contributed by me in 1921 to the new volumes of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* (12th edition, 1922). My grateful acknowledgments are due to the Editor and Proprietors of that work for permission to reproduce the substance of them in these pages. I have, however, taken the opportunity to embody such corrections and changes as were required by there not having been time, before the *Encyclopædia* articles were printed, for the English translations of my German originals to be submitted for my own revision. Thus the present text, in so far as it may occasionally differ from corresponding passages there, is that which is to be preferred as more exactly representing the statements for which I assume responsibility.

Not wishing to exceed the limits allotted to me, I have had to refrain from quoting the documents and books of which I have made use. The former were derived without exception from the Vienna State Archives. The second and third

volumes of Friedjung's *Das Zeitalter des Imperialismus*, which was left unfinished at the author's death in 1920 and revised by myself, contain most valuable material. For the opening remarks on the internal development of the Monarchy—which were for the purpose of introducing an English audience to this extremely complicated problem—I have used, in addition to other authorities, the first section of Josef Redlich's book, *Das Osterreichische Reichs- und Staatsproblem*, published in 1920.

A. F. PRIBRAM.

VIENNA, *February*, 1923.

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