

The Habsburg Monarchy, 1815–1918

This clear and compelling account of the Habsburg Monarchy in its last century explains why, a century after its disappearance, it has never been more relevant. With extensive discussion of recent historiographic controversies about the Monarchy's character and viability, Steven Beller presents a detailed account of the main strands of the Monarchy's political history and how its economic, social and cultural development interacted with this main narrative. While recognising the importance of these larger trends, readers will learn how the historical accident of personality and the complexities of high politics and diplomacy still had a central impact on the Monarchy's fate.

Although some would see the Monarchy as an atavistic irrelevance in the modern age, its multicultural, multinational experience and inclusive 'logic' were in many ways more relevant to our modernity than the nationalism that did so much to bring about its demise.

Steven Beller is an independent scholar, having studied history at the University of Cambridge, and been a Research Fellow at Peterhouse, Cambridge. He has been a Member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and a Fellow of the Institute for the Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, as well as the International Research Centre for Cultural Studies (IFK), also in Vienna. He has written extensively on subjects in modern Central European and modern Jewish history and was awarded the Austrian State History Prize for the German translation of his first book *Vienna and the Jews, 1867–1938: A Cultural History* (Cambridge, 1989) in 1995. Other books include *Herzl* (1991); *Francis Joseph* (1996); *A Concise History of Austria* (Cambridge, 2006); *Antisemitism: A Very Short Introduction* (2007, 2015); and *Democracy* (2013). He is a member of the European Academy of Sciences and Arts and has taught modern European and modern Jewish history.

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Map 1: The Habsburg Monarchy 1815–1918.

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The book itself is as much a warning as a recommendation: about what happens when decisions are made with unforeseen consequences, or misfortune upends a promising future, and something or someone ends before their proper time. In that spirit, I dedicate this book to the memory of my dear, much mourned, cousin, Francis Davin.

STEVEN BELLER, WASHINGTON, DC, 23 OCTOBER 2017.

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