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The Son of the : War Lords :

The eyes of destiny are turned on Prince Wilhelm, eldest son of Germany's Crown Prince, the boy who will be German Emperor—if he and the empire survive.

This boy, thus early in the garb of the soldier, stands as the descendant and heir of the world's most remarkable succession of war lords, a dynasty of fighters.

Prince Wilhelm Frederick Franz Josef Christian Olaf was born at Potsdam July 4, 1906. His mother was the Duchess Cecilie of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The prince bears the features of his grandfather and evidences of the same traits of character.

History gives us insight into the backgrounds of ancestry and component personalities which have transmitted spirit and blood and temperament to this scion to whom destiny promises responsibility for Germanism.

The characters seemingly most significant in the progression of which Prince Wilhelm is the legatee are discussed here in the order which the artist has represented them, from left to right.

Back in the time-dimmed tenth century there arose a leader among the half-savage nobles of Saxony and Thuringia, Henry the Fowler, King of Germany, 919-936. He built an army of united vassal forces of the "robber barons."

In succession came Otho, founder of the Holy Roman Empire of Germany, eldest son of Henry, and directing genius of a war on Hungary, an ardent Crusader and slayer of Saracens.

Rising above the level of mediocrity we find Lothair III., count of Supplinburg and duke of the Saxons, a leader of revolts, a maker of tactful marriages, asserting imperial power against the Danes on the north and the Slavs on the east. The seed of empire was germinating.

In the fifteenth century the little margravate and electorate of Brandenburg was created. It was the tiny acorn from which the oak of Prussia was to grow. Frederick of Hohenzollern stalked in, ruling with wars at home and diplomacy abroad. "Hohenzollern" was stamped there with a mailed fist.

Frederick William I., the great elector, came (1640-1688) for a rule of might. He was a maker of armies and a collector of wealth. He could get and keep.

In the early seventeenth century there came Frederick II., King of Prussia, dear to history as Frederick the Great, the incarnate spirit of the Seven Years War, atheist, philosopher, poet, administrator, cynic, patriot, the tyrant and the father of his country, and certainly one of the greatest military geniuses who ever lived.

Enter Wilhelm I., King of Prussia, 1797-1888, a young officer against Napoleon I. in 1814-15, the commander in chief against Napoleon III. at Gravelotte and Sedan, conqueror of France, Austria and Denmark. January 8, 1871, he was made emperor and the Germany of today was born. "I rule by favor of God and no one else," Wilhelm proclaimed.

In the brief period from March 9 to June 15 in the year 1888, Kaiser Frederick III. effected a permanent impression on the trend of German kultur and culture. Under his father he saw service against the Danes, commanded the Second Prussian army in victory at Sadowa against Austria and the Third army in the Franco-German war.

Kaiser Wilhelm II., the present ruler, took the crown in 1888, repeating the declaration of divine right, commanding Germany as a graduate of the war schools of Cassel and Bonn.

Today the Kaiser and Crown Prince are in battle; the spirits of Henry and Otho and Lothair and Frederick ride with them.

The centuries look down on little Prince Wilhelm—the Kaiser Wilhelm III. to be. Where will he guide the destiny of old Brandenburg?

Kaiser Wilhelm III?

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