

WHERE IS THE GERMAN ROYAL FAMILY NOW?

During the *Kaiserreich* era which ended with defeat in World War One, the Hohenzollern kings had immense power: they could hire and fire the German Chancellor and had large control over foreign policy.



Kaiser Wilhelm II (c) studies a map with two generals during WWI.

While the Hohenzollern in the pre-war period are remembered in Germany today as being strictly conservative and resistant to societal progress, earlier generations were more liberal.

For instance, Berlin's French flare – seen in places such as *Gendarmenmarkt* – is the result of the policies of the Hohenzollern family, who welcomed in tens of thousands of French Huguenots who were persecuted in their homeland due to their protestant faith.

The last Hohenzollern to sit on a German throne was a disaster though, both for his family and his country.

Wilhelm II, a grandson of Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom, was known for his bellicose foreign policy and his erratic public statements, which ultimately led Europe into war in 1914.

Wilhelm was forced to abdicate in 1918 after Germany's defeat on the western front in the First World War.

Germany became a republic and Wilhelm lived out his final days in the Netherlands.