Otto von Habsburg

by Susan Flantzer

https://www.unofficialroyalty.com/otto-von-habsburg/
The last Crown Prince of Austria, Hungary, Bohemia and Croatia and later in his long life, a member of the European Parliament, Otto von Habsburg was the eldest and the longest surviving of the eight children of Karl I, the last Emperor of Austria and his wife Zita of Bourbon-Parma. Born on November 20, 1912, at Villa Wartholz in Reichenau an der Rax, Austria, he was given a long string of names, Franz Joseph Otto Robert Maria Anton Karl Max Heinrich Sixtus Xavier Felix Renatus Ludwig Gaetan Pius Ignatius. He was called Otto but was given the first names Franz Joseph with the hopes that he would reign as Franz Joseph II, Emperor of Austria in the future.

At the time of Otto's birth, his great-great-uncle, Franz Joseph was Emperor of Austria and his father Archduke Karl was the heir to the throne. On January 30, 1889, at Mayerling, a hunting lodge in the Vienna Woods, Emperor Franz Joseph’s only son and heir Crown Prince Rudolf shot his 17-year-old mistress Baroness Mary Vetsera and then shot himself in an apparent suicide plot. Rudolf had no sons, so the succession would pass to Emperor Franz Joseph’s brother, Archduke Karl Ludwig, and then to his eldest son, Archduke Franz Ferdinand. In a matter of days, Archduke Karl Ludwig renounced his succession rights in favor of his son Archduke Franz Ferdinand, whose assassination in 1914 sparked World War I. Upon Franz Ferdinand’s death, Archduke Karl, Otto’s father, became the heir to the throne. Karl’s father was Archduke Otto Franz, the second son of Archduke Karl Ludwig of Austria, brother of Emperor Franz Joseph.
Figure 2: Franz Joseph, Emperor of Austria with his great-great-nephew Otto in 1910; Credit #8211; Wikipedia.
Otto had seven younger siblings:

- **Archduchess Adelheid** (1914 – 1971), unmarried
- **Archduke Robert** (1915 – 1996), married **Margherita of Savoy-Aosta**, had five children
- **Archduke Felix** (1916 – 2011), married Anna-Eugénie of Arenberg, seven children
- **Archduke Karl Ludwig** (1918 – 2007), married, **Yolanda of Ligne**, had four children
- **Archduke Rudolf** (1919 – 2010), married (1) Countess Xenia Tschernyschev-Besobrasoff, had four children; (2) Anna Gabriele of Wrede, had one child
- **Archduchess Charlotte** (1921 – 1989), married **George, Duke of Mecklenburg**, no issue
- **Archduchess Elisabeth** (1922 – 1993), married Prince Heinrich Karl Vincenz of Liechtenstein, had five children

**Otto and his siblings**

When Emperor Franz Joseph died on November 21, 1916, in the middle of World War I, Otto’s father succeeded him as Emperor Karl I of Austria, and Otto became Crown Prince of Austria, Hungary, Bohemia, and Croatia. Four-year-old Otto accompanied his parents in Franz Joseph’s funeral procession and later that same year attended his parents’ coronation in Budapest as they were crowned King and Queen of Hungary.

![Funeral Procession for Emperor Franz Joseph](https://www.unofficialroyalty.com/images/otto-von-habsburg/3.jpg)
Figure 4: Crown Prince Otto with his parents posing for official photographs on the occasion of the coronation in Budapest, Hungary, 1916; Credit – Wikipedia.
Karl only reigned for two years as the monarchy was abolished at the end of World War I. The World War I armistice required that the Austrian-Hungarian Empire allow for autonomy and self-determination of the government of its various ethnic populations. The various areas had proclaimed independence and by October 1918 there was not much left of the empire. On November 11, 1918, the same day as the armistice ending World War I, Karl issued a proclamation in which he recognized the rights of the Austrian people to determine their form of government and released his government officials from their loyalty to him. On November 13, 1918, Karl issued a similar proclamation for Hungary. Karl did not use the term “abdicate” in his proclamations and would never admit that he abdicated.

On March 23, 1919, Karl and his family left for Switzerland. On April 3, 1919, the Austrian Parliament passed the Habsburg Law which forbade Karl or his wife Zita from returning to Austria. The law also prevented other Habsburgs from returning to Austria unless they renounced all intentions of claiming the throne and accepted the condition of living as ordinary citizens. On the same day, all royal and noble titles were abolished. In 1921, Karl returned to Hungary twice in attempts to regain the throne of Hungary. After the second attempt, the Council of Allied Powers decided to exile Karl and his family to the Portuguese island of Madeira.

In March of 1922, Karl caught a cold which developed into bronchitis and further developed into pneumonia. After suffering two heart attacks and respiratory failure, Karl died on April 1, 1922, at the age of 34. Due to the Habsburg Law, Karl could not be buried in the Imperial Crypt in Vienna. He was buried at Church of Our Lady of Monte on the island of Madeira in Portugal.
The years following Karl’s death were difficult financially and Zita and her family moved often. They lived in Spain, Belgium, the United States (two of Zita’s sons served in the US Army during World War II), and Canada. In 1952, Zita moved back to Europe, living in Luxembourg and Switzerland. One of her daughters died in Austria in 1971 and Zita could not attend the funeral. The restrictions on the Habsburgs entering Austria had been rescinded, but only for those Habsburgs born after April 10, 1919. In 1982, the restrictions were eased and after 63 years Zita could return to Austria for visits. When Zita died in 1989, the government of Austria allowed the funeral to take place in Austria provided that the Habsburg family pay the cost. She was buried in the Imperial Crypt below the Capuchin Church in Vienna, the traditional burial place of the Habsburgs but Karl remains buried on the island of Madeira in Portugal.

Otto’s mother made him learn the main languages of the Austro-Hungarian Empire – German, Hungarian and Croatian – in case the empire was ever restored. In addition, Otto also spoke English, Spanish, French, and Latin fluently. While living in Belgium, Otto attended the Catholic University of Leuven and in 1935, he received a doctorate in social and political sciences.

Archduke Otto, center, with New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia at City Hall, with Otto’s younger brother Archduke Felix, on the left, in 1940

Prior to and during World War II, Otto von Habsburg was a strong opponent of Adolf Hitler and Nazism and was greatly concerned about the spread of Communism after the war. When Germany annexed Austria in 1938, the Nazi regime sentenced Otto to death. For his own safety, Otto left Europe for the United States where he lived from 1940 to 1944 in Washington, D.C. In 1941, Hitler personally revoked the citizenship of Otto, his mother, and his siblings, and the family found themselves stateless. At the end of the war, Otto returned to Europe and lived for some years in France and Spain.

After World War II, Otto was effectively stateless but was given a passport from the Principality of Monaco. As a Knight of Malta, he was issued a diplomatic passport, and later he was also issued a Spanish diplomatic passport. Although he was recognized as an Austrian citizen in 1956, he did not receive an Austrian passport until 1966. On October 31, 1966, Otto Habsburg-Lothringen, the name on his Austrian passport, visited his birth country for the first time in 48 years. Additionally, in 1978, Otto received German citizenship and a German passport bearing the name of Otto von Habsburg.

In 1949, Otto met Princess Regina of Saxe-Meiningen in a home for Hungarian refugees in Munich, where she worked for Caritas, a Roman Catholic charity. Regina was the daughter of Prince Georg of Saxe-Meiningen and Countess Klara Maria von Korff and also a second cousin of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and a great-great-granddaughter of Princess Feodora of Leiningen, half-sister of Queen Victoria. Although the House of Saxe-Meiningen was Protestant, Regina was raised in her mother’s Roman Catholic religion. Her father, a judge in Meiningen and Hildburghausen in Germany, died in the Soviet concentration camp at Tschernpowetz, Soviet Union in 1946. Regina and her mother fled to West Germany after World War II.
Wedding of Otto and Regina

Otto and Regina were married on May 10, 1951, at the Church of Saint-François-des-Cordeliers in Nancy, France, with the blessing of Pope Pius XII. For their entire married life, the couple lived at Villa Austria in Pöcking on Lake Starnberg in Bavaria, Germany.

Otto and Regina had seven children:

- **Andrea von Habsburg** (born 1953), married Hereditary Count Karl Eugen von Neipperg, had five children
- **Monika von Habsburg** (born 1954, twin of Michaela), married Luis María Gonzaga de Casanova-Cárdenas y Barón, 5th Duke of Santangelo, had four children
- **Michaela von Habsburg** (born 1954, twin of Monika), married (1) Eric Alba Teran d’Antin, had three children, divorced (2) Count Hubertus von Kageneck, divorced
- **Gabriela von Habsburg** (born 1956), married Christian Meister, had three children, divorced
- **Walburga von Habsburg** (born 1958), married Count Archibald Douglas, had one child
- **Karl von Habsburg** (born 1961), married Baroness Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza, had three children
- **Georg von Habsburg** (born 1964), married Duchess Eilika of Oldenburg, had three children

Christening of Otto and Regina’s twin daughters

Otto was an early supporter of a unified Europe and was president of the International Pan-European Union from 1973 to 2004. He served from 1979 until 1999 as a Member of the European Parliament for the conservative party, Christian Social Union in Bavaria and eventually became the senior member of the European Parliament. Otto strongly supported the rights of European refugees, especially the ethnic Germans displaced from Bohemia which was once part of his family’s Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Otto and Regina at their home Villa Austria

Otto’s wife Regina died at their home in Pöcking, Germany on February 3, 2010, at the age of 85. He survived her for only seventeen months, dying at his home on July 4, 2011, aged 98. Otto was given what was called “the last Emperor’s funeral.” Following a 13 day period of mourning in many of the countries that were once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a requiem mass was held at St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Vienna and Otto then was buried in the Crypt Chapel of the Imperial Crypt where his mother was also buried. At the time of his burial, Otto’s wife Regina was reburied nearby. 1,000 invited guests attended the funeral and over 100,000 people lined the streets of Vienna. The ceremonies caused large parts of central Vienna to be closed to traffic. The funeral was televised on Austrian television. Otto’s heart was buried at Pannonhalma Archabbey in Hungary on the day after his funeral.

- Wikipedia: Funeral of Otto von Habsburg
- Official Website: Dr Otto von Habsburg
- Telegraph: Obituary – Archduke Otto von Habsburg
- BBC: Habsburg: Funeral held for last Austro-Hungarian heir
- YouTube: Otto von Habsburg Funeral Clips
- YouTube: Otto von Habsburg – Funeral – Singing of the Kaiserhymne
- YouTube: Otto von Habsburg Funeral – Entering the Capuchin Church

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Funeral Procession through the streets of Vienna, Austria

Figure 6: Otto von Habsburg was buried in the Crypt Chapel of the Imperial Crypt in Vienna, Austria. His tomb is on the right side of the altar and his wife Regina’s tomb is on the left side of the altar; Photo Credit – Susan Flantzer.
Figure 7: Tomb of Otto von Habsburg (on the right of the altar), died in 2011; Photo Credit – Susan Flantzer.

Wikipedia: Otto von Habsburg

Works Cited

Otto von Habsburg, in Austria officially Otto Habsburg-Lothringen, usually short Otto Habsburg (1) (born November 20, 1912 in Reichenau an der Rax, Lower Austria; † July 4, 2011 in Pöcking, Bavaria [2]), was the oldest Son of Charles I, the last Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, as well as a writer, publicist and politician. For the CSU he was a member of the European Parliament from 1979 to 1999. He had the citizenships of Austria, Germany and Hungary [3] and, after the independence of the state of Croatia in 1991, also the Croatian citizenship according to his own account. [4][5]

From the mid-1930s Otto von Habsburg campaigned for European unification within the Paneuropean Union - initially under Christian-monarchist auspices. In order to prevent the "annexation of Austria" to Hitler's Germany, he was prepared to go to extremes, as his correspondence with Chancellor Schuschnigg in February 1938 shows. He appeared as a staunch opponent of Hitler and National Socialism as well as communism. An obituary said: "In politics [... he saw himself [...] as an instrument of God." [6]

Decades later, his stance on right-wing extremism and his statement on the influence of Jews in US politics [7] were the cause of criticism and controversy. His speech in 2008 at an ÖVP commemorative event (on the 70th anniversary of "Anschluss") in the Austrian parliament, in which he portrayed Austria as the first victim of Hitler and claimed that "there is no state in Europe that is more, was also heavily criticized Has a right to call himself a victim! He described himself as a legitimate" (for example in 2002 in an interview with the weekly newspaper Junge Freiheit), by which he understood someone "who stands up for the legitimately acceptable form of government at the time in which this form of government exists". [7]

In 1961 he signed the declaration of the waiver of claims to power required by the Habsburg Law as a condition for his entry into Austria. In the same year, however, his son was entered as Archduke in the Pöckinger baptismal register in Germany. The "Habsburg crisis" arose from the uncertainty about his actual attitude towards the republic. 1966 after Chancellor Josef Klaus first time since 1945, a People's Party - one-party government might make, Otto Habsburg was allowed to legally enter Austria. In 1972 there was a "historic handshake" with the Social Democratic (SPÖ) Federal Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. Habsburg's political and historical statements repeatedly led to criticism and discussions in Austria up to 2008, in which he primarily opposed the Social Democrats.

Otto von Habsburg was co-initiator and patron of the "Pan-European Picnic" on August 19, 1989. After the fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989/90, his personal contribution to these events was repeatedly recognized. [8][9]
Private person Otto (von) Habsburg

Childhood

Otto was born in 1912 in the Villa Wartholz in Reichenaun an der Rax in Lower Austria. As the first-born son of the then number two in the line of succession, the later Emperor Karl I, and his wife Zita and as Crown Prince (from 1916), Archduke Otto was prepared for a future role as ruler. At the celebrations for the funeral of Emperor Franz Joseph I in Vienna and at the coronation of his father as King of Hungary in Budapest, four-year-old Otto appeared in public for the first time as Crown Prince in 1916.

From 1916, on the day his father Karl became Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary, until April 3, 1919, when the Nobility Repeal Act and the Habsburg Act came into force, Otto was Crown Prince of Austria-Hungary. At that time he was referred to as His Imperial and Royal Highness Franz Joseph Otto Robert Maria Anton Karl Max Heinrich Sixtus Xaver Felix Renatus Ludwig Gaetan Pius Ignatius, Imperial Prince, Archduke of (to) Austria, Royal Prince of Hungary with all first names and full titulature.

After the dissolution of the Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy at the end of the First World War, he lived with his parents in Eckartsau Castle in Lower Austria until March 1919 - before the exodus of the former imperial family in view of the impending internment of his father. From 1919 to 1921 Otto Habsburg-Lothringen lived in exile with his parents in Switzerland.

After two failed attempts at restoration in Hungary, his father was banished to Madeira by the victorious powers of World War I. Zita accompanied him there and caught up with the children in early 1922. When Charles I was on his deathbed in April 1922, the nine-year-old son had to watch as one, according to his father, "dies as an emperor and a Christian". After Charles's death, the family moved to the Basque fishing village of Lequeitio, where Alfonso XIII - the Spanish king had visited the Theresianum in Vienna and his mother was an archduchess - provides for the livelihood.

Youth and studies

His mother raised her son Otto even after the fall of the dual monarchy and the dethronization of the Habsburgs as a Roman Catholic monarch in Hungary in 1921. He was in the languages of the peoples of the Austro-Hungarian taught monarchy and had to complete the old-Austrian and Hungarian old-schedule of a high school side by side. In addition to his native German, he also spoke Hungarian, Croatian, English, Spanish, French and Latin, fluent in speech and writing. He therefore wrote his later books not only in German, but also in Hungarian and French.

In October 1929 the family settled in Belgium. The age of majority and thus the end of the guardianship of his mother took place on November 20, 1930. Otto von Habsburg became head of the "House of Habsburg" and sovereign of the Order of the Golden Fleece.

After passing his school leaving examination with distinction, Otto von Habsburg took up a degree in political and social sciences at the Catholic University of Leuven in October 1929 and accepted the title Duke of Bar in Lorraine. He was also enrolled under this name. As part of the work on his dissertation on Austrian agricultural issues, he completed a period of study at Max Sering at the Friedrich-Wilhelms-University to Berlin. On June 7, 1935, Otto von Habsburg, after graduating with honors, received the title of Doctor of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Leuven.

From 1940 to marry

From 1940 to 1944 Habsburg lived in the USA, from 1944 to 1951 mainly in France, and later again in Spain. In 1951 he married Princess Regina von Sachsen-Meiningen in the Minorite Church in Nancy. Nancy was the historic capital of the Duchy of Lorraine and the Minorite Church was the burial place of his paternal ancestors, the Dukes of Lorraine. The marriage resulted in seven children (see below, family members). Since 1954, Otto's immediate family lived in Pöcking on Lake Starnberg in Bavaria. The family-owned "Villa Austria", which Otto von Habsburg lived in until his death, was built around 1870 as "Villa Australis" by an Australian opera singer.

After the Second World War, Habsburg-Lothringen began working as a traveling lecturer and also worked as a writer. Habsburg, who was supported in his political engagement by the Spanish dictator Franco, campaigned for him to be awarded the gold medal of the Mariazell Abbey, which Franco received in 1952.
Family members

With his wife Regina von Habsburg (officially in Austria: Regina Habsburg-Lothringen; in short: Regina Habsburg; 1925-2010) he had seven children (of which 22 were grandchildren and two great-grandchildren): [1]

- Andrea Maria (born May 30, 1953 in Würzburg)
  - 1977 Karl Eugen Graf von Neipperg
- Monika Maria Roberta Antonia Raphaela (born September 13, 1954 in Würzburg)
  - 1980 Luis Maria Gonzaga de Casanova-Cárdenas y Barón, Duke of Santangelo
- Michaela Maria Madeleine Kiliana (born September 13, 1954 in Würzburg)
  - 1984–1994 Eric Alba Teran d'Antin
  - 1994 Hubertus Graf von Kageneck
- Gabriela Maria Charlotte Felicitas Elisabeth Antonia (born October 14, 1956 in Luxembourg)
  - 1978–1997 Christian Meister
- Walburga Maria Franziska Helene Elisabeth (born October 5, 1958 in Berg am Starnberger See)
  - 1992 Archibald Graf Douglas
- Karl Thomas Robert Maria Franziskus Georg Bahnam (born January 11, 1961 in Berg am Starnberger See)
  - 1993 Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza
- Paul Georg Maria Joseph Dominikus (born December 16, 1964 in Berg am Starnberger See)
  - 1997 Eilika Duchess of Oldenburg

Family head

With the declaration of majority and thus the end of his mother’s guardianship on November 20, 1930 until the end of 2006, Otto Habsburg was head of the Habsburg-Lothringen families (and of the “House of Habsburg”, which perished in 1919). On January 1, 2007, he transferred this role to his son Karl Habsburg-Lothringen.

Declaration of waiver 1961

Entry into the Republic of Austria, which was proclaimed on November 12, 1918, was forbidden to him and the other family members by Section 2 of the Habsburg Law of April 3, 1919, as long as they did not renounce membership of the House of Habsburg-Lothringen and the claims to power that were derived from it known as loyal citizens of the republic. Otto made this declaration against the declared will of his mother in May 1961 in order to be able to travel to Austria as a European politician, and signed the name Otto Habsburg-Lothringen, which had been valid for him since the Nobility Repeal Act of April 3, 1919, in Austria, but without the official hyphen between the two parts of the name Habsburg and Lorraine (for details see the section The “Habsburg Crisis” 1961–1966): [17][18]

“To the Austrian Federal Government
Vienna I Ballhausplatz 2

I, the finished man, hereby declare in accordance with § 2 of the law of April 3, 1919, State Law Gazette for the State of German-Austria No. 209, that I expressly renounce my membership in the House of Habsburg-Lothringen and all claims to power derived from it and that I am a loyal citizen confess to the republic.

I signed this declaration with my own hand.


[Signature as "Otto Habsburg Lothringen"]] ”

Political role

European politicians

1957 to 1973 he was Vice President, 1973 to 2004 as successor to the founder Richard Nikolaus Graf von Coudenhove-Kalergi President of the International Paneuropean Union; [19] from 2004 to 2011 he was its honorary president.

From 1979 to 1999, after taking on both Austrian citizenship and German citizenship in 1978, he was a member of the European Parliament for the Christian Social Union in Bavaria (CSU) and was twice its senior president. Otto von Habsburg had been a member since 1982, but had not taken on any party offices.
In connection with the drafting of the European Constitution, he always spoke out in favor of a reference to God. He was in the European People's Party 1981-1999 Chairman of the Political Committee, Chairman of the Delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Committee EU - Hungary, member of the Political Committee on Legal Affairs and Substitute Member of the Committee on Development and the Committee on Budgetary Control.

Otto von Habsburg left the European Parliament on June 13, 1999 at his own request for health reasons. After retiring from all political functions and handing over many of his offices, he only worked as a publicist in the end.

Throne and title claims

Raised in this way by his mother Zita, Otto Habsburg-Lothringen held fast for decades to the claims to the throne which, in the interests of legitimacy, had passed to him after his father's death. In the following successor states of Austria-Hungary, claims to the throne of the House of Habsburg were explicitly excluded by law:

- German Austria abolished the monarchy on November 12, 1918 and the title of nobility on April 3, 1919; see Federal Constitution (Austria) and Nobility Repeal Act.
- The Czechoslovak Republic, founded on October 28, 1918, revoked the title of nobility on December 10, 1918.
- Hungary remained monarchy until 1946, but in 1921, after two attempts at restoration by Charles IV, at the request of the Triple Entente, passed the Dehronization Act, with which the king was deposed and his descendants were excluded from the throne. With Act IV / 1947 of January 14, 1947, the nobility and the nobility designations were abolished.

The stipulation cited in the imperial proclamation of Emperor Franz I of August 11, 1804, that the head of the House of Austria held the title of emperor regardless of the constitution of the hereditary countries, was no longer politically significant after the fall of the monarchy in 1918, as the empire Austria as a state no longer existed after Emperor Karl's declaration of renunciation and the proclamation of the republic in November 1918.

As a citizen of the newly founded Republic of German Austria (1918/1919) and the Republic of Austria (since 1919), which came into being after the dissolution of the Danube Monarchy at the end of the First World War, Otto von Habsburg fell under the authority of the National Assembly from April 3, 1919, decided needle lifting law (in conjunction with the Habsburg law) through which the dynastic house name Habsburg-Lorraine in Austria ver citizen light and became the family name.

In 1957 the Austrian Ministry of the Interior recorded that Otto's name was officially Dr. Otto Habsburg-Lothringen reads. At the same time he was officially forbidden to use the dynastic name Otto von Österreich on the basis of the Nobility Repeal Act. In an obituary in the period in 2011, Joachim Riedl referred to Otto Habsburg's long "list of titles that sounded worthless."

Interwar period

Plans in Austria

Since around 1922, smaller traditionalist associations had emerged in Austria, for example in Vienna "Ö. StV. Ottonia" (formerly Corps Ottonen), who wanted to establish a constitutional monarchy with the Habsburg prince at its head. However, this restoration movement (see Legitimists) was only approved by a few politicians. Monarchist parties received only a small number of votes in all free elections in the First Republic, and they always failed to make it into parliament.

From 1930, in particular, individual politicians in Austria were considering, including the dictatorial Chancellors Engelbert Dollfuss and Kurt Schuschnigg, to appoint the son of the last emperor as head of state in a newly constituted monarchy. This was intended to overcome the struggles between the political camps. With the return to the Austro-Hungarian monarchy, the state consciousness of the Austrians was to be strengthened and a counterweight to the German national efforts to join the German Reich was created.

In the course of the reconsideration, the corporate state also reintroduced the double-headed eagle in the state coat of arms (but without crown and scepter) and emphasized the Austro-Hungarian tradition in the armed forces, for example by partially reintroducing old army uniforms. However, Chancellor Schuschnigg asked Otto von Habsburg several times not to enter Austria in order not to give other states a reason to attack.

On July 10, 1935, Schuschnigg's expulsion from the Habsburgs and the confiscation of their private assets were legally repealed. In April 1936 the family pension fund was restored. At the beginning of 1937, after a meeting between Habsburg and Schuschnigg, a protocol to prepare for the restoration is said to have been drawn up. On January 1, 1938, goods worth around 31.5 million schillings (April 2011 value: around 103 million euros) were returned to this fund. Otto Habsburg is said to have received a monthly allowance of 20,000 schillings. In 1937, however, the relationship between Schuschnigg and Otto cooled down, and Schuschnigg "postponed" ideas about re-establishing the monarchy.

Until the "Anschluss" of Austria to Hitler Germany in 1938, the "emigrant" Otto Habsburg had been granted honorary citizenship by 1603 Austrian communities. He received his first honorary citizenship in the municipality of Ampass on June 13, 1938, and other municipalities had followed this example. On February 11, 1938, there were monarchist mass events with around 80,000 participants in Vienna and the provincial capitals.

Defense against Hitler's will

Shortly before Austria's "annexation" to the National Socialist German Reich, Otto von Habsburg asked the then Federal Chancellor Schuschnigg to give him the chancellorship of the republic in order to organize military resistance. While Schuschnigg wanted to protest and surrender against a possible German invasion, Habsburg, like parts of the Austrian army and army command (other parts had long since been National Socialists), was in favor of military resistance and wanted to take over government power from Schuschnigg.

In his letter of February 17, 1938 to Schuschnigg, Habsburg demanded active defense and strict rejection of National Socialism:

"First of all, pacification to the left must be actively pursued. The workers have proven in the last few days that they are patriots. This group cannot be poisoned by National Socialism, so it will always be the safest way to stand up for Austria, whereas the government must give it the opportunity to actively participate in shaping the fatherland for which it is ready to work."
Otto von Habsburg - Wikipedia

Schuschnigg rejected this request; such an attempt would "with one hundred percent certainty mean the downfall of Austria". [25]

Of Adolf Hitler, from Hungary and Czechoslovakia (became Czech pages politicians, according to the Sudeten German Homeland Association, the slogan "Better Hitler than Habsburg" issued [27], the restoration goals in Austria were with invasion plans (the German invasion plan bore the code name "Enterprise Otto", but possibly with reference to the Ottonians), as they feared monarchical repercussions on their countries.

Europe

In the 1930s, Habsburg met Richard Coudenhove-Kalergi, who had founded the Paneuropean Union (PEU) in 1922. In 1936 he became a member. After the Second World War, Habsburg was President of the Union from 1973 to 2004, succeeding Coudenhove-Kalergi, and then Honorary President until his death in 2011. In Austria he was involved in the transformation of the monarchist movement into the Pan-European Movement Austria and was its president until 1986, when he handed over the function to his son Karl.

Period of National Socialism

Operations in continental Europe

After the Nazi rule in Austria had begun with the "Anschluss" to the German Reich, Habsburg was put out to be wanted on March 29, 1938 for high treason, as the Volksicher Beobachter reported on April 20, the "Führer birthday." [28] His personal property and the family property of the Habsburg family administered by him were expropriated on Hitler's personal orders. The leaders of the legitimist movement were immediately arrested and most of them executed. Between 1938 and 1942, between 4,000 and 4,500 Austrian monarchists are likely to have been arrested; around 800 to 1000 of them were executed or in concentration camps murdered.

On May 10, 1940, the Habsburg family narrowly escaped a bombing of the Steenokkerzeel Castle. The order was given to the invasion troops in Belgium, Otto Habsburg and his brothers, from Führer deputy Rudolf Hess, if they were caught without any trial to shoot them immediately. Via Paris, Spain and Portugal (he received the necessary visa from Aristides de Sousa Mendes) "Otto of Austria", as he called himself in America, fled into exile on June 27, 1940 in the United States. [29] His mother Zita and Otto's siblings also fled to the American continent. In the early 1940s he studied in the library of the US Congress (Library of Congress) know the emigrant Fritz GA Krammer, who became an influential advisor in the US Department of Defense after 1948.

On the day of the radio call for the armistice by Philippe Pétain in France, Habsburg returned to Bordeaux on June 17, 1940, according to an authorized biography, in order to obtain visas for the political escape from the German Empire with the help of the Portuguese Consul General, Aristides de Sousa Mendes to organize persecuted Austrians overseas via Spain and Portugal. [10] [29] The biography speaks of about 15,000 people who were saved in this way. [29] The ORF documentary “Menschen und Mächte” broadcast on the occasion of his death speaks of thousands of saving visas that he would have organized for Austrians who had to flee the German Reich and the occupied countries. [30] His name is said to have been on a so-called "Wiesbaden list" of people who, in the event of unconditional surrender, would have had to arrest France immediately and extradite them to the German Reich. [31]

Otto Habsburg, his mother and siblings were stripped of their citizenship on Hitler's orders. In a secret file of the Reich Main Security Office in Berlin dated August 25, 1941, it says:

"The Führer has ordered to lecture that the former Empress Zita von Habsburg-Lothringen stripped of their German citizenship and expatriation will also extend to their sons and daughters to seize of their part not confiscated property." [32]

The expropriated property fell to the Greater German Reich and, as far as it was in Austria, passed into the possession of the Republic of Austria after its fall.

The merit claimed by Habsburg to have prevented or postponed air raids by the Allies on Austria (in the German Reich the "Greater German Reich") were called "Reichsluftschutzkeller". [33] is not accepted by science. The initial non-bombing was due to the fact that the bases of the British and American air forces, from which the bomber squadrons started, were initially too far away from Austria to guarantee the safe return of the aircraft. Only when the bases were approaching Austria in 1943/44 (Foggia airport) and US bombers with a greater range were available, bombing began. [34]

Actions in the US and in the UK

In the USA and Great Britain Otto Habsburg had intensive personal contacts with President Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. He succeeded in successfully initiating "Austrian Day", successfully including Austria in the "Occupied Nations" stamp series and, above all, participating in the 2nd Quebec Conference, where, with the support of Churchill, he successfully reduced the size of the Soviet zone and the Soviet Union with President Roosevelt. stimulated the division of Vienna among the four allies. [35] His attempt to form a government in exile and a Habsburg "Austrian Battalion" failed. [36]

Through Otto Habsburg's efforts, Austria's state independence was to be achieved after the war, the zone planning of the Allies in occupied post-war Austria was to be changed in favor of the Western powers, and Hungary was to be broken out of the alliance with the German Empire. With regard to Hungary, the Western Allied plans of a Hungarian surrender to the Western powers, an air landing of Allied troops in Hungary or a landing in Yugoslavia in support and an intended appointment of Otto von Habsburg within or at the head of the Hungarian government through the surprising occupation of Hungary by the Red Armynullified. Churchill was an advocate of these plans to curb the impending advance of the Soviets into Central Europe.

Another realistic possibility of restoration for Habsburg existed during the Second World War, when he won Churchill for the concept of a Danube federation or Habsburg was led in plans of British diplomacy for such considerations: In the area of the former Austria-Hungary, according to his ideas, a new multi-ethnic state should be established Austria-Hungary emerged on the model of Belgium, which united two large population groups. Also the states of Bavaria, Baden, Württemberg and Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen should be restored as monarchies and united in a so-called "South German Confederation". Churchill also proposed the isolation of Prussia and the creation of an enlarged Danube federation. "When Bruno Kreisky found out about it in Swedish exile, he noted: "Do they really believe in these circles that the feelings of hatred associated with the name Habsburg have already disappeared today?""

Churchill wanted to create a modernized version of the old Austria-Hungary as a counterweight to the German Empire, whereby he said with regard to the latter: "If it did not exist, one would have to invent it." (This bon mot was originally given to the Czech historian and politician František Palacký, 1798–1876, attributed.) Churchill's concepts in this regard, however, failed because of the rejection by Josef Stalin at the Tehran conference. Roosevelt estimated the realistic chance of implementing this project due to the extensive advance of the Red Army as low and therefore did not represent this project in the same way as Churchill. However, the Americans and British did not associate this federation with the goal of re-enthroning the House of Habsburg.
In a private conversation between Archbishop of New York Francis Spellman and President Roosevelt on September 3, 1943, the President answered Spellman’s explicit question whether Austria, Hungary and Croatia would come under any kind of Russian protectorate with a resounding yes. Regarding Austria, Roosevelt said that there would be no opposition to a communist-rulled Austrian regime. The only possibility would be if Otto von Habsburg could win the throne with the help of Hungary - but even he would have to come to terms with the Russians.

From 1944 to 1961 waiver

In November 1944 Otto von Habsburg traveled "as one of the first refugees" [37] from the USA via Lisbon to liberated Paris, in 1945 after the end of the war to western Austria; he stayed with his brother Robert for a few weeks in the French zone, in Innsbruck.

In a signed with "Otto of Austria" and with the Habsburg crown ornate letter Otto wrote on July 2, 1945, US - President Truman, recommended the creation of the Austrian government in the Western Allies occupied provinces and warned of the recognition of the Provisional Government under Head of the Social Democrat Karl Renner in Vienna, "because otherwise" the communist-ruled regime "in Vienna would lead the country to anarchy ". [38] Habsburg's suggestion was not complied with because it would have strengthened the division of Austria along the demarcation line to the Soviet zone. Renner managed to get recognition from all four allies for his government in Vienna in 1945.

The in 1945 decided return of the Second Republic to Constitutional Law inventory before 1933 (including Habsburg Law) Otto Habsburg forced to leave Austria in 1946: [25] "At the urging of the American occupation forces finally arrived Foreign Minister Karl Gruber to Tyrol to the annoying Habsburg departure to move. " [37]

Habsburg had to leave because he had not given a waiver. Habsburg was suspect to the socialists for decades; they in no way approved of his entry. In addition, despite resistance from the French, the departure was probably necessary to appease the Soviets, who wanted to prevent a Habsburg renaissance in their sphere of influence and therefore demanded that the validity of the Habsburg law be anchored in international law in order to approve the Austrian State Treaty in 1955.

The expulsion in 1946 did not affect Otto Habsburg's Austrian citizenship. Since he did not have a valid Austrian passport, he received a Monagasque passport or a passport of the Sovereign Order of Malta, to which he had belonged since 1932, through the intermediary of Charles de Gaulle. [39] Later he also received a Spanish diplomatic passport. In 1949 Otto Habsburg raised "a number of people to the nobility in contravention of the Austrian constitution ". Shortly afterwards, in an interview in a Viennese daily newspaper, Habsburg advocated "a form of government made up of "monarchical and republican elements ". [38]

Since May 10, 1954, the permanent residence of the Habsburg-Lothringen family has been the "Villa Austria" (also known locally as the "Kaiservilla") in Pocking on Lake Starnberg. In 1957 the Austrian Ministry of the Interior put the name Dr. Otto Habsburg-Lothringen, at the same time he was officially prohibited from using the dynastic name Otto von Österreich. [43] Habsburg had previously tried to have his daughters Andrea and Gabriele registered in their places of birth with names that referred to the former dynastic function of his family. With Andrea his attempt failed in 1953 in Würzburg where three of his children were born at the university women's clinic there, registered as archduchess, he succeeded in doing so with Gabriela in 1956 in Luxembourg. [40]

On May 8, 1956 Otto Habsburg-Lothringen was certified by the Lower Austrian provincial government to be an Austrian citizen and a passport was issued to him. However, this contained the restriction "Valid for all countries in the world, with the exception of Austria" (see citizenship of Karl). [28]

At the beginning of 1958, Maximilian Hohenberg, a son of the heir to the throne Franz Ferdinand who was murdered in Sarajevo, felt in Austria because of Otto Habsburg's chances of returning, but the socialists had shown themselves reserved. The basis was the declaration drawn up by Otto's lawyer on February 21, 1958, the sole purpose of which was the possibility of returning, but without express recognition of the Habsburg Law and without formally - as required by the SPÖ - waiving any claim to power:

"In order to be able to return to my homeland, I declare in my own name and in the name of my wife and my minor children as Austrian citizens that I recognize the laws currently in force in Austria and that I am a loyal citizen of the republic." [41]

On September 3, 1958, he wrote to the Federal Chancellor Julius Raab, with whom he deposited his wish to return. Raab replied on 17 October and expressed his concerns in the letter, "here in Austria that in the sensitivity of Czechoslovakia and Hungary, it will be impossible to develop a political activity." [41] In addition, he raised the demand for restitution of former Habsburg assets from the so-called family pension fund. [38]

Shortly afterwards he again explained to the New Courier that in his eyes the constitutional form of government was the best form of government. On December 20, 1958, he was quoted by the French magazine Paris Match, a statement which he later denied having made in this form:

"But once I have returned and become a simple citizen, who will prevent me from fighting politically for my ideas, and what law could prevent citizens from electing me as emperor?" [38] [41]

Also in 1958, according to a Spiegel report, von Habsburg demanded an authority for Europe that could protect the general interest from the special interests of individuals. Such an authority used to be the emperor. Neither the former League of Nations nor the UN would have been able to solve this task. The European flag is more reminiscent of the emblem of a department store that could never replace the cross, under which Europe arose and under which it could live alone. [41]

All of this seemed unacceptable to the SPÖ and aroused resistance. The Federal President Adolf Schärf then wrote to the (then) State Secretary Bruno Kreisky at the beginning of January: "The Habsburg question comes up again and again. If you consider that Otto is explaining the opposite of what he is saying in France at the same time in Austria, then you have to expect that he would only use his return to start the restoration. [...] For this reason I believe that everything should be done to make it difficult to return. " [41]

At the suggestion of the Spanish ministerial advisor Sánchez Bello, Habsburg was to be discussed for the Spanish crown after Franco's death, but this was never really an option for the dictator. [10]

The "Habsburg-crisis" 1961-1966

From 1961 the coalition of ÖVP and SPÖ went into a serious crisis over the Habsburg issue ("Habsburg Crisis"), with which fundamental constitutional questions were connected. As a result, there were internal political disputes about Otto Habsburg's possible return, which was to continue even after an officially recorded waiver, dated May 31, 1961. [17] [43] With a time lag of more than forty years, the parliamentary correspondence (hereinafter abbreviated
Property question

Initially, the domestic Habsburg crisis sparked only on the question of property. While the Austrian Federal Chancellery, led by the Austrian People's Party, commissioned a review of the acquisitions that could have been a return and talks were held with the federal forests, and Federal Chancellor Raab in his department commissioned a draft law on the restitution of the Habsburg dynasty. Working out assets, on the other hand, blocked the SPO and attacked Otto Habsburg in the media. He, in turn, now realized that he would not be able to assert himself on the property issue and limited himself to enabling his entry into Austria. The journalist Hellmut Andics assumed that Habsburg could also have realized "that for him, as head of the family, the reactivation of the family pension fund would result not only in rights but also in obligations towards other family members."[38][45]

Title for Habsburg children

Just a few months before his declaration of renunciation at the end of May 1961 (the so-called "declaration of loyalty") Otto Habsburg had his newborn son Karl (born January 11, 1961) in the Pöckingen baptismal register as "Karl von Habsburg, Archduke of Austria, royal prince of Hungary" register.[38] Habsburg explained the process in a 1965 Spiegel interview:[46]

"This whole story went like this: The local pastor made the entry without asking me, of his own accord. After all, it's his book too. Incidentally, he did not refer to my son as heir to the throne. The pastor also communicated the facts in a registered letter to the SPO press, which wrote about the entry. But she never published his letter."

He had already made such an entry (and probably for all children born before Karl) for his eldest daughter Andrea Maria (born May 30, 1953) - according to an APA press release by the Hungarian "party official" daily newspaper Népszabadság on June 5, 1963:[47]

“The registry office of pöcking carefully keeps the entry according to which the daughter otto von habsburgs, andrea maria, archduchess of austria, was baptized royal princess of hungary. in hungary you will surely not find a sensible person who takes the title royal princess seriously."

At the same time, the party organ feared:

“His emphatic pose is based on the encouragement of very real forces. The reactionary circles inside and outside Austria are active and, with the return of otto von Habsburg, intend to begin the liquidation of the foundations of the bourgeois-democratic regime in Austria itself, the repeal of the state treaty, the liquidation of Austria's neutrality and its integration into the western military alliance."

And further:

“We hungary cannot ignore this new Habsburg provocation. we cannot forget that ..... otto habsburg, albeit disguised as a 'simple citizen', intends to cross the austrian border as + emperor of austria and king of hungary +."

Waiver of May 31, 1961

Political evaluation

Otto Habsburg-Lothringen gave in a declaration handed over to Federal Chancellor Alfons Gorbach on June 5, 1961 by his lawyer, the former Finance Minister Ludwig Draxler,[28] "To the Austrian Federal Government", dated "Pöcking, on May 31, 1961", known to expressly renounce his membership of the House of Habsburg-Lothringen and all claims to power derived from it and to profess to be a loyal citizen of the republic (see exact wording above).

In its essential parts, this formulation literally corresponded to Section 2 of the Habsburg Law. At the same time he asked the government, in agreement with the main committee of the National Council, that this declaration was to be regarded as sufficient to lift the expulsion from the country imposed on him in 1919 with the Habsburg Law.[38]

No agreement could be reached in the Council of Ministers on June 13 and 21, 1961. A few days later, the minutes of the meeting were supplemented by the addition that the request was then deemed to be rejected. The application was therefore not forwarded to the main committee of the National Council. The applicant was also not notified.

Legal assessment

Otto Habsburg-Lothringen then appealed to the Constitutional Court, which on December 16, 1961, however, declared that it had no jurisdiction. The Supreme Court justified its position with the fact that there was no decision and that the government had to seek agreement with the main committee, which in turn was not an administrative body and whose members had the constitutionally guaranteed free mandate. The Constitutional Court therefore has no decision-making authority.

For this reason, Habsburg appealed to the Administrative Court on February 6, 1962 with a complaint about default (that is, a complaint that no decision had been made on his application).[28] This asked the government to either write a statement or to make a decision. After the government also let this deadline pass, the Administrative Court (which was entitled to rule in place of the competent organs in the case of default complaints until the introduction of comprehensive administrative jurisdiction in 2014) ruled on May 24, 1963 that the declaration of loyalty was sufficient (which ended the expulsion of Otto Habsburg-Lothringen from the state in accordance with the law).[48] The VwGH assumed that Parliament's right to participate in this decision had been laid down in the Habsburg Law of 1919, but not transferred to the Federal Constitution of 1920 and that it could therefore decide on its own in place of the defaulting Federal Government.

Political repercussions

Political debate
This VwGH finding sparked a very controversial public debate. Strikes and demonstrations against Habsburg broke out, with the participation of the trade union federation. In the parliamentary debate, on the other hand, the constitutional and rule-of-law aspects in particular were hotly debated. In particular, the different practice of the two highest courts raised serious constitutional concerns. [59]

On June 5, 1963, an urgent request from the SPÖ to the Federal Chancellor “regarding the preservation of legal unity in Austria” was debated in the National Council. Among other things, the SPÖ objected to the fact that the Higher Administrative Court had ignored Parliament’s authority to participate in this decision. (SPÖ chairman, Vice Chancellor Bruno Pittermann, spoke of a “judicial coup” at the party congress on June 6, 1963 in Vienna. [50] The ÖVP was of the opinion that the declaration of the ÖVP was of the opinion that the declaration of the declaration by Otto Habsburg-Lothringen fully complied with the legal requirements and was to be accepted. The FPÖ supported the opinion of the SPÖ that the National Council had been illegally passed over by the VwGH. At their request, the National Council, with the votes of the SPÖ and FPÖ, adopted a motion for a resolution that the federal government should submit a draft law to parliament in order to avoid contradicting decisions by the highest courts in the future. In addition, an authentic interpretation of the Habsburg law is required so that the main committee is not diminished in its rights in the future.

Federal Constitutional Law “Authentic Interpretation”

On the basis of this resolution, the ÖVP-SPÖ federal government Gorbach II submitted a relevant federal constitutional law. [51] It was decided unanimously on July 4, 1963 in a very turbulent meeting of the National Council after heated discussions. [52] It affirmed that it is up to the Federal Government, in agreement with the Main Committee of the National Council, to determine whether a declaration under the Habsburg Law is sufficient.

Resolution of the National Council

However, since the law cannot be passed retrospectively, as the SPÖ wanted, [53] and therefore the decision of the VwGH of May 24, 1963 in favor of Otto Habsburg-Lothringen [48] could not be repealed, and since the ÖVP proposed the SPÖ, refused to subject the VwGH judgment to a referendum because it was unconstitutional, [54] the National Council also adopted a resolution to the Federal Government with a SPÖ-FPÖ majority on the “demonstration of the will of the people’s representatives for a return of Dr. Otto Habsburg-Lothringen.” In it “the Federal Government is commissioned[,] in recognition of the fact that ... a return of Dr. Otto Habsburg-Lothringen is not wanted to Austria because it would undoubtedly have grave consequences for the Republic of Austria and, because of the risk of resulting political disputes, would also lead to economic setbacks’, this statement as an expression of will of the Austrian people’s representatives would be appropriate correspond. ”(PK).

The ÖVP, on the other hand, had argued that the resolution was nothing more than a mandate to the government to ignore the legal force of a supreme court decision. This was countered by saying that the federal government was being asked to comply with the demonstration of will in an “appropriate manner” so that unconstitutional and illegal measures were ruled out from the outset. The ÖVP rejected the idea expressed in the discussion by the SPÖ that an individual decision by the government and the main committee would take place as a political issue “in a court-free area” [50] and could therefore not be examined by the highest courts, as incompatible with the rule of law.

In return, an SPÖ speaker pointed out that the Christian social mayor of Vienna, Karl Lueger, had already organized mass rallies in 1899 against a VwGH decision that his party did not approve of. [55] It was also pointed out that the legal opinion that the main committee was not responsible has not been mentioned anywhere in the specialist legal literature since 1920. In interjections, the two governing parties threw each other incidents from 1927 (Justice Palace fire according to the leading article of the Arbeiter-Zeitung), 1933/1934 (elimination of democracy by the predecessor party of the ÖVP) and 1950 (alleged passivity of the ÖVP in the communist-led October strikes) as well as their respective reflections on the coalition with the FPÖ.

Follow

Otto Habsburg-Lothringen was initially not allowed to enter the country. For Interior Minister Franz Olah and Foreign Minister (and later Federal Chancellor) Bruno Kreisky had given instructions (allegedly on May 24, 1963, the day the VwGH decision [27]) that Habsburg, who did not have an Austrian passport but a Spanish diplomatic passport, not to issue a passport and thus prevent his entry. False alarms at border stations are said to have led to several operations by the executive.

In 1964, the ÖVP and SPÖ agreed to resolve the Habsburg question “peacefully and permanently, while preserving the constitution and every constitutional state”, as stated in the government declaration of April 2, 1964. It was also agreed to refrain from hasty steps, which meant that Otto Habsburg-Lorraine would no longer be an option until the end of the legislative period. “Even the Solomonic proposal by Bruno Kreisky to deport Otto Habsburg as Austrian representative to the Holy See does not meet with approval.” [37]

End of the crisis: entry permit 1966

It was not until the National Council election in 1966, from which the ÖVP emerged with an absolute majority, that the Habsburg question turned around and the crisis ended. Under the sole government of the ÖVP, Klaus, the Ministry of the Interior issued Otto Habsburg-Lothringen with an unlimited passport on June 1, 1966. [58] Two thereupon as part of an urgent question from MP Leopold Grat (later Federal Minister, Mayor of Vienna, President of the National Council) tabled SPÖ resolutions on June 8, 1966, which on the one hand aimed to “reaffirm” the resolution of 1963 and, on the other hand, to “continue to undiminished the Habsburg property to the Austrian people” (PK), were rejected with the votes of the ÖVP and FPÖ. However, a majority of the ÖVP and FPÖ found the FPÖ motion for a resolution, in which the federal government was called upon to refrain from any pending claims by Dr. Otto Habsburg-Lothringen or other members of the House of Habsburg-Lothringen to ensure that these are decided exclusively by the competent courts of the Republic of Austria on the basis of the law. [59]

Der Spiegel wrote in June 1966:

“In order to avoid a red riot, however, ÖVP Chancellor Klaus made the Habsburg’s promise to carefully savor the new sense of home: Otto is supposed to convince the people of the republic of his harmlessness and slowly get used to his sight through brief visits in a simple loden coat. The Habsburg family’s residence - in addition to Otto’s wife Regina von Sachsen-Meiningen and seven children - is to remain Pöcking in Bavaria for the time being. [59]”

Otto Habsburg-Lothringen entered Austria for the first time on October 31, 1966, [60] which resulted in protests and a strike of around 250,000 workers on November 2. [61]
Decades later, Norbert Leser, Social Democrat and political scientist, stated that Social Democrats and himself as Habsburg cannibals were not afraid of a monarchist restoration, but rather feared being pushed into the background by Otto Habsburg-Lothringen. This conflict was mainly used to divert attention from internal party problems (the exclusion of Franz Olah from the party). In his opinion, the SPO party congress in 1963 was all about warding off the imagined danger of Otto Habsburg, with Justice Minister Christian Broda being responsible in this regard, according to Reader.[62]

Since the 1970s

On May 4, 1972, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Paneuropean Union in Vienna, there was a "historic handshake" between Otto Habsburg-Lothringen and Federal Chancellor Bruno Kreisky. From then on, stays by Otto Habsburg-Lothringen in Austria were no longer discussed, and the relationship between Austrian social democracy and the Habsburg family relaxed.

In his "under the wing of his old friend," the Spanish dictator Franco, established European Information Center in Madrid, an "elite circles," the "European unification among Christian sign" aimed, Habsburg had the Bavarian leaders Franz-Josef Strauss met, "his later mentor" from 1970. [63] “The bearer of a famous name spans a worldwide network of relationships, but he avoids the aristocratic rainbow world. "Futur," he says, is his class. He says in vain." [63]

On June 8, 1978, Habsburg-Lothringen - bearing the name Otto von Habsburg in Germany - received his German passport and thus German citizenship in the town hall of his place of residence in Pöcking. Habsburg "attracts as anticommunist itinerant preacher by the Cold War, especially the Ostpolitik of Willy Brandt, he demonized." [63] In the European elections in 1979 he helped Strauss to a CSU-Mandat in the European Parliament, which it to the 1999 European elections was a member. There he was, among other things, foreign policy spokesman for the EPP Group and against great opposition initiated the resolution which, through an empty chair in the European Parliament, drew media attention to the peoples behind the Iron Curtain. On July 13, 1988 Otto von Habsburg traveled to Budapest in still communist Hungary for the first time since 1918.

He was co-initiator and patron of the “Pan-European Picnic” on August 19, 1989 on the Hungarian-Austrian border, where Hungary began to dismantle the Iron Curtain in May 1989. A barred gate that was still in place was symbolically opened for three hours at the picnic. 661 GDR citizens vacationing in Vienna (who had been made aware of the event by word of mouth by the organizers) used this historic moment to leave for Austria in an uncontrolled manner and not prevented by the Hungarian border guards. After the Pan-European Picnic, Erich Honecker dictated the Daily Mirror the following explanation: “Habsburg distributed leaflets far into Poland, on which the East German vacationers were invited to a picnic. When they came to the picnic, they were given presents, food and German marks, and then they were persuaded to come to the West.” “After his fall... Honecker claims that this Habsburg had driven the coffin nail into his coffin.” [64]

Otto von Habsburg was one of the signatories of the declaration “For freedom and self-determination - against totalitarian efforts by lesbian and gay associations”, which was launched in spring 2009 to support the 6th International Congress for Psychiatry and Pastoral Care. He justified his signature with the following words: “For me this is a question of principle and the courage to acknowledge values and stand up for them. Too often there is a lack of courage to confess. If you have the courage to confront a despot like Hitler, you don’t need courage to defy the zeitgeist even today.” [64]

Criticism and controversy

At the end of 1998, Habsburg was targeted by criticism and the Munich public prosecutor’s office because he compared the allegations and calls for resignation against his son Karl Habsburg in connection with the World Vision donation affair with the Nazi persecution of Jews:

“Karl is attacked because he has that certain yellow star, the name Habsburg. [...] The poor Jews endured terrible things. I often think of them in this context.” [65]

Karl Habsburg’s EU election campaign for the ÖVP was financed in 1996 - according to Habsburg without his knowledge - partly with misappropriated donations from the aid organization World Vision Austria, which were diverted to the Paneuropean Union. [66]

Habsburg’s public advocacy of the New Right’s weekly newspaper Junge Freiheit, to which he repeatedly made himself available as an interview partner, met with criticism. [67] As the first signatory of two petitions initiated by the editorial team, he campaigned against the background of a legal dispute against the then constitutional categorization of the newspaper as "right-wing extremist" and in 2006 against its posting at the Leipzig Book Fair.

In 2002, in an interview with Junge Freiheit, Habsburg said in response to the question of what he saw as the reason for the "unusually militant tones" before the impending US intervention in Iraq that US domestic policy was split in two halves, namely one in the key positions "Ministry of Defense" occupied by Jews, "today a Jewish institution", on the one hand, and a State Department occupied by "blacks, for example Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice" on the other. According to Habsburg, however, the "Anglo-Saxons, that is, the white Americans" played "hardly a role". [67]

In November 2007, Habsburg commented on his position on Engelbert Dollfuss' coup d'état. He had "infinitely respected Dollfuss. The man was brave, ready to stand up for Austria to the last resort. At that time I saw everything from this perspective: We have to preserve Austria." He also had "no problem at all" with the dissolution of parliament and the ban on parties and trade unions: "When it comes to the country, I am ready for anything." [68]

On the occasion of a ceremony by the Austrian People’s Party (ÖVP) in Vienna in March 2008 to commemorate the Nazi takeover of power in Austria on March 1938 there was an uproar over Otto von Habsburg’s statement that Austria was "Hitler’s first victim". No country in Europe has more right than Austria to call itself a victim. Within the scope of this context he called the Moscow Declaration of the Allies of 1943, which stated that Austria was jointly responsible, "one of the greatest acts of hypocrisy and lies", since Austria had long since disappeared from the map by that time. The greeting of Hitler by the masses on Hitler’s inaugural visit to Heldenplatz in Vienna in March 1938 was "a matter of course" and as harmless as at a football game. In this context he called the Moscow Declaration of the Allies of 1943, which stated that Austria was jointly responsible, "one of the greatest acts of hypocrisy and lies", since Austria had long since disappeared from the map by that time. The greeting of Hitler by the masses on Hitler’s inaugural visit to Heldenplatz in Vienna in March 1938 was "a matter of course" and as harmless as at a football game. [69] According to the press, "the ÖVP mandataries [...] enthusiastically cheered this apotheosis of the victim cause." [69] Ex-Chancellor Schüssel replied, however, that the Austrians "unfortunately also became perpetrators", while the Social Democratic Defense Minister Norbert Darabos Habsburg called his remarks a "veritable democratic political scandal" and spoke of a "mockery of the victims of the Nazi regime". It is unbelievable that seventy years after the “Anschluss” such theses would be put forward at an ÖVP memorial event. Austria has a responsibility to face its history and not to deny it. [69] [70] The position of Habsburg is in Austria asReferred to as a victim thesis.

Appreciations

Habsburg was a member of the Mont Pelerin Society, Honor and Devotion Grand Cross Bailli of the Sovereign Order of Malta, and from 1930 until it was handed over to his son Karl in 2000, sovereign of the Order of the Golden Fleece.

As head of the Habsburg-Lotringen families, from 1922 to 2002 he was also the chief owner of the Academic Association of the Catholic-Austrian Landsmannschaften. On his 90th birthday, he handed this office over to his son and presumptive heir Karl in a solemn act in the Augustinian Church in Vienna. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Forum of German Catholics.

Otto von Habsburg, President of the International Paneuropean Union, opened the 7th European Symposium Kaisersteinbruch # Otto von Habsburg as guest of honor and keynote speaker on June 20, 2004. Works of art from Great Britain and Lithuania were presented in the presence of the ambassadors. A European devotion took place in the parish church of Kaisersteinbruch and since then there has been the "Otto von Habsburg" rose in the # Austria Rosarium in front of the European fountain.

In 2006 he joined the German Language Association as an honorary member.

### Death and aftermath

#### Funeral ceremonies

Otto von Habsburg died on July 4th 2011 at the age of 98 in his house in Pöcking. Public laying out of the coffin took place first in the St. Ulrich Church in Pöcking, in the Theutinerkirche St. Kajetan in Munich and in the Mariazell Basilica in Styria. Otto von Habsburg’s coffin was laid out in Marizzell before it was brought to the Capuchin Church in Vienna.

On July 16, 2011 Otto Habsburg’s coffin was transferred to St. Stephen’s Cathedral in Vienna, where the Vienna Archbishop Christoph Cardinal Schönborn as the representative of Pope Benedict XVI held the funeral mass in the presence of foreign heads of state and the Austrian Federal President. Schönborn’s concelebrants were Archbishops of Prague, Dominik Duka, and Trnava, Robert Bezák, and other bishops and abbots from the former monarchy. At the ceremony, the "imperial anthem" was played at the request of the Habsburg family.

Accompanied by a funeral procession of 3500 participants, the coffin was brought from St. Stephen's Cathedral to the Capuchin Crypt, the traditional burial place of the Habsburgs, after the mass. Thousands of interested people and onlookers watched the conduct through downtown Vienna. The coffin was only admitted to the Capuchin Church after a knocking ceremony in 1989 at Otto’s mother, Zita. The funeral took place in the closest family circle. His wife Regina was buried at the Habsburg side. His heart was buried the next day in the Hungarian Benedictine Abbey of Pannonhalma.

According to the Stern magazine, some Austrian politicians and historians have criticized the great honor "which the Republic of Austria bestowed on the eldest son of the last emperor, as well as the high level of security paid by the state. Around 400 police officers were on duty, and a unit of the armed forces took part in the funeral procession. A small demonstration by the Socialist Left Party, which demonstrated against 'falsification of history and the funeral procession', is said to have gone off peacefully.

On the occasion of his death, Pope Benedict XVI a condolence telegram to Otto Habsburg’s son Karl, in which he pays tribute to the deceased and as "S. kk H. Archduke Otto von Österreich", who, in 'responsibility before God and in the awareness of an important heritage", has worked as a "great European tirelessly for peace, the coexistence of peoples and a just order on this continent ".

#### Estate

At the end of 2016, it became known that his sons Karl and Georg Habsburg-Lotringen had decided to give their father’s estate to Budapest. Prime Minister Viktor Orbán made the family an offer that they could not refuse. The Hungarian Parliament specifically passed a new law on foundations. The archive remains the property of the family.

#### Awards

- Order of the Golden Fleece (1916), Grand Cross of the Bavarian Order of St. Hubertus, Grand Cross Lion d'Or of Luxembourg, Orden de Africa, Orden Hilal i Azam of Pakistan (1993), Grand Cross of the Three Star Order of the Republic Latvia
- Honorary citizen of numerous parishes in Austria, Hungary, Spain, France, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia
- Professor hc from the University of Bogotá, honorary member of the Instituto de Estudios da Marinha (Portugal), Honorary Fellowship from the University of Jerusalem, Honorary Senator from the University of Minho, Master of Law and Economics hc from the IMADEC University in Vienna, which is invalid because this private university does not have one Was allowed to award honorary degrees.
- Dr. hc from the universities of Milwaukee, Nancy, Tampa, Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Ferrara, Pécs, Veszprém, Budapest, Turku, Osijek, Skopje
Academic honors and memberships of the Académie des sciences morales et politiques (Paris), the Center Europeen de Documentation et d'Information (CEDI - Madrid), the Real Academia de Ciencias Morales y Políticas (Madrid), the Academia da Cultura Portuguesa (Lisbon), Academis Mejicana de Derecho International (Mexico), Academie du Royaume du Maroc

1951: Grand Cross of the Order of Carlos III from Spain
1963: Literature Prize of the French Academy
1970: European Charlemagne Prize of the Sudeten German Landsmannschaft
1970: Literature Prize of the French Academy
1976: Bavarian Order of Merit
1977: Robert Schuman Medal in gold
1977: Konrad Adenauer Prize from the Germany Foundation
1980: Grand Cross of the Papal Order of Gregory
1983: International Benedict Prize of the City of Mönchengladbach
1987: Louise Weiss Prize
1987: Great Cross of Merit of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany
1990: Europe Medal from the Free State of Bavaria
1990: Plate of honor from the association of loyal refrigerators
1991: Silesian sign of Landsmannschaft Silesia
1992: Knight of Honor of the Teutonic Order
1994: Special European Prize of the Coudenhove Kalergi Foundation for the Coudenhove Kalergi Century (at the same time as Alois Mock)
1996: Grand Cross of the King Zvonimir Order of Croatia
1996: Order of the Cross of Mary of the Republic of Estonia
1997: Saint Nicholas Peace Prize
1997: Honorary member of the Croatian Dragon Order
1998: Gary G. Schlarbaum Prize
1999: Robert Schuman Medal of the EPP Group in the European Parliament
1999: Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary
2000: Golden badge of honor of the Austrian resistance movement O5
2002: Grand Cross of the Order of St. Agathe of the Republic of San Marino
2002: Merit medal from the association of loyal refrigerators
2002: Honorary award of the "Euro Crystal Globe" of the European Economic Institute EWI International
2002: St. Liborius Medal for Unity and Peace of the Archdiocese of Paderborn
2002: Hans Klein Medal of the Junge Union Bayern
2002: Honorary member of the EPP Group in the European Parliament
2003: Taxpayers Association of Europe Taxpayers Prize
2003: Franco-German Pan-European Prize for European Unification
2004: Great Kosovo Freedom Medal
2004: Honorary President of the International Pan-European Union
2004: Honorary President of IMADEC University in Vienna
2005: Charles IV's European medal from the Promotion Agency for European Communication
2008: Renewed honorary citizenship of the Austrian municipality of Eckartsau, which was stripped from him by the National Socialists in 1938.
2008: Grand Order of Merit of the Province of South Tyrol
2009: Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor
2009: Honor plaque for services to national rights and the German East of the Federation of Expellees
Médaille du Mérite Européen of Luxembourg
Gold medal from the city of Paris
International Humanitarian Award of the Jewish Anti-Defamation League
Journalism Prize from the Germany Foundation
Special level of the Europe Medal of the Paneuropean Union Germany
Honour plate of the European Military Parachute Jump Association e. V. AEPM Assiette d'Honneur en Etain
Honorary member of numerous Catholic student associations
Honorary member of the exile PEN

Fonts

Decision about Europe. Tyrolia Verlag, Innsbruck 1953.
Bernhard von Baden or From Confidence in History. Vorwerk, Stuttgart 1958.
In the spring of history. Herold, Vienna 1961.
The Far East is not lost. Herold, Vienna 1963.
Europe, great power or battlefield? Herold Verlag, Vienna 1963.
Africa is not lost. Herold Verlag, Vienna 1964.

Literature

in order of appearance

Books


Periodicals

- Christian Ultsch, Michael Fleischhacker: Otto Habsburg: "I knew them all". Otto Habsburg, soon 95, about the Kaiser, Hitler and the "bigger" Austria. In: Die Presse, print edition, November 10, 2007 (article online (http://www.diepresse.at/home/panorama/oesterreich/342228/index.de)).

Web links

- Wikiquote: Otto von Habsburg - Quotes
Pedigree

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pedigree of Otto von Habsburg</th>
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<tr>
<td>Great-grandparents</td>
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<tr>
<td>≈ 1862 Princess Maria Annunciata of Naples and Sicily (1843–1871)</td>
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<tr>
<td>King George of Saxony (1832–1904)</td>
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<tr>
<td>≈ 1859 Princess Maria Anna of Portugal (1843–1884)</td>
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<td>≈ 1845 Princess Louise of France (1819–1864)</td>
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<td>≈ 1805–1872 Maria Theresa Isabella of Austria (1816–1867)</td>
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<td>≈ 1824 Prince Amalie Auguste of Bavaria (1801–1877)</td>
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<tr>
<td>≈ 1824 Archduchess Maria Theresa Isabella of Austria (1816–1867)</td>
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<tr>
<td>≈ 1862 Princess Maria Annunciata of Naples and Sicily (1843–1871)</td>
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5. Otto Habsburg’s statement “You can never have enough passports” had its origin at least before / in November 2002, when Habsburg was reported in an interview in the German national weekly magazine Zur Zeit - See quoted in: Günter Traxler: Company Otto, the second. Instead of being smart like the Ahnl and simply saying, “It was very nice, I was very happy”, I felt ... In: Der Standard, print edition November 22, 2002 (article online (https://derstandard.at/1139138/Unternehmen-Otto-die-Zwei te) in version November 27, 2002, accessed on May 10, 2019). Herein (taken from the source in italics): “It’s not the first time that I felt begun when “At the moment” got a house rabbias a miracle weapon against Peter Schirpov, because he suddenly discovered anti-Semitism in the Freedom Party. [...]/ And that’s all not, Otto was asked - in the character mask “Majesty” - for his opinion on the world situation, for which the interviewer struggled to slip into the role of Alice Schalk in order to create a flaw when we experienced the last days of mankind. [...] / Then the Schalk came up with a strange question. May I ask, do you feel like an Austrian? Do you have an Austrian passport? How can you graft such a great spirit onto such a small country? The answer was accordingly. You can never have enough passports. I learned that from my previous life as an emigrant, when I was standing there without a passport. I have an Austrian, a German, a Hungarian and a Croatian passport. Imperial Heigness are just a real passport, they don’t give emigration a chance.”


8. See the obituary of the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation on ORF 2 repeated several times on July 4, 2011.


19. The Mayor of Ampass, Josef Kaltenbrunner, had read in September 1931 in the “Volkszeitung”, an organ of the Tyrolean Socialists, that Otto’s return was to be expected soon, since 50 communities had made him an honorary citizen. Kaltenbrunner liked this, and on December 6, 1931, the Ampass municipal council granted Otto Habsburg-Lothringen honorary citizenship. What Kaltenbrunner did not know, however, was that the report in the Volkszeitung had been an invention of the socialists in order to use it to carry out propaganda against Otto. See Stephan Baier, Eva Demmerle: Otto von Habsburg. The biography. With a greeting from Pope Benedict XVI. , 5th edition, Amalthea Verlag, Vienna 2002, ISBN 978-3-85002-486-0, p. 109.


power, what Otto had for years processed vain: a valid passport for election on March 6, 1966.


Press Agency

of the interior announces.

Abg. Abg. w.parlament.gv.at/PAKT/VHG/X/NRSITZ/NRSITZ_00021/imfname_15420

interpreted authentically

s/habsbg_articlesn63.jpg)


See for example: Die Presse , December 7, 1998 and December 9, 1998.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>predecessor</th>
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<tr>
<td>Charles I.</td>
<td>Head of the &quot;House of Habsburg&quot;</td>
<td>Karl</td>
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This page was last edited on 1 January 2021, at 23:07.

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Otto von Habsburg was Vice President (1957–1973) and President (1973–2004) of the International Paneuropean Union, and served as a Member of the European Parliament for the Christian Social Union of Bavaria (CSU) from 1979 to 1999. As a newly elected Member of the European Parliament in 1979, Otto had an empty chair set up for the countries on the other side of the Iron Curtain in the European Parliament, and took a strong interest in the countries behind the Iron Curtain. Otto von Habsburg played a notable role in the revolutions of 1989, as a co-initiator of the Pan-European Picnic. Later he was a strong supporter of the EU membership of central and eastern European countries. A noted intellectual, he published several books on historical and political affairs. Otto has been described as one of the "architects of the European idea and of European integration" together with Robert Schuman, Konrad Adenauer, and Alcide De Gasperi.

Otto was exiled in 1919 and grew up mostly in Spain. His devout Catholic mother raised him according to the old curriculum of Austria-Hungary, preparing him to become a Catholic monarch. During his life in exile, he lived in Switzerland, Madeira, Spain, Belgium, France, the United States, and from 1954 until his death, finally in Bavaria (Germany), in the residence Villa Austria. At the time of his death, he was a citizen of Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Croatia, having earlier been stateless de jure and de facto, and possessed passports of the Order of Malta and Spain.

His funeral took place at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna on 16 July 2011; he was entombed in the Imperial Crypt in Vienna and his heart buried in Pannonhalma Archabbey in Hungary.
Early life

Otto was born at Villa Wartholz in Reichenau an der Rax, Austria-Hungary. He was baptised Franz Joseph Otto Robert Maria Anton Karl Max Heinrich Sixtus Xavier Felix Renatus Ludwig Gaetan Pius Ignatius on 25 November 1912 at Villa Wartholz by the Prince-Archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal Franz Xaver Nagl. This name was chosen so that he might reign as "Franz Joseph II" in the future. His godfather was the Emperor Franz Joseph I of Austria (represented by Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria); his godmother was his grandmother Infanta Maria Antonia of Portugal.[14]

In November 1916, Otto became Crown Prince of Austria, Hungary, Bohemia and Croatia[7][8] when his father, Archduke Charles, acceded to the throne. However, in 1919, after the end of the First World War, the monarchies were abolished, the republics of Austria and Hungary were founded in their place, and the family was forced into exile in Madeira.[15] Hungary did become a kingdom again, but Charles was never to regain the throne. Instead, Miklós Horthy ruled as regent until 1944, in a kingdom without a king.

Otto spoke German, Hungarian, Croatian, English, Spanish, French and Latin fluently. In later life, he would write some forty books in German, Hungarian, French and Spanish.[16] His mother made him learn many languages because she believed he one day might rule over many lands.[17][18]

Years in exile
Otto von Habsburg attending his parents coronation in Budapest on 30 December 1916

Otto's family spent the subsequent years in Switzerland, and on the Portuguese island of Madeira, where 34-year-old Charles died in 1922, leaving the nine-year-old Otto pretender to the throne. On his father's deathbed, his mother, Empress Dowager Zita, told Otto, "your father is now sleeping the eternal sleep—you are now Emperor and King".[19] The family eventually relocated to the Basque town of Lekeitio, where forty Spanish grandees bought them a villa.

Meanwhile, the Austrian parliament had officially expelled the Habsburg dynasty and confiscated all the official property via the Habsburg Law of 3 April 1919. Charles was banned from ever returning to Austria again, while Otto and other male members could return only if they renounced all claims to the throne and accepted the status of private citizens.

In 1935, he graduated with a PhD degree in Political and Social Sciences from the University of Louvain in Belgium. His thesis was on "the right, born of usage and of the peasant law of inheritance, of the indivisibility of rural land ownership in Austria".[20][21] In 1937 he wrote,[22]

I know very well that the overwhelming majority of the Austrian population would like me to assume the heritage of the peace emperor, my beloved father, rather earlier than later .... The [Austrian] people have never cast a vote in favor of the republic. They have remained silent as long as they were exhausted from the long fight, and taken by surprise by the audacity of the revolutionaries of 1918 and 1919. They shook off their resignation when they realized that the revolution had raped their right to life and freedom. ... Such trust places a heavy burden on me. I accept it readily. God willing, the hour of reunion between the Duke and the people will arrive soon.

He continued to enjoy considerable public support in Austria; from 1931 to 1938, 1,603 Austrian municipalities named Otto an honorary citizen.[23] John Gunther believed that Zita was less popular among Austrians, however, writing in 1936 that "restoration would be a good deal closer if Otto’s return would not mean also the return of his mother—to say nothing of hundreds of assorted and impoverished Habsburg cousins and aunts, who would flock to Vienna like ants to a keg of syrup". A greater obstacle, he wrote, was the opposition of Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia, which feared that their people might want to rejoin a recreated monarchy.[21]

World War II

Otto denounced Nazism, stating.[21]

I absolutely reject [Nazi] Fascism for Austria ... This un-Austrian movement promises everything to everyone, but really intends the most ruthless subjugation of the Austrian people .... The people of Austria will never tolerate that our beautiful fatherland should become an exploited colony, and that the Austrian should become a man of second category.

He strongly opposed the Anschluss, and in 1938 requested Austrian Chancellor Kurt Schuschnigg to resist Nazi Germany. He supported international intervention[10] and offered to return from exile to take over the reins of government to repel the Nazis.[24] According to Gerald Warner, "Austrian Jews were among the strongest supporters of a Habsburg restoration, since they believed the dynasty would give the nation sufficient resolve to stand up to the Third Reich".[25]

Following the German annexation of Austria, Otto was sentenced to death by the Nazi regime; Rudolf Hess ordered that Otto was to be executed immediately if caught.[22][26] As ordered by Adolf Hitler, his personal property and that of the House of Habsburg were confiscated. It was not returned after the war.[27] The so-called "Habsburg Law", which had previously been repealed, was reintroduced by the Nazis. The leaders of the Austrian legitimist movement, i.e. supporters of Otto, were arrested by the Nazis and largely executed (Stefan Zweig's novella The Royal Game is based on these events). Otto's cousins Max, Duke of Hohenberg, and Prince Ernst of Hohenberg were arrested in Vienna by the
Gestapo and sent to Dachau concentration camp where they remained throughout Nazi rule. Otto was involved in helping around 15,000 Austrians, including thousands of Austrian Jews, flee the country at the beginning of the Second World War.[20][29]

After the German invasion of France in 1940, the family left the French capital and fled to Portugal with a visa issued by Aristides de Sousa Mendes, the Portuguese consul in Bordeaux.[30] The family is known to have resided in Cascais during their exile.[31] For his own safety, Otto left the European continent for the United States and lived from 1940 to 1944 in Washington, D.C. In 1941, Hitler personally revoked the citizenship of Otto, his mother and his siblings, and the imperial-royal family found themselves stateless.[32]

Habsburg, who was also on the Sonderfahnungsliste G.B. ("Special Search List Great Britain"), was the unofficial head of numerous resistance groups in Central Europe. On the one hand, these groups could not identify with Nazi ideology; on the other hand, they often saw the resurgence of a Danube confederation as the only way for small states to exist between Germany and Russia. This should also revive the centuries-old Habsburg principles of "live and let live" with regard to ethnic groups, peoples, minorities, religions, cultures and languages. These imperial resistance groups acted robustly against the Nazi state and were, however, also fought extremely strictly, also because Hitler bristled with hatred of the Habsburg family.[33] Many of these imperial resistance fighters (- according to current estimates approx. 4000 – 4500 Habsburg resistance fighters) were sent directly to the concentration camp without trial. Over 800 Habsburg resistance fighters were executed by the Nazis. Among them was Karl Burian, who was planning to blow up the Gestapo headquarters in Vienna, or Dr. Heinrich Maier, who very successfully passed on plans and production facilities for V-2 rockets, Tiger tanks or airplanes (Messerschmitt Bf 109, Messerschmitt Me 163 Komet, etc.) to the Allies. In contrast to many other German resistance groups, the Maier group informed very early about the mass murder of Jews through its contacts with the Semperit factory near Auschwitz.[34][35][36][37][38]

During his wartime exile in the United States, Otto and his younger brothers were in direct contact with President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the federal government. His efforts to create an "Austrian Battalion" in the United States Army were delayed and never implemented. However, he successfully convinced the U.S. to halt or limit the bombardment of Austrian cities, especially the capital, Vienna,[28] which were consequently delayed by high-ranking commanding personnel; bombardments on Vienna began later in the war, during 1943. Otto greatly desired Austria to be free, independent and democratic; he expressed concern that after the war the country was in danger of becoming a Soviet satellite state. Otto was commonly known in the U.S. as "Otto of Austria", and tried to keep his homeland and its neighbors in the minds of the American people by inaugurating a series of stamps (the Overrun Countries series) featuring the German-occupied nations of Europe.

He obtained the support of Winston Churchill for a conservative "Danube Federation", in effect a restoration of Austria-Hungary, but Joseph Stalin put an end to these plans.[24] He lobbied for the recognition of an Austrian government-in-exile, for the rights of the German-speaking population of South Tyrol, against the deportation of the German-speaking inhabitants of Bohemia and eastern Europe, and against letting Stalin rule Eastern Europe.[39][40]

**After World War II**

At the end of the war, Otto returned to Europe and lived for several years in France and Spain.

As he did not possess a passport and was effectively stateless, he was given a passport of the Principality of Monaco, thanks to the intervention of Charles de Gaulle in 1946. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta, of which he was a knight, also issued him a diplomatic passport. Later, he was also issued a Spanish diplomatic passport.[41]

On 8 May 1956, Otto was recognized as an Austrian citizen by the provincial government of Lower Austria.[42] The Austrian Interior Ministry approved this declaration of citizenship, but on the condition that he accept the name Dr. Otto Habsburg-Lothringen, on 8 February 1957. However, this only entitled him to a passport "valid in every country but Austria".[43] Otto had already submitted a written statement, on 21 February 1958, that he and his family would renounce all privileges to which a member of the House of Habsburg was formerly entitled, but this first declaration did not satisfy the requirements of the Habsburg Law, which stated that Otto and other descendants of Charles could only return to Austria if they renounced all royal claims and accepted the status of private citizens. He officially declared his loyalty to the Republic of Austria on 5 June 1961, but this statement was ruled insufficient as well.
In a declaration dated 31 May 1961, Otto renounced all claims to the Austrian throne and proclaimed himself "a loyal citizen of the republic", "for purely practical reasons". In a 2007 interview on the occasion of his approaching 95th birthday, Otto stated:

This was such an infamy, I'd rather never have signed it. They demanded that I abstain from politics. I would not have dreamed of complying. Once you have tasted the opium of politics, you never get rid of it.

The Austrian administrative court found on 24 May 1963 that Otto's statement was sufficient to meet this requirement. He and his wife were then issued a Certified Proof of Citizenship on 20 July 1965. However, several elements in the country, particularly the Socialists, were ill-disposed to welcoming back the heir of the deposed dynasty. This touched off political infighting and civil unrest that almost precipitated a crisis of state, and later became known as the "Habsburg Crisis". It was only on 1 June 1966, after the People's Party won an outright majority in the national election, that Otto was issued an Austrian passport, and was finally able to visit his home country again on 31 October 1966 for the first time in 48 years. That day, he traveled to Innsbruck to visit the grave of Archduke Eugen of Austria. Later, he visited Vienna on 5 July 1967. He was one of the men instrumental in organising the so-called Pan-European Picnic at the Hungary-Austria border on 19 August 1989. This event is considered a milestone in the collapse of Communist dictatorships in Europe.

### Political career

An early advocate of a unified Europe, Otto was president of the International Paneuropean Union from 1973 to 2004. He served from 1979 until 1999 as a Member of the European Parliament for the conservative Christian Social Union of Bavaria (CSU) party, eventually becoming the senior member of the European Parliament. He was also a member of the Mont Pelerin Society. He was a major supporter of the expansion of the European Union from the beginning and especially of the acceptance of Hungary, Slovenia and Croatia. During his time in the European Parliament, he was involved in a fracas with fellow MEP Ian Paisley, a unionist Protestant pastor from Northern Ireland. In 1988, Pope John Paul II had just begun a speech to the Parliament when Paisley, a vehement anti-Catholic, shouted that the Pope was the Antichrist, and held up a poster reading "Pope John Paul II Antichrist". Otto snatched Paisley’s banner and, along with other MEPs, ejected him from the chamber.

He was one of the men instrumental in organising the so-called Pan-European Picnic at the Hungary-Austria border on 19 August 1989. This event is considered a milestone in the collapse of Communist dictatorships in Europe.

In December 2006, he observed that, "The catastrophe of 11 September 2001 struck the United States more profoundly than any of us, whence a certain mutual incomprehension. Until then, the United States felt itself secure, persuaded of its power to bombard any enemy, without anyone being able to strike back. That sentiment vanished in an instant. Americans understand viscerally for the first time the risks they face." He was known as a supporter of the rights of refugees and displaced people in Europe, notably of the ethnic Germans displaced from Bohemia where he was once the Crown Prince. He was a jury member of the Franz Werfel Human Rights Award. He also held Francisco Franco in a high regard and praised him for helping refugees, stating that he was "a dictator of the South American type, not totalitarian like Hitler or Stalin".

In 2002, he was named the first-ever honorary member of the European People's Party group.

On the 2008 anniversary of the Anschluss, Otto von Habsburg made a statement as part of his "1938 Remembrance Day" address before Parliament that "there is no country in Europe that has a better claim to be a victim of the Nazis than Austria". Although his speech received an ovation, this received public protest, media criticism and disapproval voiced by Austrian politicians. Social Democratic Party Defence Minister Norbert Darabos was quoted as saying that the remarks were "unacceptable", "a veritable democratic-political scandal" and that he had "insulted the victims of National Socialism". Otto von Habsburg was also quoted as saying that "a discussion as to
whether Austria was an accomplice or a victim is an outrage". Murauer defended Otto's statement at the time. Murauer claimed that there was "another reality behind the mass of people who listened to Hitler on the Heldenplatz", meaning the "thousands in the resistance and thousands in prison waiting to be transported to Dachau" near Munich. Murauer also recalled that Engelbert Dollfuß had been the only head of government in Europe to have been murdered by the Nazis. Murauer advised Darabos "to avoid populist potshots against an honourable European of the highest calibre". Otto's son, Karl von Habsburg, also defended his father's words, in a 2011 statement, stating that "there were guilty parties in practically every country".

### Death and funeral

After the death of his wife, Regina, aged 85, in Pöcking on 3 February 2010, Otto stopped appearing in public. He died at the age of 98 on Monday, 4 July 2011, at his home in Pöcking, Germany. His spokeswoman reported that he died "peacefully and without pain in his sleep". On 5 July, his body was laid in repose in the Church of St. Ulrich near his home in Pöcking, Bavaria, and a massive 13-day period of mourning started in several countries formerly part of Austria-Hungary. Otto's coffin was draped with the Habsburg flag decorated with the imperial–royal coats of arms of Austria and Hungary in addition to the Habsburg family coat of arms. In line with the Habsburg family tradition, Otto von Habsburg was buried in the family's crypt in Vienna, while his heart was buried in a monastery in Pannonhalma, Hungary.

### Family

He married Princess Regina of Saxe-Meiningen on 10 May 1951 at the Church of Saint-François-des-Cordeliers in Nancy, capital city of Lorraine. They were fourth cousins as both were descendants of Karl Ludwig, Prince of Hohenlohe-Langenburg and his wife Countess Amalie Henriette of Solms-Baruth. The wedding was attended by his mother, Empress Zita. He returned there with his wife for their golden jubilee in 2001. Otto lived in retirement at the Villa Austria in Pöcking near Starnberg, upon Starnberger See, Upper Bavaria, Bavaria, Germany.

At the time of his death in 2011, the couple had seven children, 22 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

- Andrea von Habsburg (born 30 May 1953), married Hereditary Count Karl Eugen von Neipperg (born 20 October 1951 in Schwaigern), a descendant of Marie Louise, Duchess of Parma, the second wife of Napoleon I. They have three sons and two daughters. One of them, Dominik, married Marie-Anna, Princess of Salm-Salm, a descendant of Friedrich, Prince of Waldeck and Pyrmont and his wife Princess Bathildis of Schaumburg-Lippe.
- Monika von Habsburg (born 13 September 1954), married Luis María Gonzaga de Casanova-Cárdenas y Barón, Duke of Santangel and Grandee of Spain (born 24 April 1950 in Madrid), son of Balthasar de Casanova-Cárdenas y de Ferrer and Maria de los Dolores Barón y Osorio de Moscoso, Duchess de Maqueda, a descendant of Infanta Luisa Teresa of Spain, Duchess of Sessa, and sister of Francis, King-Consort of Spain. They have four sons.
- Michaela von Habsburg (born 13 September 1954, twin of Monika), married firstly Eric Alba-Teran d'Antin (born 21 May 1920 in Mexico City – 9 July 2004 in New York City), and secondly Count Hubertus von Kageneck (born 10 August 1940 in Wittlich), son of Count Franz Joseph von Kageneck and Princess Elisabeth Maria of Bavaria. Twice divorced, she has two sons and one daughter from her first marriage.
- Gabriela von Habsburg (born 14 October 1956), married Christian Meister (born 1 September 1954 in Starnberg). Divorced in 1997, they had one son and two daughters.
- Karl von Habsburg (born 11 January 1961), married (later divorced) Baroness Francesca Thyssen-Bornemisza (born 7 June 1958 in Lausanne), daughter of Baron Hans Heinrich Thyssen-Bornemisza and Fiona Frances Elaine

Campbell-Walter. They have one son and two daughters.

- Georg von Habsburg (born 16 December 1964), married Duchess Eilika of Oldenburg (born 22 August 1972 in Bad Segeberg). They have one son and two daughters.

### Titles and styles

- **20 November 1912 – 21 November 1916:** *His Imperial and Royal Highness* Archduke and Prince Otto of Austria, Prince of Hungary, Bohemia, Dalmatia, Croatia and Slavonia[^7]
- **21 November 1916 – 4 July 2011:** *His Imperial and Royal Highness* The Crown Prince of Austria, Hungary, Bohemia and Croatia[^7][^8]

#### Titles in pretence from 1 April 1922

- By the Grace of God Emperor of Austria; Apostolic King of Hungary, King of Bohemia, Croatia, Slavonia, Galicia and Lodomeria; King of Jerusalem etc.; Archduke of Austria; Grand Duke of Tuscany and Cracow; Duke of Lorraine, Salzburg, Styria, Carinthia, Carniola and Bukowina; Grand Prince of Transylvania, Margrave of Moravia; Duke of Silesia, Modena, Parma, Piacenza, Guastalla, Auschwitz and Zator, Teschen, Friuli, Dubrovnik and Zadar; Princely Count of Habsburg and Tyrol, of Kyburg, Gorizia and Gradisca; Prince of Trent and Brixen; Margrave of Upper and Lower Lusatia and Istria; Count of Hohenems, Feldkirch, Bregenz, Sonnenburg etc.; Lord of Trieste, Kotor and the Windic March, Grand Voivod of the Voivodeship of Serbia etc.[^75]

#### Official in Austria

- **20 November 1912 – 21 November 1916:** *His Imperial and Royal Highness* Archduke and Prince Otto of Austria, Prince of Hungary, Bohemia, Dalmatia, Croatia and Slavonia[^7]
- **21 November 1916 – 1919:** *His Imperial and Royal Highness* the Crown Prince of Austria, Hungary, Bohemia, Dalmatia, Croatia and Slavonia[^7][^8]
- **8 February 1957 – 4 July 2011:** Herr Doktor Otto Habsburg-Lothringen

#### Official in Croatia

- **21 November 1916 – 29 October 1918:** *His Royal Highness* The Crown Prince of Croatia, Dalmatia and Slavonia[^7][^8]

He became a citizen of the Republic of Croatia in 1990, with the official name:

- **1990 – 4 July 2011:** Archduke Otto von Habsburg[^76]

#### Official in Germany

Otto von Habsburg became a citizen of the Federal Republic of Germany in 1978, and was allowed the official name:

- **1978 – 4 July 2011:** Otto von Habsburg

### Honours

#### Dynastic honours
House of Habsburg:

- Knight of the Austrian Imperial and Royal Order of the Golden Fleece, 1916[77] Sovereign Knight with Collar, 1922[78]
- Sovereign Knight Grand Cross with Collar of the Imperial and Royal Hungarian Order of Saint Stephen[78]
- Sovereign Knight Grand Cross with Collar of the Imperial and Royal Order of Leopold[78]

Foreign honours

- Croatia: Grand Cross of the Grand Order of King Dmitar Zvonimir[78][76]
- Estonia: Grand Cross of the Order of the Cross of Terra Mariana[79]
- France: Grand Cross of the Order of the Legion of Honour, 31 October 2008[78][79][80]

Germany:

- Bavarian Royal Family: Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Order of Saint Hubert[78]
- Ernestine Ducal Families: Knight Grand Cross of the Ducal Saxe-Ernestine House Order
- Federal Republic of Germany: Grand Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany[78]
- Bavaria: Member of the Decoration of Merit[78]

Italian Royal Family: Knight Grand Collar of the Royal Supreme Order of the Most Holy Annunciation[78]

- Two Sicilian Royal Family:
  - Knight Grand Cross with Collar of the Royal Order of Saint Januarius[78]
  - Bailiff Knight Grand Cross with Collar of the Two Sicilian Royal Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George[78]
- Parmese Ducal Royal Family: Knight Grand Cross of the Parmese Royal Sacred Military Constantinian Order of Saint George[78]
- Kosovo[a]: Recipient of the Medal of Liberty, Special Class (http://www.medals.org.uk/kosovo/kosovo002.htm)[78]

Latvia: Commander of the Order of the Three Stars[78]

Lithuania: Commander of the Order of Grand Duke Gediminas[78]

Luxembourg: Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Gold Lion of the House of Nassau[78]

Morocco: Knight of the Order of Military Merit[78]

Netherlands: Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the House of Orange[78]


Pakistan: Grand Officer of the Order of the Great Leader[78]

Portuguese Royal Family: Knight Grand Cross of the Royal Order of the Immaculate Conception of Vila Viçosa[78]

Rhodesia: Grand Cross of the Order of the Legion of Merit[78]

San Marino: Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Agatha[78]

Sovereign Military Order of Malta: Bailiff Knight Grand Cross of Obedience of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, 2nd Class[78][81]

Spain:

- Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Charles III[78]
- Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Africa[78]

Vatican: Honorary Knight Grand Commander of the Teutonic Order[78]

- Holy See:
  - Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Gregory the Great[78]
  - Knight Grand Cross of the Order of Saint Sylvester[78]

Awards

- South Tyrol: Recipient of the Grand Order of Merit[78]
- Badge of the Tyrolean Nobility Register

Non-governmental awards

- Paneuropean Union: Special Rank of the European Medal of the Paneuropean Union Germany
### Academic awards

- Medal of the Académie des Sciences Morales et Politiques, Institut de France, Paris, France
- Medal of the Royal Moroccan Academy, Morocco
- Medal of the Academia da Cultura Portuguesa, Lisbon, Portugal
- Medal of the Real Academia de Ciencias Morales y Políticas, Madrid, Spain
- Honorary Professor of the University of Bogota, Colombia
- Honorary Fellow of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- Honorary Member of the Instituto de Estudos da Marinha, Portugal
- Honorary Senator of the University of Maribor, Slovenia
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Osijek, Croatia
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Nancy, Lorraine, France
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Turku, Finland
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Budapest, Hungary
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Pécs, Hungary
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Veszprém, Hungary
- Honorary Doctor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Ferrara, Italy
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Skopje, Macedonia
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
- Honorary Doctor of the University of Tampa, Tampa, Florida, USA
- Academician of Studium, Accademia di Casale e del Monferrato, Italy

### Ancestry

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ancestors of Otto von Habsburg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Otto, Crown Prince of Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Charles I of Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Princess Zita of Bourbon-Parma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Archduke Otto of Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Princess Maria Josepha of Saxony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Robert I, Duke of Parma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Infanta Maria Antonia of Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Archduke Karl Ludwig of Austria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Princess Maria Annunziata of Bourbon-Two Sicilies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. George of Saxony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Infanta Maria Anna of Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Charles III, Duke of Parma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Princess Louise of Artois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Miguel I of Portugal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Princess Adelaide of Löwenstein-Wertheim-Rosenberg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Footnotes

1. Brook-Shepherd, pg. 177

3. Otto was born as His Imperial and Royal Highness Archduke Otto of Austria, Royal Prince of Hungary and Bohemia and became the Crown Prince of these countries in 1916. After 1919, titles of nobility were formally abolished in Austria, thus in official use the "von" disappeared before Habsburg. The same applied after Habsburg became a German citizen (see Printausgabe der deutschen Wochenzeitung die Zeit of 21 July 2011, p. 36). By courtesy, he would also be referred to by the European royal and princely courts by his former style and title, i.e. as His Imperial and Royal Highness Archduke Otto of Austria. In the Austrian republic the authorities referred to him from 1919 as Otto Habsburg-Lothringen, a name he never used himself. Otto did not live in Austria after 1919, and his citizenship there was revoked by Adolf Hitler in 1941, making him stateless. His Austrian citizenship was only restored in 1965. Otto later became a citizen of Germany (in 1978) and Croatia (in 1990) and was issued passports of these countries, where his official name was Otto von Habsburg. As a Member of the European Parliament for Germany, his official name in the European Union was Otto von Habsburg. On his website, he used the style and name His Imperial and Royal Highness Dr. Otto von Habsburg.


8. Croatian Coronation Oath of 1916.. pp. 2–4, 'Emperor of Austria, Hungary and Croatia, Slavonia and Dalmatia Apostolic king'


31. Exiles Memorial Centre Library.


38. Hansjakob Stehle "Die Spione aus dem Pfarrhaus (German: The spy from the rectory)" In: Die Zeit, 5 January 1996.


44. Brook-Shepherd, pg. 181


50. Austria-Online-Lexicon (German) http://www.austria-lexikon.at/af/Wissenssammlungen/Biographien/Habsburg,_Otto


63. Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 March 2008 (German) http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/oesterreichs-anschluss-an-na Zeitgeschichtliche Bibliothek.

64. Kurier, Wien, 8 July 2011 (German)...es gebe "keinen Staat in Europa, der mehr Recht hat, sich als Opfer zu bezeichnen, als es Österreich gewesen ist". http://kurier.at/nachrichten/3921065.php

65. Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 April 2008 (German) http://www.sueddeutsche.de/politik/kz-kommandant-goeth-mordenbereichern-intrigieren-1.195309

Bibliography


Annotations
Kosovo is the subject of a territorial dispute between the Republic of Kosovo and the Republic of Serbia. The Republic of Kosovo unilaterally declared independence on 17 February 2008. Serbia continues to claim it as part of its own sovereign territory. The two governments began to normalise relations in 2013, as part of the 2013 Brussels Agreement. Kosovo is currently recognized as an independent state by 98 out of the 193 United Nations member states. In total, 113 UN member states recognized Kosovo at some point, of which 15 later withdrew their recognition.

External links

- Erzherzog Dr. Otto von Habsburg (Autorisierte Ehrenseite) (http://otto.twoschwarzer.de/)
- The Black & Yellow Alliance (http://sga.monarchisten.org/)
- Appearances (https://www.c-span.org/person/?ottovonhabsburg) on C-SPAN (Otto Von Habsburg)
- Appearances (https://www.c-span.org/person/?ottohabsburg) on C-SPAN (Otto Habsburg)
- Official website covering the death and funeral of Otto von Habsburg (http://www.ottovonhabsburg.org/content.asp?lang=en)
- Otto von Habsburg (http://www.economist.com/node/18956124) (The Economist)
- Newspaper clippings about Otto von Habsburg (http://purl.org/pressemappe20/folder/pe/006862) in the 20th Century Press Archives of the ZBW

Otto von Habsburg

House of Habsburg-Lorraine
Cadet branch of the House of Lorraine
Born: 20 November 1912 Died: 4 July 2011

Titles in pretence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preceded by</th>
<th>— TITULAR —</th>
<th>Succeeded by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emperor-King Charles</td>
<td>Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary, Bohemia, Croatia etc</td>
<td>Charles von Habsburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 1922 – 4 July 2011</td>
<td>1 April 1922 – 4 July 2011</td>
<td>1 April 1922 – 4 July 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reason for succession failure: Austro-Hungarian Empire abolished in 1918</td>
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Political offices

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<tr>
<th>Preceded by</th>
<th>International President of the Paneuropean Union</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Succeeded by</td>
<td>Alain Terrenoire</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
