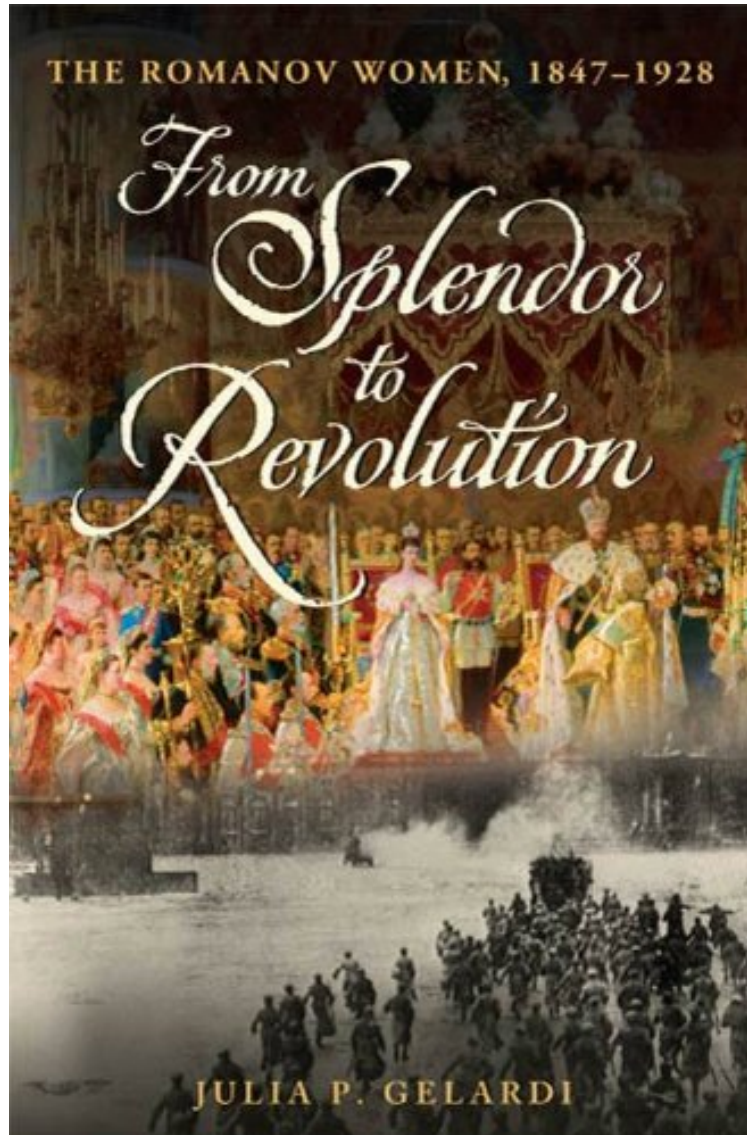


[Ebook free] From Splendor to Revolution: The Romanov Women, 1847--1928

From Splendor to Revolution: The Romanov Women, 1847--1928

Von Julia P. Gelardi

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Von Julia P. Gelardi : From Splendor to Revolution: The Romanov Women, 1847--1928 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised From Splendor to Revolution: The Romanov Women, 1847--1928:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. a pleasure to read: four intriguing RomanovsVon Amelrodel started my review on Julia Gelardi's first book with the lines: I was first sceptical as I always found compilations of biographies disappointing. They always seem to promise a

lot and in the end give little. I should not have been." And this applies to her third book as well. It is a pleasure to read. She finds a common thread justifying to combine the biographies of these four women. Two are born Romanovs, two married into the Romanov family: in the first category are Olga, the Grandduchess turned into the first Queen of the Hellenes of modern times, and Maria Alexandrovna, the Czar's very own and only daughter turned into the Duchess of Edinburgh and later sovereign Duches Consort of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. In the second category are Marie Feodorovna (Dagmar) of Denmark, the consort of Emperor Alexander III and mother of Nicolas II, and Marie of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Grandduchess Vladimir, the Empress of the Salon and mother of the first Emperor-in-Exile. The center is Marie Feodorovna as all the other three ladies are her sisters-in-law. Julia Geraldine recreates the splendid world of the Romanov court and the roles these four leading ladies played. However, unlike many memoirs of the time written by personalities deeply involved in the Czarist regime it is not a mere compilation of splendid ceremonies and all the glamour of it. Yes, of course she has to give us that and she does not fail, but she tries to flash out the personalities, the characters, the ambitions, the family relationships and the spectacular shortcomings. She puts all the glamour of it in sharp contrast to the misery of the masses. She makes one understand why the Romanov Empire crumbled and imploded from its very own contradictions. The Romanov family was not a united family, a solid block standing against a revolution, but a family of division. It showed that an autocratic regime depends on survival on the autocrat and if he is not "up to the job". I was particularly pleased to read about the Grandduchess Vladimir, a personality I always found intriguing but - at least to my knowledge - had never been sole subject of a biography. The only misgiving I have is that Julia Geraldine seems to have exclusively consulted sources not in the Russian language. Otherwise, a book I have no hesitation to recommend. It is a pleasure to read - equally for those who have already read extensively about the Romanovs and those who just started.

Kurzbeschreibung This sweeping saga recreates the extraordinary opulence and violence of Tsarist Russia as the shadow of revolution fell over the land, and destroyed a way of life for these Imperial women. The early 1850s until the late 1920s marked a turbulent and significant era for Russia. During that time the country underwent a massive transformation, taking it from days of grandeur under the tsars to the chaos of revolution and the beginnings of the Soviet Union. At the center of all this tumult were four women of the Romanov dynasty. Marie Alexandrovna and Olga Constantinovna were born into the family, Russian Grand Duchesses at birth. Marie Feodorovna and Marie Pavlovna married into the dynasty, the former born a Princess of Denmark, the latter a Duchess of the German duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. In *From Splendor to Revolution*, we watch these pampered aristocratic women fight for their lives as the cataclysm of war engulfs them. In a matter of a few short years, they fell from the pinnacle of wealth and power to the depths of danger, poverty, and exile. It is an unforgettable epic story.

Pressestimmen Independent historian Geraldine has done her homework, drawing on an impressive array of primary and secondary sources to deliver a joint biography of four women who were part of Russia's imperial dynasty in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. . . . Against the backdrop of a tumultuous period in Russian history, this is really a book about an extended family, with a family's sorrows, joys, squabbles, and scandals, albeit on a very grand scale. . . . this is an absorbing account that will appeal to Russian history buffs and to those who enjoy reading about royals.

Booklist Relating the drama and tragedy of royal life, Geraldine ably weaves in the extended family ties that connected most European rulers, including Queen Victoria, while also including helpful genealogy charts. Geraldine's narrative framework of the four Romanov women's long lives works well to explain not only the realities of the European courts and alliances but also the unique aspects of the Russian dynasty, which suffered repeated assassination attempts even during the age of splendor, resulting in young Nicholas II's observation of his grandfather's murder, possibly hastening Russia's slide to revolution.

Publishers Weekly (starred review) Geraldine does an exceptional job of relating the last years of the Romanovs via the formerly underutilized perspectives of the women behind the men. While Orlando Figes's *Natasha's Dance: A Cultural History of Russia* used Tolstoy's *War and Peace* as its framework, telling some of the same story, Geraldine offers a more richly detailed account, sure to captivate those with a deep interest in Russian and interrelated European history. Highly recommended.

Library Journal **Kurzbeschreibung** This sweeping saga recreates the extraordinary opulence and violence of Tsarist Russia as the shadow of revolution fell over the land, and destroyed a way of life for these Imperial women. The early 1850s until the late 1920s marked a turbulent and significant era for Russia. During that time the country underwent a massive transformation, taking it from days of grandeur under the tsars to the chaos of revolution and the beginnings of the Soviet Union. At the center of all this tumult were four women of the Romanov dynasty. Marie Alexandrovna and Olga Constantinovna were born into the family, Russian Grand Duchesses at birth. Marie Feodorovna and Marie Pavlovna married into the dynasty, the former born a Princess of Denmark, the latter a Duchess of the German duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. In *From Splendor to Revolution*, we watch these pampered aristocratic women fight for their lives as the cataclysm of war engulfs them. In a matter of a few short years, they fell from the pinnacle of wealth and power to the depths of danger, poverty, and exile. It is an

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