

Holy Roman Emperor



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The **Holy Roman Emperor** (historically *Romanorum Imperator* "Emperor of the Romans") was the ruler of the Holy Roman Empire (800-1806 AD, from Charlemagne to Francis II). The title was almost without interruption held in conjunction with the rule of the Kingdom of Germany. [1][2][3]

From an autocracy in Carolingian times the title evolved into an elected monarchy chosen by the prince-electors. The Holy Roman Emperor was widely perceived to rule by divine right by Roman Catholic rulers in Europe, and he often contradicted or rivaled the Pope, most notably during the Investiture controversy. In theory, the Holy Roman Emperor was primus inter pares (first among equals) among other Catholic monarchs. In practice, a Holy Roman Emperor was only as strong as his army and alliances, including marriage alliances, made him. There was never a Holy Roman Empress regnant, though women such as Theophanu and Maria Theresa of Austria served as de facto Empresses regnant.

After the Reformation, many of the subject states in Germany turned Protestant while the Emperor continued to be a Roman Catholic. Until the Reformation, the Emperor elect (imperator electus) was required to be crowned by the Pope before assuming the imperial title. Various royal houses of Europe, at different times, became hereditary holders of the title. In particular the Habsburgs kept the longest possession of the title. The Holy Roman Empire was dissolved by Francis II, Holy Roman Emperor as a result of the collapse of the polity during the Napoleonic wars.

Title

From the time of Constantine I (4th century) the Roman emperors had, with very few exceptions, taken on a role as promoters and defenders of Christianity. The title of *Emperor* became defunct in Western Europe after the deposition of Julius Nepos in AD 480, although the rulers of the "barbarian kingdoms" continued to recognize the Eastern Emperor at least nominally well into the 6th century; both the title and connection between Emperor and Church continued in the Eastern Roman Empire until 1453, when it fell to the forces of the Ottoman Empire.

In the west, the title of Emperor (Imperator) was revived in 800, which also renewed ideas of imperial-papal cooperation. As the power of the papacy grew during the Middle Ages, popes and emperors came into conflict over church administration. The best-known and most bitter conflict was that known as the investiture controversy, fought during the 11th century between Henry IV and Pope Gregory VII.

Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire

Romanorum Imperator

IMPERIAL



Double-headed Reichsadler used by the Habsburg emperors of the early modern period



Francis II 5 July 1792 – 6 August 1806

Details

After <u>Charlemagne</u> was crowned Emperor of the Romans (*Imperator Romanorum*) by <u>Pope Leo III</u>, his successors maintained the title until the death of <u>Berengar I of Italy</u> in 924. No pope appointed an emperor again until the coronation of <u>Otto the Great</u> in 962. Under Otto and his successors, much of the former <u>Carolingian kingdom of Eastern Francia</u> fell within the boundaries of the Holy Roman Empire. The various <u>German princes</u> elected one of their peers as <u>King of the Germans</u>, after which he would be crowned as emperor by the <u>Pope</u>. After Charles V's coronation, all succeeding emperors were called *elected Emperor* due to the lack of papal coronation, but for all practical purposes they were simply called *emperors*.

The term *sacrum* (i.e., "holy") in connection with the German Roman Empire was first used in 1157 under <u>Frederick I Barbarossa</u>. [4] <u>Charles V</u> was the last Holy Roman Emperor to be crowned by the Pope (1530). The final Holy Roman Emperor-elect, <u>Francis II</u>, abdicated in 1806 during the <u>Napoleonic Wars</u> that saw the Empire's final dissolution.

The standard designation of the Holy Roman Emperor was "August Emperor of the Romans" (*Romanorum Imperator Augustus*). When Charlemagne was crowned in 800, he was styled as "most serene Augustus, crowned by God, great and pacific emperor, governing the Roman Empire," thus constituting the elements of "Holy" and "Roman" in the imperial title. [5]

The word *Roman* was a reflection of the principle of <u>translatio imperii</u> (or in this case *restauratio imperii*) that regarded the (Germanic) Holy Roman Emperors as the inheritors of the title of Emperor of the <u>Western Roman Empire</u>, despite the continued existence of the Eastern Roman Empire.

In German-language historiography, the term *Römisch-deutscher Kaiser* ("Roman-German emperor") is used to distinguish the title from that of <u>Roman Emperor</u> on one hand, and that of <u>German Emperor</u>

Style	His Imperial Majesty
First monarch	Charlemagne
Last monarch	Francis II
Formation	25 December 800
Abolition	6 August 1806
Appointer	see Coronation of the Holy Roman Emperor



Coats of arms of prince electors surround the Holy Roman Emperor's; from flags book of <u>Jacob</u> <u>Köbel</u> (1545). Electors voted in an Imperial Diet for a new Holy Roman Emperor.

(*Deutscher Kaiser*) on the other. The English term "Holy Roman Emperor" is a modern shorthand for "emperor of the Holy Roman Empire" not corresponding to the historical style or title, i.e., the adjective "holy" is not intended as modifying "emperor"; the English term "Holy Roman Emperor" gains currency in the interbellum period (1920s to 1930s); formerly the title had also been rendered "German-Roman emperor" in English. [6][7]

Succession

The elective monarchy of the kingdom of Germany goes back to the early 10th century, the election of Conrad I of Germany in 911 following the death without issue of Louis the Child, the last Carolingian ruler of Germany. Elections meant the kingship of Germany was only partially hereditary, unlike the kingship of France, although sovereignty frequently remained in a dynasty until there were no more male successors. The process of election meant that the prime candidate had to make concessions, by which the voters were kept on side, which were known as *Wahlkapitulationen* (electoral capitulation).

Conrad was elected by the <u>German dukes</u>, and it is not known precisely when the system of seven <u>prince-electors</u> was established. The papal decree <u>Venerabilem</u> by <u>Innocent III</u> (1202), addressed to <u>Berthold V</u>, <u>Duke of Zähringen</u>, establishes the election procedure by (unnamed) princes of the realm, reserving for the pope the right to approve of the candidates. A letter of <u>Pope Urban IV</u> (1263), in the context of the disputed vote of 1256 and the subsequent the <u>interregnum</u>, suggests

that by "immemorial custom", seven princes had the right to elect the King and future Emperor. The seven prince-electors are named in the Golden Bull of 1356: The Archbishop of Mainz, the Archbishop of Trier, the Archbishop of Cologne, the King of Bohemia, the Count Palatine of the Rhine, the Duke of Saxony and the Margrave of Brandenburg.

After 1438, the Kings remained in the house of <u>Habsburg</u> and <u>Habsburg-Lorraine</u>, with the brief exception of <u>Charles VII</u>, who was a <u>Wittelsbach</u>. <u>Maximilian I</u> (Emperor 1508–1519) and his successors no longer travelled to Rome to be crowned as Emperor by the Pope. Maximilian therefore named himself Elected Roman Emperor (*Erwählter Römischer Kaiser*) in 1508 with papal approval. This title was in use by all his uncrowned successors. Of his successors only <u>Charles V</u>, the immediate one, received a papal coronation.

The Elector Palatine's seat was conferred on the <u>Duke of Bavaria</u> in 1621, but in 1648, in the wake of the Thirty Years' War, the Elector

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Illustration of the election of Henry VII (27 November 1308) showing (left to right) the Archbishop of Cologne, Archbishop of Mainz, Archbishop of Trier, Count Palatine of the Rhine, Duke of Saxony, Margrave of Brandenburg and King of Bohemia (1341 miniature).

Palatine was restored, as eighth elector. <u>Brunswick-Lüneburg</u> was added as ninth elector in 1692. The whole college was reshuffled in the German mediatization of 1803, a mere three years before the dissolution of the Empire.

List of Emperors

This list includes all 47 German monarchs crowned from Charlemagne until the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire (800–1806).

Several rulers were crowned <u>King of the Romans</u> (King of Germany) but not emperor, although they styled themselves thus, among whom were: <u>Conrad I of Germany</u> and <u>Henry the Fowler</u> in the 10th century, and <u>Conrad IV</u>, <u>Rudolf I</u>, <u>Adolf and Albert I during the *interregnum* of the late 13th century.</u>

Traditional historiography assumes a continuity between the <u>Carolingian Empire</u> and the Holy Roman Empire, while a modern convention takes the coronation of Otto I in 962 as the starting point of the Holy Roman Empire (although the term *Sacrum Imperium Romanum* was not in use before the 13th century).

Frankish Emperors

Carolingian dynasty

	Name	Rei	gn	Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
S. S	Charles I, the Great (Charlemagne) (742–814)	25 December 800	28 January 814		 King of the Franks King of the Lombards
	Louis I, the Pious (778–840)	11 September 813 ^[8]	20 June 840	Son of <u>Charles I</u>	 King of the Franks King of Italy King of Aquitaine
	<u>Lothair I</u> (795–855)	5 April 823	29 September 855	Son of <u>Louis I</u>	 King of Bavaria King of Italy King of Middle Francia
	Louis II (825–875)	29 September 855	12 August 875	Son of <u>Lothair I</u>	 King of Bavaria King of Italy King of Middle Francia
	Charles II, the Bald (823–877)	29 December 875	6 October 877	Son of <u>Louis I</u>	King of West FranciaKing of Italy
CONTRACTOR AND STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	Charles III, the Fat (839–888)	12 February 881	13 January 888	Grandson of <u>Louis I</u>	 King of West Francia King of East Francia King of Italy

Widonid dynasty

Name	Reign	Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)	
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STATE OF STA	Guy I (?–894)	891	12 December 894	Great-great grandson of <u>Charles I</u>	King of ItalyDuke of Spoleto
	<u>Lambert</u> <u>I</u> (880–898)	30 April 892	15 October 898	Son of <u>Guy I</u>	King of ItalyDuke of Spoleto

Carolingian dynasty

Name	Reign		Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
Arnulph (850– 899)	22 February 896	8 December 899	Nephew of <u>Charles III</u>	King of ItalyKing of East Francia

Bosonid dynasty

Name	Reign		Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
Louis III, the Blind (880–928)	22 February 901	21 July 905	Grandson of <u>Louis II</u>	King of ItalyKing of Provence

Unruoching dynasty

Name	Reign		Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
Berengar I (845–924)	December 915	7 April 924	Grandson of <u>Louis I</u>	King of ItalyMargrave of Friuli

Holy Roman Emperors

There was no emperor in the west between 924 and 962.

While earlier Germanic and Italian monarchs had been crowned as western Roman Emperors, the actual <u>Holy Roman Empire</u> is usually considered to have begun with the crowning of the Saxon king <u>Otto I</u>. It was officially an elective position, though at times it ran in families, notably the four generations of the <u>Salian dynasty</u> in the 11th century. From the end of the Salian dynasty through the middle 15th century, the Emperors drew from many different German dynasties, and it was rare for the throne to pass from father to son. That changed with the ascension of the Austrian <u>House of Habsburg</u>, as an unbroken line of Habsburgs would hold the Imperial throne until the 18th century, later a cadet branch known as the

<u>House of Habsburg-Lorraine</u> would likewise pass it from father to son until the abolition of the Empire in 1806. Notably, the Habsburgs also dispensed with the requirement that emperors be crowned by the pope before exercising their office. Starting with <u>Ferdinand I</u>, all successive Emperors forwent the traditional coronation.

Ottovian dynasty

Image	Name	Re	ign	Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
	Otto I, the Great (912–973)	2 February 962	7 May 973	Great-great-great grandson of <u>Louis</u> <u>I</u>	King of ItalyKing of GermanyDuke of Saxony
	Otto II, <i>the Red</i> (955–983)	25 December 967	7 December 983	Son of <u>Otto I</u>	King of ItalyKing of Germany
	Otto III (980–1002)	21 May 996	23 January 1002	Son of <u>Otto II</u>	King of ItalyKing of Germany
	Henry II ^[9] (973–1024)	7 June 1002	14 February 1014	Second cousin of Otto III	King of ItalyKing of GermanyDuke of Bavaria

Salian dynasty

Portrait	Name	Reign		Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
	Conrad II, the Elder ^[10] (990–1039)	26 March 1027	4 June 1039	Great-great- grandson of <u>Otto I</u>	 King of Burgundy King of Italy King of Germany

	<u>Henry III,</u> <i>the Black</i> (1017–1056)	25 December 1046	5 October 1056	Son of <u>Conrad II</u>	 King of Burgundy King of Italy King of Germany
TO STAND	<u>Henry IV</u> (1050–1116)	31 March 1084	7 August 1106	Son of <u>Henry III</u>	 King of Burgundy King of Italy King of Germany
	Henry V ^[11] (1086–1125)	13 April 1111	23 May 1125	Son of <u>Henry IV</u>	King of ItalyKing of Germany

Supplinburg dynasty

Portrait	Name	Reign		Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
view ned deno religion to the	Lothair II ^[12] (1075–1137)	4 June 1133	4 December 1137	Great-great-great- great-great-great- grandnephew of Otto I	King of ItalyKing of Germany

Staufen dynasty

Portrait	Name	Reign	Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
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Frederick I Barbarossa (1122–1190)	8 June 1155	10 June 1190	Great-grandson of <u>Henry IV</u>	King of GermanyKing of ItalyKing of Burgundy
Henry VI (1165–1197)	14 April 1191	28 September 1197	Son of <u>Frederick I</u>	 King of Germany King of Italy King of Burgundy Co-King of Sicily

Welf dynasty

Portrait	Name	Reign		Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)	
	Otto IV (1175–1218)	9 June 1198	1215	Great-grandson of <u>Lothair II</u>	King of GermanyKing of ItalyKing of Burgundy	

Staufen dynasty

Portrait	Coat of arms	Name	Reign		Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
	Holy Roman Emperor Coats of arms	Frederick II, Stupor Mundi (1194– 1250)	22 November 1220	13 December 1250	Son of <u>Henry VI</u>	 King of Germany King of Italy King of Sicily King of Jerusalem

The <u>interregnum</u> of the Holy Roman Empire is taken to have lasted from the deposition of Frederick II by <u>Pope Innocent IV</u> (1245, alternatively form the death of Frederick 1250, or the death of <u>Conrad IV</u> 1254) and the election of <u>Rudolf I of Germany</u> (1273). Rudolf was not crowned emperor, nor were his successors <u>Adolf</u> and <u>Albert</u>. The next emperor was Henry VII, crowned on 29 June 1312 by Pope Clement V.

House of Luxembourg

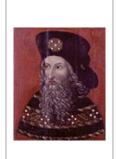
Portrait	Coat of arms	Name	Re	eign	Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
	Holy Roman Emperor Coats of arms	Henry VII (1274- 1313)	29 June 1312	24 August 1313	Great x11 grandson of Charles II	 King of Germany King of Italy Count of Luxemburg

House of Wittelsbach

Portrait	Coat of arms	Name	Re	ign	Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
	Holy Roman Emperor Coats of arms	Louis IV, the Bavarian (1282– 1347)	October 1314	11 October 1347	Far descendant of Henry IV and great-grandson of Lothair II	 King of Germany King of Italy Duke of Bavaria

House of Luxembourg

Portrait	Coat of arms Name Reign		Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)		
	Holy Roman Emperor Coats of arms	Charles IV (1316– 1378)	11 July 1346	29 November 1378	Grandson of Henry VII	 King of Germany King of Italy King of Bohemia King of Burgundy Count of Luxemburg





Sigismund (1368– 1437) 10 September 1410

9 December 1437

Son of <u>Charles</u> <u>IV</u>

King of Germany

■ King of Italy

King of Bohemia

King of Hungary and Croatia

House of Habsburg

Portrait	Coat of arms	Name	Reig	ın	Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
		Frederick III, the Peaceful (1415–1493)	2 February 1440	19 August 1493	second cousin of Albert II of Germany, Emperor designate.	 King of Germany King of Italy Archduke of Austria
		<u>Maximilian I</u> (1459–1519)	19 August 1493	12 January 1519	Son of Frederick III	King of GermanyArchduke of Austria
		<u>Charles V</u> (1500–1558)	28 June 1519 (crowned 1530)	16 January 1556	Grandson of Maximilian I	 King of Germany King of Italy Archduke of Austria King of Spain Lord of the Netherlands and Duke of Burgundy
		Ferdinand I (1503–1564)	16 January 1556 (crowned 1558)	25 July 1564	Brother of Charles V	 King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary King of Croatia Archduke of Austria

	Maximilian II (1527–1576)	25 July 1564	12 October 1576	Son of Ferdinand I	 King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary King of Croatia Archduke of Austria
	Rudolph II ^[13] (1552–1612)	12 October 1576	20 January 1612	Son of <u>Maximilian II</u>	 King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary King of Croatia Archduke of Austria
	<u>Matthias</u> (1557–1619)	13 June 1612	20 March 1619	Brother of Rudolf II	 King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary King of Croatia Archduke of Austria
	Ferdinand II (1578–1637)	28 August 1619	15 February 1637	Cousin of <u>Matthias</u>	 King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary King of Croatia Archduke of Austria
	Ferdinand III (1608–1657)	15 February 1637	2 April 1657	Son of Ferdinand II	 King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary King of Croatia Archduke of Austria

	<u>Leopold I</u> (1640–1705)	18 July 1658	5 May 1705	Son of Ferdinand III	 King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary King of Croatia Archduke of Austria
	<u>Joseph I</u> (1678–1711)	5 May 1705	17 April 1711	Son of <u>Leopold</u>	 King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary King of Croatia Archduke of Austria
	<u>Charles VI</u> (1685–1740)	12 October 1711	20 October 1740	Brother of Joseph I	Full list [show] King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary King of Croatia Archduke of Austria King of Naples King of Sicily King of Sardinia Duke of Luxemburg Duke of Teschen Duke of Parma and Piacenza Count of Flanders

House of Wittelsbach

	Portrait	Coat of arms	Name	Reign	Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)	
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 $\frac{\text{Charles VII}}{(1697-1745)}$

12 February 1742 20 January 1745 Great-great grandson of Ferdinand II; Son-in-law of Joseph I

King of Bohemia

Elector of Bavaria

House of Lorraine

Portrait	Coat of arms	Name	Reiç	jn	Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
		Francis <u>I</u> (1708–1765)	13 September 1745	18 August 1765	Great-grandson of Ferdinand III; Son-in-law of Charles VI	 King of Germany Archduke of Austria Grand Duke of Tuscany Duke of Lorraine

House of Habsburg-Lorraine

Portrait	Coat of arms	Name	Reign		Relationship with predecessor(s)	Other title(s)
		Joseph II (1741–1790)	18 August 1765	20 February 1790	Son of Empress Maria Theresa, de facto ruler of the empire.	 King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary and Croatia Archduke of Austria
		Leopold II (1747–1792)	30 September 1790	1 March 1792	Son of Empress Maria Theresa, de facto ruler of the empire.	 King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary and Croatia Archduke of Austria Grand Duke of Tuscany

	<u>Francis II</u> (1768–1835)	5 July 1792	6 August 1806	Son of <u>Leopold</u>	 King of Germany King of Bohemia King of Hungary and Croatia Archduke of Austria
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Coronation

The Emperor was crowned in a special ceremony, traditionally performed by the <u>Pope</u> in <u>Rome</u>. Without that coronation, no king, despite exercising all powers, could call himself Emperor. In 1508, Pope <u>Julius II</u> allowed <u>Maximilian I</u> to use the title of Emperor without coronation in Rome, though the title was qualified as *Electus Romanorum Imperator* ("elected Emperor of the Romans"). Maximilian's successors adopted the same titulature, usually when they became the sole ruler of the Holy Roman Empire. [14] Maximilian's first successor Charles V was the last to be crowned Emperor.

Emperor	Coronation date	Officiant	Location	
Charles I	25 December 800	Pope Leo III	Rome, Italy	
Louis I	5 October 816	Pope Stephen IV	Reims, France	
Lothair I	5 April 823	Pope Paschal I	Rome, Italy	
Louis II	15 June 844	Pope Leo IV	Rome, Italy	
Charles II	29 December 875	Dono John VIII	Rome, Italy	
Charles III	12 February 881	Pope John VIII	Rome, Italy	
Guy III of Spoleto	21 February 891	Pope Stephen V	Rome, Italy	
Lambert II of Spoleto	30 April 892	Dono Formogue	Ravenna, Italy	
Arnulf of Carinthia	22 February 896	Pope Formosus	Rome, Italy	
Louis III	15 or 22 February 901	Pope Benedict IV	Rome, Italy	
Berengar	December 915	Pope John X	Rome, Italy	
Otto I	2 February, 962	Pope John XII	Rome, Italy	
Otto II	25 December, 967	Pope John XIII	Rome, Italy	
Otto III	21 May, 996	Pope Gregory V	Monza, Italy	
Henry II	14 February 1014	Pope Benedict VIII	Rome, Italy	
Conrad II	26 March 1027	Pope John XIX	Rome, Italy	
Henry III	25 December 1046	Pope Clement II	Rome, Italy	
Henry IV	31 March 1084	Antipope Clement III	Rome, Italy	
Henry V	13 April 1111	Pope Paschal II	Rome, Italy	
Lothair III	4 June 1133	Pope Innocent II	Rome, Italy	
Frederick I	18 June 1155	Pope Adrian IV	Rome, Italy	
Henry VI	14 April 1191	Pope Celestine III	Rome, Italy	
Otto IV	4 October 1209	Pope Innocent III	Rome, Italy	
Frederick II	22 November 1220	November 1220 Pope Honorius III		
Henry VII	29 June 1312	Ghibellines cardinals	Rome, Italy	
Louis IV	17 January 1328	Senator Sciarra Colonna	Rome, Italy	
Charles IV	5 April 1355	Pope Innocent VI's cardinal	Rome, Italy	
Sigismund	31 May 1433	Pope Eugenius IV	Rome, Italy	
Frederick III	19 March 1452	Pope Nicholas V	Rome, Italy	
Charles V	24 February 1530	Pope Clement VII	Bologna, Italy	

See also

Template:Wikipedia books

- Concordat of Worms
- Emperor for other uses of the title "Emperor" in Europe.
- First Council of the Lateran
- Holy Roman Emperors family tree
- Holy Roman Empress
- King of the Romans

- List of German monarchs
- Holy Roman Empire
- King of Italy
- Kingdom of Italy (Holy Roman Empire)

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- 10. Enumerated as successor of Conrad I who was German King 911-918 but not Emperor
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- 12. Enumerated also Lothair III as successor of Lothair II, who was King of Lotharingia 855–869 but not Emperor
- 13. Enumerated as successor of Rudolph I who was German King 1273-1291.
- 14. "Wir Franz der Zweyte, von Gottes Gnaden erwählter römischer Kaiser Imperator Austriae, Fransiscus I (1804), *Allerhöchste Pragmatikal-Verordnung vom 11. August 1804*, The HR Emperor, p. 1

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