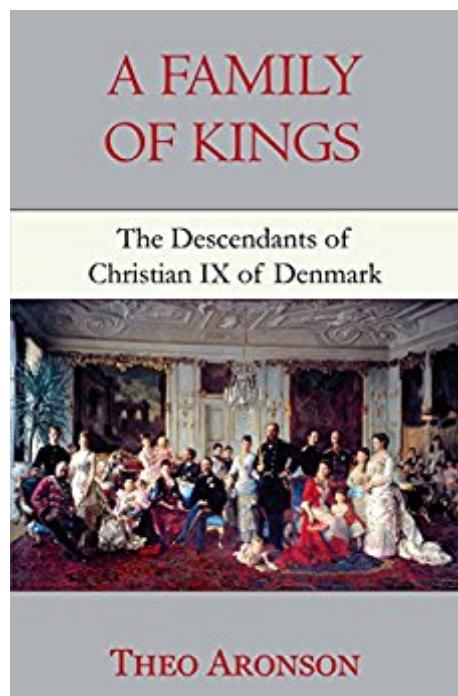


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A Family Of Kings: The Descendants Of Christian IX Of Denmark



Synopsis

In 1863, Queen Victoria decreed that Edward, Prince of Wales, should marry Princess Alexandra, daughter of the obscure and unsophisticated heir to the Danish throne. The beauty, grace and charm of Prince Christian's daughter had prevailed over the Queen's intense dislike of the Danish royal house, and had even persuaded the embarrassingly difficult Bertie to agree to the match. Thus began the fairy-tale saga of a family that handed on its good looks, unaffectedness, and democratic manners to almost every royal house of modern Europe. For, in the year that Alexandra became Princess of Wales, her brother Willie was elected King of the Hellenes ; her father at last succeeded to the Danish throne; her sister Dagmar was soon to become wife of the future Tsar Alexander III of Russia; and her youngest sister Thyra later married the de jure King of Hanover. A Family of Kings is the story of the crowned children and grandchildren of Christian IX and Queen Louise of Denmark, focusing on the half-century before the First World War. It is an intimate, domestic study of a close-knit family, the individual personalities, and the courts to which they came. Without doubt, the chic and beautiful Alexandra epitomized the spectacular flowering of the Danish dynasty; and just as she brought an unprecedented popularity to the sobriety of the English court, so her brothers and sisters helped enliven the staid European scene. The outstanding success of Theo Aronson's previous book, *Grandmama of Europe*, confirms his reputation as a chronicler of the fortunes of Europe's ruling houses. A Family of Kings bears the hallmark of the author's remarkable talent, and provides a fascinating evocation of the splendour and extravagance, and not infrequent tragedy, of nineteenth and twentieth century royalty.

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Customer Reviews

I got this book on a whim because I didn't know much about King Christian IX or about his descendants except for Alexandra and her sister, Dagmar. It was a very interesting read for me. King Christian had six children: Alexandra, Dagmar, Thyra, Frederick, William and Waldemar. Alexandra, of course, married Queen Victoria's eldest son, Bertie aka the future King Edward VII while Dagmar (known as "Minnie" within the family) married the future Tsar Alexander III and was fashioned Empress Marie Feodorovna. The other four aren't as well known. Frederick, the eldest son, was heir to the Danish throne. He married the King of Sweden's niece Princess Louise, who bore him eight children. William, the second son, was offered the throne of Greece when he was just seventeen. Yes, you read it right, seventeen! He became known as King George I of the Hellenes and married Grand Duchess Olga, the future Tsar Alexander III cousin. The third daughter, Thyra, married Prince Ernest Augustus of Hanover. The youngest son and child Prince Waldemar married Princess Marie of Orleans. Of course, there is King Christian IX and his wife Queen Louise, the progenitors of this family. This was a very close family and the author addresses that well. The stories told about "The Father-in-Law" of Europe (King Christian), his loving wife, their children and even a number of the grandchildren are at times surprising, astonishing, frightening, tragic, comical and touching. Not one family member escapes the fragilities of life. Theo Aronson does a great job with studying the character and nuances of the family. I would have liked to have given it five stars but Mr. Aronson focuses mainly on Alix, Dagmar, George and Crown Prince Frederick. He doesn't give enough pages to Thyra and Waldemar, which is a shame because it's a good book overall.

A very interesting read of how The Danish King Christian IX became to be known as The Father in Law of Europe. His children rose from belonging to a minor monarchy to being rulers in a number of countries. His daughter became the long suffering wife of Britains King Edward VII, & mother of King Georg V grandmother of King George VI, Great grandmother of Queen Elizabeth. A son of Christian

IX became King George I of Greece. (grandfather of Prince Philip) Another daughter Princess Dagmar married The Russian Tsar, & became Empress Maria Feodorovna. These people among many others in the Royal family had most interesting lives. The descendants of Queen Victoria & King Christian IX presently are on the thrones of England, Denmark, Norway, Spain, Belgium, & Sweden. The book gives marvellous insight in the ordinary fun loving normal lives they lived, away from public gaze. The book is not all joy, Queen Alexandra had a very very unfaithful husband, & Prince Philip's grandfather King George I was assassinated. The book follows the Royal lives to Queen Elizabeth, Prince Philip, Queen Margrethe II of Denmark.

How the mighty have fallen! This was an excellent and easy to understand history of all the European descendants of King Christian IX of Denmark. They just about covered all the royalty of Europe until the First World War. So many of these dynasties disappeared at the end of World War I. Christian was called the " father-in-law" of Europe. Queen Victoria of England was " the Grandmother of Europe." Between the two of them, just about everyone royal was related to one or both of them, including the current Queen, Elizabeth II of England, and her distant cousin/husband, Prince Philip. So many cousins married each other. A must read if you enjoy biographies of royal families. Christine Schulz

An interesting, well written history of the large and influential family raised by King Christian IX of Denmark (1863-1906) and his remarkable, brilliant wife, Queen Louise. This is a relatively easy and enjoyable historical study based upon already published sources. The author writes well and the book is a non-scholarly study that breaks little, if any new ground. The most serious deficiency of this book is its lack of an index. Historical studies dealing with hundreds of historical figures and dozens of monarchs over a century of European history require indexes to enable readers to go back and revisit information on this or that war, ruler, palace, treaty, etc. over the years. Most decent history books are not just read and put on a shelf, but pulled out again and again to reclaim nuggets of insight. Without an index of any kind, that entire aspect of use is next to impossible. --- Another deficiency is the poor quality of illustrations.

Couldn't get enough of this book. Well written, interesting pacing. EXTREMELY difficult for me to keep up with all the names, but that's true for any books if this type.

An incredible journey into the incredible lives of an incredible family full of the incredible

accomplishments and heartaches that also surround the subjects they reign over

I generally like historical novels with a bit more story than a recital of facts, but this book held my attention to the end. The author did an excellent job of weaving generations and characters together. Will definitely read more by this author.

It answers the question how an obscure royal family could make such incredible matches in marriages and selection as kings for recently independent countries

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