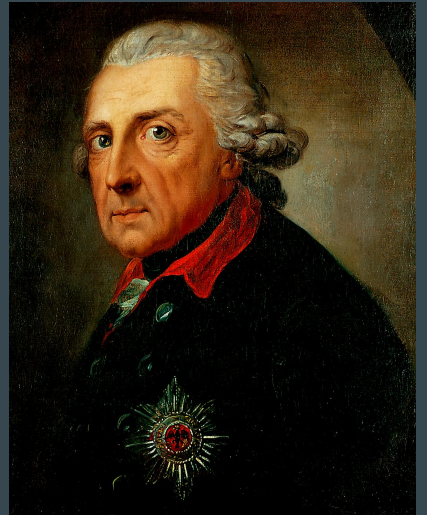


# Frederick II King of Prussia

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By: Hannah and Samantha



# Frederick's Background Information I

- 1712-1786
- Born in The kingdom Prussia and died in Potsdam, Germany.
- Noted for his opposition to France
- Referred to as the “mercenary king” and “the great elector”
- Son of Frederick William I of Prussia and Sophia Dorothea of Hanover
- King of Prussia from 1740-1786.
- His married Elisabeth Christine of Brunswick Wolfenbüttel-Bevern (1733-1786) for political union.
- In 1739 he published Machiavelli theoretical refutation, not knowing that he would become the idealized ruler in “The Prince.”

# Frederick's Background Information II

- He tried to Escape England with his best friend Hans Hermann Von Katte to become allies with Great Britain to go against Frederick William I.
- Katte was executed by Frederick William I, and Frederick was forced to watch when Katte was beheaded in November 6, 1730.



Frederick William I



Hans Hermann Katte

# Frederick's Famous Works

- Frederick supposedly wrote “Hohenfriedberger Marsch” a military march. It was written to show respect of his victory in the Battle of Hohenfriedberg during the Second Silesian war.
- He played the cross Flute.
- He composed One hundred Sonates for the flute and four symphonies.
- He had famous buildings constructed in Berlin.

**Some of his famous  
quotes...**

“As to your Newton, I confess I do not understand his void and his gravity; I admit he has demonstrated the movement of the heavenly bodies with more exactitude than his forerunners; but you will admit it is an absurdity to maintain the existence of nothing”.

Frederick did not understand Newton's theory of gravity although he had more evidence to prove his theory. He appreciated Newton's questioning spirit.

“The people say what they like and then I do what I like”

Frederick will gladly allow the public to speak their mind, however, their ideas or complaints are dismissed if he does not care for it.

“The Miracle of the House of Brandenburg had come to pass”.

Frederick conveys his excitement of the defeat of Russia restoring hope for the war.

# Frederick's Relationship With the Government

- Frederick's primary tools were the legal system and bureaucracy
- The torturing of prisoners was abolished
- After the ending of the "Seven Year's War" in 1763, Frederick inspired the government to help reconstruct agricultural fields and companies as well as the industries that were destroyed by the war
- He believed in Cameralism which was the German science of administration. It was divided into three: Public Finance, Oeconomie and Polizei
- He believed in a modern society
- He set out to achieve a Britain-Prussian alliance
- He standardized Prussia's justice system

# Frederick's Attitude towards Education

- He encouraged people advancing their knowledge and the advancement of scientific industries which aided in improving Prussian universities
- Although the press was monitored, he allowed scholars to publish their ideas and speak freely about their discoveries
- He was tolerant and he allowed his subjects to partake in any philosophical vs. religious matter or discussion
- He wanted to embody the ideals of a “philosopher-king”
- He worked with the top minds of the Enlightenment
- He and Voltaire were close friends

# Frederick Attitude towards social classes

- He considered the middle class with disdain.
- He abolished serfdom on the royal domain.
- He forced all bourgeois officer in the army to resign commissions.
- Business and professional men were free from obligations from military service, but had to pay heavy taxation.
- Favored junkers could not escape Frederick's bureaucratic absolutism.
- He did not let junkers get married because that would lead to an amount of widows, and the state would have to pay a pension.

# Frederick and His Military and Warfare Experience

- Launched an unprovoked attack on Silesia triggering the eight year War of Austrian Succession
- Austrian defeats led to a treaty with Prussia
- Given the title “Frederick the Great” for being a military genius
- The father of Prussian Militarism
- Frederick goal was to modernize and unite disconnected lands.
- He involved Prussia in the War of Bavarian Succession in 1778.
- The effect of the Seven Year War and the gaining of Silesia changed the economy dramatically and politically reformed states.

**Frederick believed that a “just” society was a modern society where people were free to speak their minds and believe in whatever deity they wanted to.**

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