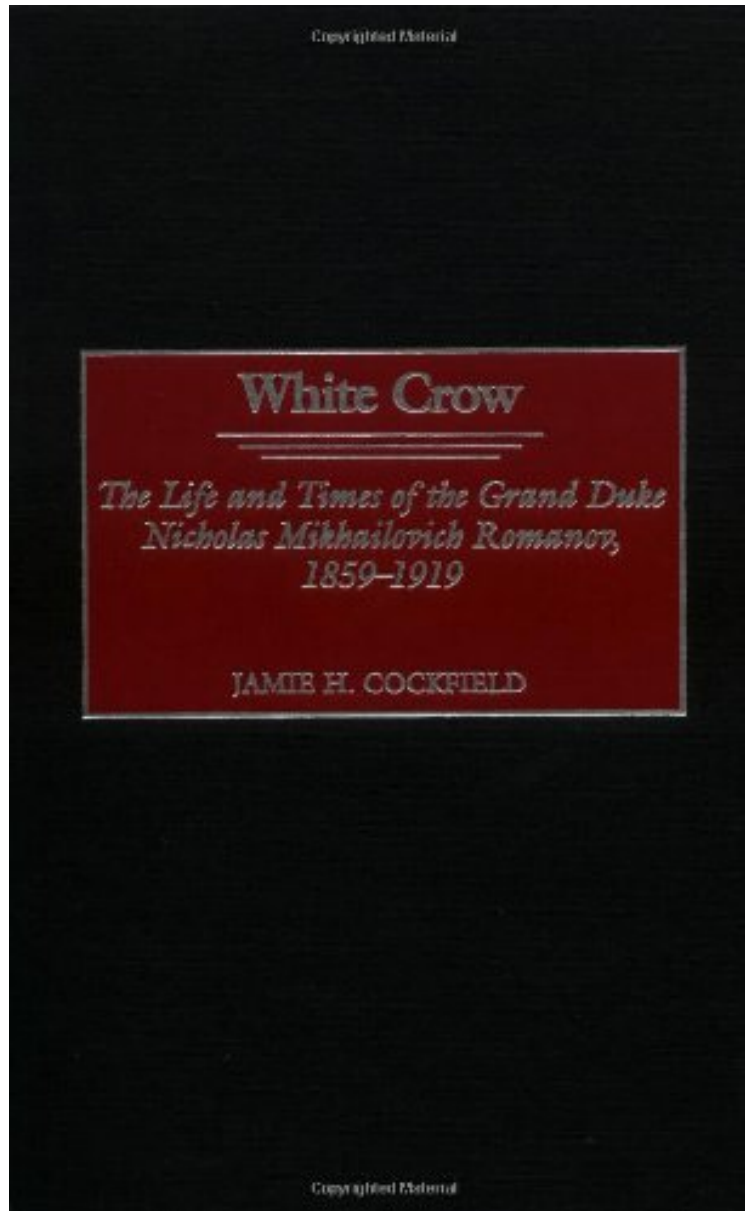


[Ebook free] White Crow: The Life and Times of the Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich Romanov, 1859-1919

## White Crow: The Life and Times of the Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich Romanov, 1859-1919

Jamie H. Cockfield

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Jamie H. Cockfield : **White Crow: The Life and Times of the Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich Romanov, 1859-1919** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised White

Crow: The Life and Times of the Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich Romanov, 1859-1919:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. The biography of a Royal Gentleman Scholar By K. Maxwell This is the first full length English biography of Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich Romanov of Russia. The Grand Duke was the eldest of the 6 sons and 1 daughter of Grand Duke Mikhail Nicholaevich and spent most of his youth in the Caucasus where his father was Viceroy. In later life Nicholas was a well known and respected historian. His works on Russian history and butterflies (both of them passions) are still respected today within in Russia. These interests of Nicholas and his genuine scholarship, along with his love and respect for France and its political systems made him an atypical Romanov. This is a reasonably detailed and well researched biography that uses primary sources mostly from Russia and France. The author does not hide the Grand Dukes acerbic and cynical nature or try to gloss over his more unattractive traits such as his inability to keep a secret or his anti-Semitism. However, at the same time the book does not really seem to pinpoint why the Grand Duke was a "Pariah in the Family". The period of Nicholas life during the Russian revolution and the months leading to his death are particularly well documented in some detail, especially in comparison to some of his earlier years. This book is an important work in filling out the world of the Romanovs and brings to life a Grand Duke, who in most western works, has lived his life in the shadows until now - but who in France and Russia in his day was a celebrity based on ability as much as his imperial birth. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is sad to think of what other historical works the Grand ... By Customer Very well researched book and again shows how dreadful it was for all the Romanovs during and just after the revolution. It is clear that Lenin only gave Gorky perfunctory lip service on sparing the life of the Grand Duke. It is sad to think of what other historical works the Grand Duke could have written had he lived. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A Detailed, Fascinating Biography By Bagelchip I found this to be a refreshing and absolutely fascinating book about a "minor" member of the Romanov family (because he was intelligent, intellectual and hardworking). I think I have read all the Romanov biographies published in French or English, and I hated for this one to end! I believe it does depict why Nicholas Mikhailovich was a pariah in the Romanov family, from the "White Crow" title on, although it is helpful if the reader can bring some knowledge to the book (beyond Nicholas and Alexandra), but it isn't essential. I highly recommend this book to anyone fascinated by European literary and historical culture of the late 19th century, and to anyone whose interest in Imperial Russia goes deeper than wondering if anyone survived the massacre in Ekaterinburg -- this sheds some life on why they ended up there!

Based on material from the newly opened Russian archives, this is the first biography of Nicholas Mikhailovich Romanov (1859-1919), the only intellectual in the Russian Imperial Family. This unique study provides insight into the last six decades of tsarist Russia through the experiences of the odd ball member of the clan. An historian and a biologist, the Grand Duke made major contributions in both these fields. A political liberal, he fought tirelessly for reform from within the system. His reformist views made him a pariah within his own family, and contemporary recognition of his accomplishments came more from abroad than at home. Entering the military, as all Romanovs did, the Grand Duke eventually became hostile toward it and was in fact the only family member ever to formally leave military service. He received honorary doctorates from the Universities of Berlin and Moscow and even won election to the French Academy one of only two Russians to do so. As the political situation in Russia worsened, he urged the tsar to implement reforms, and he even participated in discussions of a palace coup. Exiled to Vologda after the Communist seizure of power, he was later imprisoned by the police and shot in January 1919.

"Cockfield has written the first monograph of the life of the grand duke in any language....The book well relates the life of Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich to the events of Russian history and the other members of the Romanov family."-The Historian..."valuable to anyone with a serious interest in Russian history. Highly recommended. All general and academic libraries."-Choice"White Crow is a highly competent biography that provides an insightful gateway into the life of perhaps the most important member of the Romanov family."-Royal Book News"[I]mportant insights into the activities and contributions of this "black sheep" of the Romanov family....We can learn a great deal from Cockfield's reconstruction of Nikolai Mikhailovich's life and his immediate family."-Slavic "Important insights into the activities and contributions of this "black sheep" of the Romanov family....We can learn a great deal from Cockfield's reconstruction of Nikolai Mikhailovich's life and his immediate family."-Slavic "...valuable to anyone with a serious interest in Russian history. Highly recommended. All general and academic libraries."-Choice?White Crow is a highly competent biography that provides an insightful gateway into the life of perhaps the most important member of the Romanov family.?-Royal Book News?[I]mportant insights into the activities and contributions of this "black sheep" of the Romanov family....We can learn a great deal from Cockfield's reconstruction of Nikolai Mikhailovich's life and his immediate family.?-Slavic ?Cockfield has written the first monograph of the life of the grand duke in any language....The book well relates the life of Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich to the events of Russian history and the other members of the Romanov family.?-The Historian..."valuable to anyone with a serious interest in Russian history. Highly recommended. All general and academic libraries."-Choice"The author has used

skillfully a large variety of archival and other materials in this interesting biography of an overlooked but significant member of the Romanov family. The section devoted to his experiences in the 1917 Revolution is especially significant."-David MacKenzie Professor Emeritus of History University of North Carolina, Greensboro" This is a well researched work, written with clarity and precision, which illuminates the life of one of the few Romanovs who forsook the wasteful lives of many of his family to engage in a productive career of scholarship and social justice. It will make all of us reconsider our views of the Romanovs as an unworthy burden on Russia."-Warren Lerner Professor of History and of Slavic Languages and Literature Duke University" This detailed biography of Tsar Nicholas II's intellectual and cosmopolitan cousin is a major contribution to scholarship in Russian history. Based on extensive archival research in Moscow, Paris, and elsewhere, and utilizing many materials unavailable to researchers until recently, the study also draws on interviews conducted earlier by Professor Cockfield with high-placed figures who had first-hand familiarity with aspects of the figures and events treated....the biography sheds valuable light on social, political, and intellectual life in Russia during the period and on major events, including the uprising of 1905, the assassination of Rasputin, and the great revolution of 1917 and its sequels. Well-written, rich in detail, and carefully documented, this compelling volume offers to the general reader as well as to specialists in Russian history a fine portrait of the Grand Duke and his times."-Catharine Savage Brosman author *Images of War in France: Fiction, Art, Ideology* About the Author JAMIE H. COCKFIELD is the Willis Borders Glover Professor of History at Mercer University.