

the virile member—of others. So Eugene of Savoy was one of those military figures whose homosexuality freed them to devote their lives to a dangerous career without the distractions of a wife and family, and he is remembered as one of the ablest generals in Austrian history.

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EULENBURG UND HERTEFELD, PHILIPP FÜRST ZU (1847–1921)

German politician and diplomat, an intimate of Kaiser Wilhelm II. A former guards officer, jurist, and owner of a vast estate, he entered the German diplomatic corps in 1877. Eulenburg formed a close personal relationship with the future Kaiser in 1886 thanks to which he was able to play a key role in German politics that far exceeded his official position as Ambassador to Austria–Hungary (1894–1903). He both reinforced the megalomania of the Kaiser and judged him critically, but also acted as intermediary between Wilhelm II and the Foreign Office.

Eulenburg was the center of a homosexual clique that was effectively penetrated by the first secretary of the French legation and later ambassador to Berlin, Raymond Lecomte (1857–1921), who used his position to reveal to the Quai d'Orsay that Germany was bluffing in the Morocco crisis of January–April 1906, which ended in a French diplomatic victory at the Algeciras Conference. This reverse for Germany inspired a bitter attack on Eulenburg and his circle in November 1906 by Maximilian Harden, the jingoist editor of *Die Zukunft*, an influential political weekly. In the series of trials that followed, Harden was victorious and Eulenburg was exposed as a homosexual and socially ruined, spending the remain-

ing years of his life in isolation on his country estate, though he was spared the final disgrace of imprisonment. The **Scientific-Humanitarian Committee**, the homosexual rights organization headed by Magnus Hirschfeld, who testified as an expert witness, suffered a severe setback and loss of support, and the monarchy itself was exposed to such humiliation that the whole subject has been a “blind spot” for German historians ever since. Although this episode was the Watergate of the Second Reich, references to it in standard works are laconic and uninformative. In all likelihood, the missing piece in the picture was Wilhelm II's own homosexuality—hence the peculiar attachment that gave Eulenburg such influence over his sovereign in the shaping of German foreign policy, which Lecomte in turn intercepted to his country's advantage. Ironically enough, it was the journalistic use of the term *homosexual* in the vast contemporary coverage of this scandalous affair that confirmed it as the usual word for the subject in German and the other modern languages.

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EUNUCHS

Eunuchs are men or boys whose testes or external genitals have been removed. This condition differs from other physical defects such as amputation of the hand or foot or removal of the eye in that, at various historical epochs it was intentionally created, so that the eunuch had not merely a physical or medical but also a social definition.

Antiquity. The practice of castrating slaves or prisoners of war began in the Ancient Near East and reached Greece