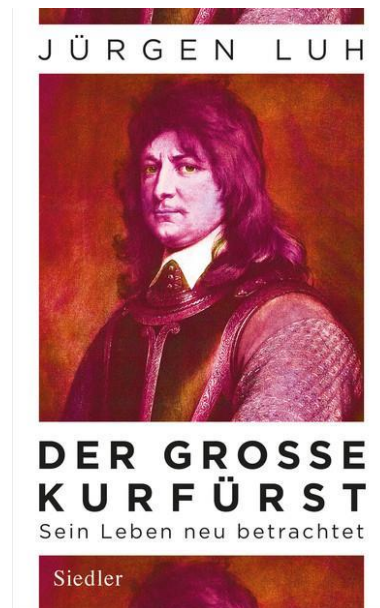


A new look at the man who created Prussia



Dr. Jürgen Luh
The Great Elector
[Der Große Kurfürst]
A new look at his life

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Jürgen Luh, born in 1963, has a PhD in history and is head of Science and Research at the Foundation for Palaces and Gardens in Berlin-Brandenburg. His publications focus on the history of the Holy Roman Empire, Prussia and military history. Luh has organised the major project "Friedrich 300" in Potsdam, which included numerous events and functions, exhibitions and conferences in 2012.

At the beginning of his rule in 1640 his country was in a catastrophic state and occupied by foreign troops. At the end – after a regency lasting 48 years – Friedrich Wilhelm had succeeded in establishing Brandenburg-Prussia as a power factor in central Europe, including the Baltic fleet and even a colony in West Africa. Who was this man who both laid the basis for the country's ensuing rise to become a major player in European politics and made the House of Hohenzollern into one of the leading dynasties?

Jürgen Luh, one of the foremost experts on Prussia and the author of the highly acclaimed biography of Frederick the Great, has here painted a vivid and vibrant picture of a ruler who, with skill and perseverance, consolidated his realm – a realm that was permanently under threat – and in the process was only too aware of his own place in history. This is a fascinating look at the origins of Prussia and a colourful panorama of central Europe on the threshold to the modern age.

For all readers of Christopher Clark and Ian Kershaw.