

**Franziska Andrea Bartl\***

**“WHAT A CHANGE OF TIMES” – TSAR FERDINAND I IN EXILE IN  
COBURG (1918–1948)**

(Summary)

The biography of Tsar Ferdinand I of Bulgaria has been repeatedly examined. Often, the focus is placed on his years as Prince and Tsar of Bulgaria. At the same time, the period after 1918, during which he spent a significant portion of his time in Coburg, the ancestral home of his family from Saxony-Coburg and Gotha, has received little attention in research. The present essay delves into these years of exile and explores the development of Ferdinand from the autumn of 1918 until he died in 1948. It presents the former Tsar of Bulgaria as a “private individual”, describing his everyday life away from grand politics and portraying him as a patron, supporter, and scholar. Finally, the essay discusses Ferdinand’s role during National Socialism, contextualizing it against the backdrop of the development of his Coburg homeland and his relationships with Jewish individuals.

**Keywords:** Ferdinand I, Tsar, Bulgaria, Exile, Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Coburg.

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