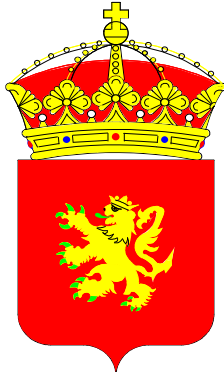


Bulgaria



Description of Arms :

Gules a lion rampant, crowned or, armed and langued vert.

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Principal Title : H.M. King of the Bulgarians.

Creation : 1908.

Subsidiary Titles : Duke of Saxony.

Family Name : Saxe-Coburg and Gotha.

Family History : Bulgaria, itself, has a long history and corresponds to the ancient province of Thrace. It then followed the turbulent events so typical of this part of the world.

Modern Bulgaria can be dated from 1878, when the country was divided into a vassal province of the Sultan and an autonomous region. In 1879, Alexander of Battenberg was elected as Head of the former. In 1885, the two sections were re-united. With Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha being chosen as its leader. In 1908, Ferdinand was proclaimed Tsar and relations with the Grand Porte were broken off.

Succession from then on followed a more orthodox pattern. However, Bulgaria chose to ally itself with the Central Powers. With the Armistice, in 1918, Ferdinand was obliged to abdicate in favour of his son, who became Boris III. At the same time, Bulgaria lost some of its territory. Despite a renewal of turbulence, Boris steadily affirmed his power.

At the end of the Second World War, with Boris dead in 1943, the King was Simeon II. But, by then, the Communists had assumed power and the Tsar was driven into exile.

Bulgaria has often been quoted as being the country (apart from Spain) most likely to re-establish its monarchy. At this point a certain piquancy enters the story. Simeon founded his own political party and was elected Prime Minister - even if most of his subjects still have difficulty in pronouncing the name of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. He was later voted out of office.

With politicians, almost everywhere, gaining an increasingly bad name for corruption and incompetence, Simeon stands out as an example of someone who puts his country's interests first. He may yet become king, in fact as well as in name.

Bulgaria

Francis (1750-1806), Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Saafeld
= (1777) Augusta, daughter of Count Reuss-Ebersdorf (1757-1831)

Ferdinand (1785-1851), Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha
= (1816) Anonia (1797-1862), Princess Kohary

Ferdinand II (1816-1885), King-consort of Portugal
Augustus (1818-1881), Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha
= (1843) Clementine (1817-1907), daughter of Louis-Philippe, King of French
Leopold (?-1884)

Kings of Portugal
(ext. 1932)

Philip Augustus Clothilde Amalia Ferdinand I (1861-1948), P. of Bulgaria (1887), K. of the Bulgarians (1908-1918)
(1844-1921) (1845-1907) (1846-1927) (1848-1894) Ist = (1893) Mary Louise (1870-1899), daughter of Robert, Duke of Parma

Boris III (1894-1943), King of the Bulgarians
= (1930) P. Giovanna of Italy (1907-)
Kyril (1895-1945), Prince of Preslav
Eudoxia (1898-1985)
Nadezhda (1899-1958)

Marie-Luisa (1933-)
SIMEON II (1937-), King of the Bulgarians
= (1962) Margarita Gomez-Acebo y Modet (1935-)

Kardam (1962-), Prince of Bulgaria, Prince of Tirnovo
Kalina
Kyril (1964-)
Kubrat (1965-)
Konstantin-Assen (1967-)

Boris
(1997-)

2
daughters

Mirko (1995-)
Lucas (1997-)