



The Rebel Empresses: Elisabeth of Austria and Eugénie of France

Nancy Goldstone

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 - 6:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. ET

If you are interested in Sisi:

Watch the Netflix series THE EMPRESS and note the changes made to her history, and particularly the attempt to soften and romanticize the actions of her husband, Franz Joseph, at her expense:

<https://www.netflix.com/title/81222923>

Watch the 1955-1957 Sissi trilogy starring the beautiful Romy Schneider (who looks amazingly like her):

<https://www.amazon.com/Sissi-Collection-Romy-Schneider/dp/B000RXZIJ5>

Read Lola Montez by Bruce Seymour (Yale University Press, 1996): https://www.amazon.com/Lola-Montez-Life-Bruce-Seymour/dp/0300074395/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2Y48KRIODJ64N&dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9.qU6cYDiVLJci89-86kUNZkDamPxnWF5ARnt2nzTfEvi-DRhovZIYdydILi-uxQIVowWjj82SrHpKqfOCXKrggkwvIYkeFa6GppEsP31Y57iQML1U4uh32kZxdZPnilaA7Fe-hzJ31pnFn3lSs3j3eP8GRNh_onbO6RO3Ni5vurZzyZKmUWbxldtB0BSkMZoSngZ_29ulKGj6LR2Fp-ykBCzzXJfcA7--Ux91N5B038.v0IMJEL23oGDs9PUIImayNwfDOGLIJtGtudP3-3EX4&dib_tag=se&keywords=%22lola+montez%22&qid=1748287475&s=books&sprefix=lola+montez+%2Cstripbooks%2C144&sr=1-1

[86kUNZkDamPxnWF5ARnt2nzTfEvi-DRhovZIYdydILi-](https://www.amazon.com/Lola-Montez-Life-Bruce-Seymour/dp/0300074395/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2Y48KRIODJ64N&dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9.qU6cYDiVLJci89-86kUNZkDamPxnWF5ARnt2nzTfEvi-DRhovZIYdydILi-uxQIVowWjj82SrHpKqfOCXKrggkwvIYkeFa6GppEsP31Y57iQML1U4uh32kZxdZPnilaA7Fe-hzJ31pnFn3lSs3j3eP8GRNh_onbO6RO3Ni5vurZzyZKmUWbxldtB0BSkMZoSngZ_29ulKGj6LR2Fp-ykBCzzXJfcA7--Ux91N5B038.v0IMJEL23oGDs9PUIImayNwfDOGLIJtGtudP3-3EX4&dib_tag=se&keywords=%22lola+montez%22&qid=1748287475&s=books&sprefix=lola+montez+%2Cstripbooks%2C144&sr=1-1)

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Read The Mad Monarch: The Life and Times of Ludwig II of Bavaria by Werner Richter (H. Regnery, 1980):

<https://www.amazon.com/mad-monarch-times-Ludwig-Bavaria/dp/B0007DR7FQ>

Visit the Sisi museum in Vienna: <https://www.sisimuseum-hofburg.at/en/>

If you are interested in Eugénie:

Read In the Courts of Memory by Lillie de Hegermann-Lindenchrone: https://www.amazon.com/Courts-Memory-1858-1875-L-Hegermann-Lindenchrone/dp/1499594666/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0

Read My Years in Paris by Pauline Metternich: <https://www.amazon.com/My-years-Paris-Pauline-Metternich/dp/B014H4S2SG>

Watch JUAREZ with Paul Muni and Bette Davis: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0031516/>

Watch the 2000 French documentary, La Commune: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0257497/>

Visit the recently renovated Napoleon III rooms at the Louvre: <https://www.louvre.fr/en/explore/the-palace/the-splendour-of-the-second-empire>

If you are interested in Garibaldi:

Read The Leopard by Giuseppe di Lampedusa: <https://www.amazon.com/Leopard-Giuseppe-Lampedusa/dp/0679731210> or watch THE LEOPARD with Burt Lancaster: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0057091/> or, even better, watch the 2025 Italian series, THE LEOPARD—it's terrific: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt15198870/>

If you are interested in Bismarck:

Read Bismarck by Charles Grant Robertson: https://www.amazon.com/Bismarck-2-Charles-Grant-Robertson/dp/B003A01U7O/ref=sr_1_2?crid=20Y02NR09EVOS&dib=eyJ2IjojMSJ9. T7N8u9vt2xqe Y5bacESigKr-ApIT4oH4x_v71bfwvZ_ahMX7Yt2Go32gJMabnTwGnXvBXnmEBsOdfpqROLjxGh8bgl6dYtXezBHSvPAi2dGnZWYEsT-9trv0SMr4TZxu8FojZuGrTE4w58ISH2SMr90_t_pbGa4KMqKsNwwMMWLT_ybKy-6D-CwBjq8MS0PxPpDuaUB7FxoLvPeQ9MTk4GjErZhPBWbKWPMJrAs.LRa1DA-s_hfow9SLcFn7QjNrlrk9_Aj057TYBOWW-o&dib_tag=se&keywords=%22bismarck%22+robertson&qid=1748285869&s=books&srefix=bismarck+robertson%2Cs tripbooks%2C133&sr=1-2

To understand the German perspective on Bismarck, watch the 1940 film:
https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.98cad4d6-4619-4c42-a721-2488dd540a8f?autoplay=0&ref=atv_cf_strg_wb

If you are interested in Mayerling:

Watch the classic 1936 film with Charles Boyer (free on Internet Archive)!: https://archive.org/details/mayerling_202103 Or this is the 1968 remake with Omar Sharif and Catherine Deneuve: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0064645/>