

MOLTKE AND THE GERMAN
WARS, 1864–1871

European History in Perspective

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MOLTKE AND THE GERMAN
WARS, 1864–1871

Arden Bucholz

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For my favourite 'Three L'



Frontispiece Helmuth von Moltke (1800–91) the professional soldier. His bald head is covered by his own hair in the back, a wisp of the wig he always wore showing over and behind the right ear. His costume is not the embellished, bedecked dress of the court general, but the clothes of a professional soldier, with campaign hat instead of court regalia and the upper part of the simple long coat worn by Prussian generals since Frederick the Great. He is wearing the Iron Cross, awarded for action in war under fire. He is depicted in a steadfast, realistic, straightforward gaze: no heroics, no romantics. The most competent professional war leader of the mid nineteenth century European world: confident but not enthusiastic, both fatalistic and trusting (Courtesy Ullstein Bilderdienst, Berlin).

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