

Mainz, Trier, and Cologne, the Duke of Saxony, the Markgraf of Brandenburg, and the ruler of the Palatinate. The seventh vote was disputed between the Duke of Bavaria and the King of Bohemia.

The period which followed the close of the Great Interregnum was marked by the increase in power of the Electors, and by the attempts of the various Emperors to use their position as a means of aggrandising their families.

Rudolf, the founder of the greatness of the Hapsburg family, was not one of the great princes of the Empire. The family possessions were in Suabia, where was the castle from which they took their name. Rudolf was fifty-five years of age at the time of his election, tall and gaunt of frame, with a "grave pale face." He was a man of great prudence and force of character, and impressed himself on the imagination of his people. He resolutely refused to interfere in Italian affairs and gave all his attention to Germany, where he earned the gratitude of the people by travelling through the country enforcing justice and pulling down the robber castles which had sprung up in the preceding years of anarchy. His accession was opposed by Ottoaker of Bohemia, who had built up a large power, partly German, partly Slavic. He was at last defeated and killed, and although Bohemia passed to his son, Austria and Styria were separated from Bohemia and became part of the possessions of the Hapsburg family.

RUDOLF
OF HAPS-
BURG
1273-1291

On Rudolf's death, the Electors passed over his son Albert and chose Adolf of Nassau, but before long he was supplanted by his rival, Albert of Austria. On his death the crown again departed from the Hapsburg

ADOLF
1292-1298
ALBERT I.
1298-1308