

## 「2024年度ウィーン大学スプリングスクール派遣報告書」

京都大学法学部2年 山本 真理子

In this program, I focused on how and why the Austrian people today perceived and cherish members of the Habsburg dynasty.

The Habsburg dynasty ruled the Austria Empire for centuries and had a significant impact not only on Austria, but also on other European countries. It produced a lot of famous figures such as Maria Theresa. It's not an exaggeration to say that the Habsburg dynasty shaped European history. However, its power became more and more weak and after the defeat in World War I, ruling by the Habsburg ended.

At the lecture about history in Austria, I learned how the society was in chaos after World War I and how the memory of the Nazi regime's control has been a trauma for Austrian. Austria suffered from many difficulties such as dissolution of central power, Inflation and so on. These painful memory of WW I and the Nazi regime's control perhaps make the Habsburg dynasty a source of national pride and emotional support. Indeed, when I participated in a guided tour in the Vienna Museum, I learned that why Franz Joseph I and Empress Elisabeth became so famous is in order to show that Austria has not only tragic memory but also its own flourishing history and culture. Moreover, I learned in a lecture, Vienna is a very multinational city, accepting immigrants from various regions such as Czech, Poland and so on. To unite people with diverse backgrounds, the presence of the Habsburg dynasty may have been essential.

How people in Austria today cherish the Habsburgs can be felt simply by walking around the city. For example, during a German language class, I showed the statue at Heroes' Square (Heldenplatz). I heard this statue represents a member of the Habsburg family who contributed during the Napoleonic Wars. When we toured the University of Vienna, I found a statue of Joseph II, the son of Maria Theresa, who was influenced by Enlightenment ideas and carried out many reforms, such as the abolition of serfdom. I guess his statue was built at the University of Vienna because he emphasized education. Additionally, most of the museums I visited displayed paintings and treasures related to the Habsburgs. In present-day Austria, the Habsburgs seem to be a familiar and integral part of daily life, contributing to the cultural richness. In Japan, the Imperial Family and the Emperor are sensitive topics, and they are not as widely accepted in daily life. This difference is fresh and interesting to me.

I wondered why Empress Elisabeth, affectionately known as "Sisi," is so beloved in Austria today. She is incredibly popular, with musicals and even Sisi chocolates are produced. However, when I read her biography, I learned that she did not really like Vienna and loved Hungary instead. Indeed, people of Vienna at the time were more interested in and sympathetic to the emperor rather than to Elisabeth. She also did not contribute to politics. When I visited the Sisi Museum, it focuses on her personal life such as exercising, jewelry, dress rather than her political role. It is hard to say that she did anything significant in Austrian history. So why is she so loved by people of Vienna today? There are many other notable women such as Maria Theresa, who worked hard to govern Austria despite of foreign attacks. While I haven't found a clear answer, one hypothesis is that Elisabeth's suffering, such as her sense of loneliness after marriage, might have been more relatable to people. On the other hand, Maria Theresa's political role and strict attitude to her children as a ruler make it harder for people to simply love her.

In this way, the Habsburg dynasty greatly influenced Europe and even today continues to support Vienna from cultural aspect.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Mazal and everyone involved in this program. I participate in this program because I am interested in the history of Vienna. Through the program, I realized that Vienna is a strong and proud country which survived through a lot of difficulty. I had incredibly valuable time in Austria, and I will apply what I've learned

<事務局使用欄> 受付番号 :	-
-----------------	---

to my future.