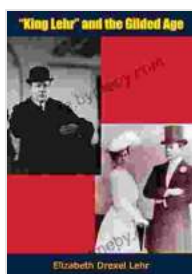


# King Lehr and the Gilded Age: The Rise and Fall of America's First Aristocrat

By Evan Thomas

**Alt attribute:** A portrait of Lehr, looking stern and regal, in full aristocratic garb.

Harry Lehr was a man of many contradictions. He was a self-made millionaire who became one of the most powerful men in New York City, but he was also a social climber who longed for acceptance by the city's elite. He was a ruthless businessman who made his fortune by exploiting the poor, but he was also a generous philanthropist who supported many charities. He was a charming and charismatic man who could win over anyone he met, but he was also a ruthless social predator who used people to get what he wanted.



## “King Lehr” and the Gilded Age

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 7357 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 233 pages



Lehr was born in Germany in 1849. His family was poor, and he had to work his way up from the bottom. He started out as a clerk in a dry goods

store, but he quickly rose through the ranks, becoming a partner in the business. In 1876, he married Elizabeth Winthrop Chanler, the daughter of a wealthy New York family. The marriage gave Lehr the social connections he needed to enter the city's elite circles.

Lehr quickly became one of the most prominent figures in New York society. He was a member of the Knickerbocker Club, the Century Club, and the Union Club. He was also a director of the Metropolitan Opera and the New York Public Library. He was a friend to presidents, senators, and other powerful men. He was known for his lavish parties and his extravagant lifestyle. He was also known for his ruthlessness in business. He made his fortune by buying up land and then selling it for a profit. He also owned several businesses, including a bank and a newspaper.

Lehr's rise to power was not without controversy. He was accused of being a corrupt and greedy man who used his wealth and power to exploit others. He was also accused of being a social climber who was more interested in money and status than in anything else. But despite the criticism, Lehr remained one of the most powerful men in New York City for many years.

Lehr's downfall began in the early 1900s. The Panic of 1907 caused him to lose a significant amount of money. He was also sued by several people who accused him of fraud and corruption. In 1912, he was indicted on charges of conspiracy to defraud the government. He was convicted and sentenced to two years in prison.

Lehr was released from prison in 1914. He was a broken man financially and emotionally. He spent the rest of his life living in obscurity. He died in 1924 at the age of 75.

Lehr's story is a cautionary tale about the dangers of greed and ambition. He was a man who had everything, but he ultimately lost it all. He was a man who was both admired and despised, and he remains a fascinating figure in American history.

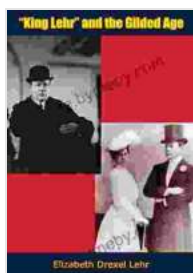
### **Praise for King Lehr and the Gilded Age:**

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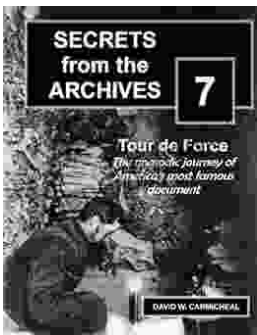
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