

*Max Planck—Aspects of His
Scientific Career and Political Life*

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ABSTRACT. Max Planck has a unique place in the history of German science. He had not only been an eminent physicist who became the founder of quantum physics but also a man in the public understanding of science by his general and philosophical lectures. Moreover he was a central person in science management as a president of Kaiser Wilhelm Society between 1930 and 1937. In his private life he had to live with the tragedy of the death of 4 of his 5 children. So there are a lot of stories which can be told about Planck. We shall cover two subjects of his biography. First we describe his way in physics from his dissertation to the discovery of the quantization of the harmonic oscillator in 1900. Then we shall discuss aspects of his political attitude in the period between German Empire and National Socialism.