

18th Century Dynastic Rivalries and Politics

Tuesday, November 22, 2005

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- Scope of Chapter

- War of Austrian succession
- Development of party politics in GB
- Bubbles
- British Reformers

- Politics

- 18th century state system
 - Characterized by many kinds of rivalries
- Global Rivalries (territory)
 - Expand borders
- Commercial Rivalries
 - Trade
 - Desire for goods increased
 - New World and China
 - Colonial rivalries
 - England
 - BEIC expanded
 - ◆ Territorial reach
 - ◆ Military power
 - ◇ Ran the government in India
 - ◆ Commodities (not just tea)
 - ◇ Manufactures
 - ◇ Slaves
 - ◇ Opium
 - Spain
 - Still largest empire
 - ◆ Caribbean
 - ◆ Philippines
 - ◆ Most of South America
 - Dutch bases in
 - South America
 - W & S Africa (Cape Colony)
 - India
 - Japan
 - Philippines
 - Indonesia
 - French
 - New France
 - ◆ St. Lawrence and Mississippi River
 - ◆ Trappers
 - ◆ Scattered military and trading posts
 - ◆ Small percentage of population
 - ◇ Different from British settlements
 - Rivalries
 - British and France
 - ◆ N. America, W Indies, India, Europe
 - British and Spain
 - ◆ Dispute over trading rights
 - Dynastic rivalries
 - ◆ Challenges to ruling families
 - ◇ England
 - ◇ Austria

England

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- **Stuarts** = J, C, C, J, W&M, A

- Queen Anne

- 1702 - 1714
- After William and Mary
- No surviving kids
- Last Stuart
- **Act of Succession, 1701**
 - Throne to Hanovers (not Stuarts... because the distant Stuarts were Catholic)
- **Act of Union, 1707**
 - England, Scotland, Wales
 - Feared that Scotland would support Stuarts
 - James III
 - ◆ Child of James II
 - ◆ 1/2 brother of Anne
 - Ireland mistrusted by British
 - Openly supported Stuart claims
 - Punished by England (harsh treatment)
 - ◆ Catholics prohibited from being merchants, lawyers, MPs in Irish parliament
 - ◆ Irish land given to Protestant absentee landlords
 - ◆ Irish Catholics could not sit in Parliament
 - ◆ Church of England imposed on Ireland
 - ◆ Even in England Catholics were prohibited from
 - ◇ Voting
 - ◇ Public office
 - ◇ Owning weapons
 - ◇ Attending Oxford or Cambridge

- George I

- Hanover
- 1714 - 1727
- Never learned English
- Rarely went to England
 - Spent most of his time in Germany
 - Depended on **Robert Walpole** (1st Prime Minister)
 - 1st Prime Minister
- The Fifteen (1715)
 - Uprising in support of James III
 - Jacobites - the pretenders
 - Started in Scotland
 - Quickly put down

- George II

- More sensitive to England
 - Still very German
 - Not very personable; boring
- The Forty-five (1745)
 - Another Stuart rebellion
 - In support of Charles
 - Son of James III
 - "Bonnie Prince Charlie"

- "The Pretender"
- Began in Scotland
- Invaded England
 - Battle of Culloden Moor 1746
- BPC fled back to France

- **George III**

- 1760 - 1840
- Popular
 - Image of ordinary family man
 - Not so Germanic
- Personally took over reins of government
- Key developments
 - British nationalism
 - Party politics
 - American Revolution

Austria

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- German Dualism
- **Charles VI**
 - o 1711-1740
 - o Emperor of **Austria** and **HRE**
 - o Hapsburg
 - o GOAL: to keep Hapsburg land together
 - Upset by loss of Spain WSS
 - Feared growth of Prussia
 - o No son
 - **Pragmatic Sanction**, 1713
 - Hapsburg land indivisible
 - Recognized right of female successor
- **Maria Theresa**
 - o 1740-1780
 - o Empress of **Austria**
 - Not HRE
 - o Inherited weak nation
 - No \$\$\$
 - No army
 - No bureaucracy
 - Bad advisors
 - o Mildly enlightened
 - o France and Prussia
 - Threat to MT
 - Despite PS
- **Frederick the Great (II)**
 - o King of **Prussia**
 - o Invaded Silesia 1740 (broke PS)
 - **Great War of the 18th century**
 - War of Austrian Succession 1740-1748
 - Diplomatic Reversal
 - 7 Years War 1756 -1763

Poland

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- **Characteristics**

- Large
 - Bordered by **Ottoman Empire, Russia, Austria**
- Heterogeneous Population
 - Poles, Russians, Jews, Austrians, Slavs
- Social Classes
 - 8% were aristocrats
 - Aristocrats were very suspicious, and stronger than the king
 - Poor peasants = serfs
 - **NO middle class**
 - No trade
- Government
 - Monarchy
 - Elected by the nobles
 - **Very weak**
 - France and Russia had strong influence
 - Lack of Centralization
 - Exploding the Diet
 - **Liberum Veto** (*free veto*)
 - If only one vetoed, then the whole diet was dismissed and reorganized
 - Power Vacuum
 - Had no power, and all other countries were being sucked in

- **3 Partitions of Poland**

- 1772
 - Austria, Russia, Prussia
 - Prussia united some of its land
- 1793
 - Russia, Prussia
- 1795
 - Russia, Prussia, Austria
- Easy to partition, because the king had no power
- The nobles invited to come in

Great War of the 18th Century

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- **2 parts**
 - o War of Austrian Succession
 - Civil struggle within the HRE
 - Conflict between Hapsburgs and Bourbons
 - o 7 Years War
 - o Both for **Balance of Power**
- **War of Austrian Succession**
 - o Frederick the Great invaded Silesia
 - Wealthiest Hapsburg province
 - Broke Pragmatic Sanction
 - o Sides
 - Britain, Austria, Russia, Spain, Netherlands
 - France, Prussia
 - o Battle of Fontenot
 - Most important battle
 - o Battle of Louisburg
 - British defeated the French
 - Tilted the balance
 - o Peace of Aix-La-Chapelle
 - 1748
 - Prussia kept Silesia
 - Everything else returned to status quo
 - o Long-term results
 - Weakness of French position proven
 - Austrians bitter but satisfied
 - German Dualism
 - Two major Germanic States
- **7 Years War**
 - o Diplomatic Reversal / Revolution
 - 1756
 - Same countries, switched sides
 - Austria, France, Russia
 - Prussia, Britain
 - o Fighting on 3 Continents
 - Europe
 - North America (Canada and Caribbean)
 - Asia (India)
 - o War in India
 - *British East India Co. vs. France East India Co.*
 - Robert Clive - led Brit troops and Indian mercenaries to Bengal
 - **Black Hole of Calcutta**
 - ◆ French locked up British troops in a cave and let them die
 - Used British troops as personal army
 - British won in India
 - o War in Canada "French and Indian War"
 - British advantages
 - Permanent population and navy
 - Indian allies
 - French advantages
 - Indian allies

- British won
- Treaty of Paris and Peace of Hubertusburg
 - 1763
 - Prussia kept Silesia
 - Austria kept Austrian Netherlands
 - Saxony remained independent
 - British got Canada, all territories east of Mississippi, and India
 - Spanish got all French territories West of Mississippi

18th Century Warfare

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- 18th Century Warfare

- Part of noble culture
 - Took war very lightly
 - "Playing"
- Officers had more in common with enemy officers than with their own men
- Sometimes the officers were foreign (ex: Hapsburgs)
- War = game
- Conscription
 - Misfit soldiers
 - Economically useless
 - Forced to serve against will
 - Productive people were more useful at home
 - Long term enlistment
 - Mercenary soldiers
 - Wages
 - Highly trained
 - Barracks
 - Bright uniforms
- Weapons not very destructive
- Infantry predominant
- Rarely operated more than a few days march from home
- Generals hesitated to risk troops
- Little national feeling
- Wars were between governments not people
- Governments went to war lightly and also withdrew readily
- Civilians affected very little
 - Except in India and America
- Desertion widespread and common
- Brutal discipline and training
- Large standing armies (except GB)
- Linear formations
- Mostly defensive
- Prisoners well treated
- More civilized
- Navy
 - British had the best one
 - Kept French busy on the continent, so that they wouldn't compete
 - Few decisive naval battles in 18th century
 - Skirmishes
 - Full fledged battles too expensive
 - More sailors died of disease than battle