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**European  
History**

**1648–1789  
Bourbon, Baroque, and  
the Enlightenment**

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## **CHAPTER 1**

# **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

### **1.1 HISTORICAL SETTING IN 1648**

The Thirty Years' War (1618 – 1648) had just ended, leaving a devastated Germany and Central Europe of some four hundred semi-autonomous states, referred to as “The Empire” (i.e., the Holy Roman Empire of the Middle Ages).

The Bourbon dynasty emerged stronger than the Hapsburgs, who had dominated Europe for a century and a half.

### **1.2 PEACE OF WESTPHALIA (1648)**

The principle that “the religion of the Prince is the religion of the realm” was extended to permit the Reformed faith (Calvinism) in Germany as well as Catholic and Lutheran Churches.

Dutch and Swiss republics were granted formal recognition as independent powers. Additionally, Sweden, Prussia, and

France gained new territory.

### **1.3 TREATY OF THE PYRENEES (1659)**

The war between France and Spain continued for eleven more years until Spain finally ceded to France part of the Spanish Netherlands and territory in northern Spain. A marriage was arranged between Louis XIV, Bourbon king of France, and Maria Theresa, daughter of the Hapsburg king of Spain, Philip IV.

### **1.4 WAR OF DEVOLUTION (FIRST DUTCH WAR), 1667 – 68**

After the death of his father-in-law, Philip IV, Louis XIV claimed the Spanish Netherlands (Belgium) in the name of his wife. The Law of Devolution granted inheritance to the heirs of a first marriage precedent to those of a second marriage. This law applied in private relationships to property rights, but Louis XIV applied it to political sovereignty.

France invaded the Spanish Netherlands with 50,000 troops in 1667 without a declaration of war. As a defensive measure, England, Holland, and Sweden formed the Triple Alliance.

#### **1.4.1 Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle (1668)**

France received twelve fortified towns on the border of the Spanish Netherlands, but gave up Franche-Comté (Burgundy). Furthermore, the question of sovereignty over the Spanish Netherlands was deferred.

## **1.5 SECOND DUTCH WAR (1672 – 78)**

Louis XIV sought revenge for Dutch opposition to French annexation of the Spanish Netherlands. As a Catholic king, he also opposed Dutch Calvinism and republicanism.

France disputed the Triple Alliance by signing separate treaties with England (Charles II: Treaty of Dover, 1670) and with Sweden (1672).

In 1672, France invaded southern Holland with 100,000 troops. William III of Orange became head of state and the Dutch opened the dikes to flood the land and saved Holland and the city of Amsterdam from the French. Brandenburg, the Empire, and Spain allied with Holland against France.

At the war's end, the Peace of Nijmegen (1678 – 79) granted Holland all of its territory back while Spain and France exchanged more than a dozen territories.

## **1.6 INVASION OF THE SPANISH NETHERLANDS (1683)**

France occupied Luxemburg and Trier and seized Lorraine while signing a twenty-year truce with the Empire.

The League of Augsburg was formed in 1686 to counteract French power and restore the balance of power. Members were The Empire, Holland, Spain, Sweden, the Palatinate, Saxony, Bavaria, and Savoy.

## **1.7 WAR OF THE LEAGUE OF AUGSBURG (1688 – 97)**

The Glorious Revolution of 1688 brought William III of Orange and his wife, Mary, to the throne of England.

The War of the League of Augsburg opened the long period of Anglo-French rivalry which continued until the defeat of Napoleon in 1815. France fought against the two leading naval powers of the day: Holland and England, and in three theaters of war: on the Rhine, in the Low Countries, and in Italy.

Known in North America as King William's War (1689 – 97), English and French colonials clashed along the New York and New England frontiers.

### **1.7.1 Treaty of Ryswick (1697)**

France, England, and Holland agreed to restore captured territories. Fortresses in the Spanish Netherlands were to be garrisoned with Dutch troops as a buffer zone between France and Holland. Additionally, French sovereignty over Alsace and Strasbourg was acknowledged as permanent.

## **1.8 WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION (1701 – 13)**

Charles II, the last of the Hapsburg kings of Spain, died childless on November 1, 1700.

The king's will named Philip of Anjou, the grandson of Louis XIV and Maria Theresa, to be king of Spain. In 1698 King Charles had named Emperor Leopold's grandson, the seven-year-old Electoral Prince Joseph Ferdinand of Bavaria, as his sole heir. The boy died a few months later and in October

1700, and the king signed the new will in favor of Philip.

The Second Partition Treaty, however, signed by England, Holland, and France in May 1700, agreed that the son (later, Emperor Charles VI) of the Austrian Hapsburg Emperor Leopold would become king of Spain and Philip of Anjou would be compensated with Italian territories. (Both the mother and first wife of Leopold were daughters of Spanish kings.)

Issues involved in the War of the Spanish Succession were the future of the Spanish Empire. Additional primary causes were whether the Austrian Hapsburg lands would be separated from Spain and whether the dominant strength of France and the Bourbons would now include Spain.

In a sense, Charles II made war almost inevitable. Louis XIV had to fight for his grandson's claims against those of his enemy and Leopold had to do the same.

### **1.8.1 The Grand Alliance**

William III, king of England and Stadholder of Holland, opposed the Spanish Netherlands falling into French control. England also faced Spanish and French competition in the New World. A merger of the Spanish and French thrones would result in a coalition of Spain and France against England and Holland in the Americas.

In response, England, Holland, The Empire, and Prussia formed the Grand Alliance in September 1701.

### **1.8.2 War**

France and Spain were stronger on land; England and Holland controlled the sea.

The Battle of Blenheim, August 13, 1704, was a brilliant victory for England and the Duke of Marlborough, and one of the key battles of the war. It began a series of military reverses that prevented French domination of Europe.

At the great Battle of Ramillies, May 23, 1706, in four hours Marlborough shattered the French army and held onto the Netherlands.

In September 1709, the bloody Battle of Malplaquet had a contrasting result when the Allies lost 24,000 men and the French lost 12,000.

The allies invaded Spain and replaced Philip with Charles. The French and Spanish, however, rallied and drove the allies from both countries, restoring the Spanish throne to the Bourbons.

The war was known as Queen Anne's War (1702 – 13) in North America. England was faced for the first time with an alliance of its two great rival empires, Spain and France. Though the results there were inconclusive, English colonials were more reliable in fighting than Spanish and French.

## **1.9 TREATY OF UTRECHT (1713)**

This was the most important European treaty since the Peace of Westphalia in 1648.

The Spanish Empire was partitioned and a Bourbon remained on the throne of Spain. Philip V (Philip of Anjou) retained Spain and the Spanish Empire in America. He explicitly renounced his claims to the French throne. The Hapsburg Empire in Central Europe acquired the Spanish Netherlands (Austrian Netherlands thereafter) and territories in Italy.

England took Gibraltar, Minorca, Newfoundland, Hudson's Bay, and Nova Scotia. France retained Alsace and the city of Strasbourg.

As a result, the Hapsburgs became a counterbalance to French power in western Europe, but no longer occupied the Spanish throne.

## **1.10 WAR OF THE AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION (1740 – 48)**

Charles VI died in 1740 and his daughter 23-year-old Maria Theresa (reigned 1740 – 80) inherited the Austrian Hapsburg Empire. Frederick the Great, age 28, (reigned 1740 – 86) had just inherited the Prussian throne from his father, Frederick William I. In 1740 Frederick suddenly invaded the Hapsburg territory of Silesia, and England joined Austria against Prussia, Bavaria, France, and Spain.

Frederick's brilliant military tactics won many victories. His long night marches, sudden flank attacks, and surprise actions contrasted with the usual siege warfare of the time.

The war was known in North America as King George's War (1744 – 48). Colonial militia from Massachusetts captured Louisburg, the fortified French naval base on Cape Breton Island commanding the entrance to the St. Lawrence River and Valley. Louisburg was returned to France after the war in exchange for Madras in India, which the French had captured.

The *Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle* (1748), ended the war and Prussia emerged as one of the Great Powers. By retaining Silesia, Prussia doubled its population.

## 1.11 THE SEVEN YEARS' WAR (1756 – 63)

Britain and France renewed hostilities as the French and Indian War (1754 – 63) began at the entrance to the Ohio Valley. At stake was control of the North American continent.

In Europe, Austria sought to regain Silesia with its important textile industry and rich deposits of coal and iron. Maria Theresa persuaded Louis XV to overlook their traditional Bourbon-Hapsburg enmity and aid Austria in a war with Prussia.

Russia, under Czarina Elizabeth (reigned 1741 – 62), joined the alliance. She disliked Frederick the Great intensely and feared Prussian competition in Poland. Great Britain provided Prussia with funds but few troops. Prussia was then faced with fighting almost alone against three major powers of Europe: Austria, France, and Russia. Their combined population was fifteen times that of Prussia.

The Seven Years' War was the hardest fought war in the eighteenth century. In six years Prussia won eight brilliant victories and lost eight others. Berlin was twice captured and partially burned by Russian troops. Still Prussia prevailed. In the process Prussia emerged as one of the Great Powers of Europe and established the reputation of having the best soldiers on the Continent.

William Pitt the Elder led the British to victory. The Royal Navy defeated both the French Atlantic and Mediterranean squadrons in 1759. Britain's trade prospered while French overseas trade dropped to one-sixth its pre-war level. The British captured French posts near Calcutta and Madras in India, and defeated the French in Quebec and Montreal.

In 1762 Elizabeth of Russia died and her successor, Czar Peter III, was a great admirer of Frederick the Great. Though

he occupied the Russian throne only from January to July, he took Russia out of the war at a historically decisive moment.

By the *Treaty of Hubertsburg* (1763) Austria recognized Prussian retention of Silesia.

### **1.11.1 Treaty of Paris (1763)**

France lost all possessions in North America to Britain. (In 1762 France had ceded to Spain all French claims west of the Mississippi River and New Orleans.) France retained fishing rights off the coast of Newfoundland and Martinique and Guadeloupe, sugar islands in the West Indies. Spain ceded the Floridas to Britain in exchange for the return of Cuba.

## **1.12 THE AMERICAN WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE AS A EUROPEAN WAR, 1775 – 83**

France entered the French-American Alliance of 1778 in an effort to regain lost prestige in Europe and to weaken her British adversary. In 1779 Spain joined France in the war, hoping to recover Gibraltar and the Floridas.

French troops strengthened Washington's forces. The leadership of French field officers such as Lafayette aided in strategic planning. Admiral DeGrasse's French fleet prevented the evacuation of Lord Cornwallis from Yorktown in the final decisive battle of the war in 1781. Rochambeau's and Lafayette's French troops aided Washington at Yorktown.

### **1.12.1 Treaty of Paris (1783)**

Britain recognized the independence of the United States of

America, and retroceded the Floridas to Spain.

Britain left France no territorial gains by signing a separate and territorially generous treaty with the United States.