

The immediate cause of the War of the Austrian Succession was the death in of the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles VI, and the inheritance of Habsburg lands in Austria, Hungary, Croatia, the Netherlands, Bohemia and Italy (often collectively referred to as 'Austria').

The emperor Charles VI has a son, born in 1708, but the child dies before the year is out. A daughter, Maria Theresa, is born in 1717. Another daughter, Maria Anna, follows in 1718. The emperor has nieces daughters of Joseph I but no nephews. Several European powers have an interest in further dismantling the Habsburg empire, and a woman on the throne of Austria may seem an excuse to do so. And this means achieving acceptance by the European powers of his Pragmatic Sanction of 1713. The Pragmatic Sanction the term for an edict by a sovereign on a matter of state declared that the Habsburg inheritance is indivisible, and that the line of succession will be any as yet unborn son of his, followed by his eldest surviving daughter and then the daughters of his brother Joseph I. Over the years Austrian diplomacy succeeds in persuading the European powers to accept the Sanction. Frederick the Great and Silesia: But Frederick shows no interest in becoming involved in a wider European war. He continues to occupy Silesia and to fight battles only in defence of it. Three victories in display his military skill to such advantage that his contemporaries accord him the title by which he is known to history, Frederick the Great. Meanwhile his young antagonist, Maria Theresa, has been demonstrating her greatness in a different context. It suits the French to support him, eager as they always are to diminish Habsburg power. In November they enter Prague. Maria Theresa, who has to flee from Vienna, is advised on all sides to come to terms. Instead she withdraws, in fighting mood, to the Hungarian border. In Bratislava the young queen gives a passionate address to a Hungarian parliament, beseeching the nobles and gentry for their help. They are sufficiently moved to promise her 100,000 men. She leaves Frederick for the moment in undisturbed possession of a large part of Silesia. In the resulting lull, the Austrian armies can give full attention to the French and Bavarians. They drive them back so successfully that by the end of January the Austrians are in the Bavarian capital, Munich though Prague is not recovered till December. Continuing warfare in Germany during 1742 leaves the Austrians in possession of Bavaria, but also points up an anomaly. French forces have been supporting the Bavarian claimant against Austria, and British armies have joined the fray on the side of the Austrians. Indeed there is a direct clash between French and British in June at Dettingen a victory for George II on the last occasion when a British king leads an army in battle. Yet officially France and Britain are not at war with each other. They are merely marching in support of their allies. This changes in 1744. French and British on land: The main reason is that both nations have political leaders, Cardinal Fleury and Robert Walpole, who see peace as a necessary aspect of national prosperity. But Walpole resigns in 1742 and Fleury dies in 1743. There is nothing now to restrain the long-standing enmity between these two Atlantic nations, each with a developing empire overseas. In March the French declare war on Britain and make plans for an invasion across the Channel in the company of the Jacobite pretender Charles Edward Stuart. Bad weather damages the French fleet and causes the plan for an invasion in 1744 to be abandoned. In the following summer the French divert their energies to an attack on the Austrian Netherlands. Maurice Saxe, commanding a French army which includes an Irish brigade, wins a victory at Fontenoy in May over a combined force of British, Hanoverian, Austrian and Dutch troops under the duke of Cumberland, son of the British king. Saxe continues his successful campaign, conquering the whole of the Austrian Netherlands by the end of 1744. For much of this time he has no opposition from the British army. The regiments and the duke of Cumberland are recalled in October to meet a new threat in Scotland. Abandoned by the French after the abortive plans for an invasion in 1744, he becomes convinced in 1745 - with Britain losing to France in the campaign on the continent - that he stands a chance of success in Scotland even without foreign support. He lands in the Hebrides early in August. The Highland clans rally to his cause and the prince marches south, gathering forces as he goes. On September 16 he enters Edinburgh. Within a week Charles has to defend this claim on the battlefield. After this victory news of which prompts the recall of Cumberland and his army from the Netherlands Charles marches south to invade England. He takes Carlisle in November and by early December has progressed as far south as Derby. At this

point his followers lose heart. They are too far from safety in Scotland, and the promised French support has not materialized. On December 6 Charles heads back north, pursued now by the duke of Cumberland. The two sides finally meet in pitched battle on 16 April at Culloden. Charles has marched his force of about Scots through the previous night in an attempt to surprise the larger army some men of the duke of Cumberland. The battle, on an exposed moor, lasts only an hour. The Scots are completely routed. It is the end of the Jacobite cause. And the government introduces severe measures to pacify the Highlands. French and British at sea: Once war is officially declared, in , the British navy harasses French merchant fleets en route for the West Indies or India. Closer to home the harbours of France are blockaded, preventing the transport of commodities up and down the coast by far the easiest route in the age before decent roads. By , after four years of low-keyed naval warfare, France is ready for peace. Significantly the only important territories which have changed hands are overseas. In militiamen from British north America have seized from France the harbour of Louisbourg , at the entry to the Gulf of St Lawrence of strategic importance in relation to French Canada. In India, in , the French have occupied British Madras. Frederick the Great says of France and Britain: Otherwise, with one exception, it restores to their previous owners the territories occupied during the eight years of the War of the Austrian Succession. Bavaria , occupied by the Austrians, has already been returned to the elector. Now the Austrian Netherlands , taken by the French, revert to Austria. The exception is Silesia. Its sudden seizure by Frederick the Great launched the war in This is a loss which Maria Theresa of Austria has to accept, but it will rankle. Nevertheless her own possession of the Habsburg inheritance, another cause of the war, is now secure and recognized. Moreover fate has already brought back to Vienna a lost Habsburg dignity. But he dies just three years later. The imperial dignity, after a very brief spell with the Wittelsbachs, is safely back in Vienna.

Chapter 2 : The War of Austrian Succession | Die Welt der Habsburger

War of the Austrian Succession, (), a conglomeration of related wars, two of which developed directly from the death of Charles VI, Holy Roman emperor and head of the Austrian branch of the house of Habsburg, on Oct. 20,

This war began with the invasion of Silesia by Frederick II. After nearly all the powers of Europe were involved in the struggle, but the most enduring interest of the war lies in the struggle of Prussia and Austria for Silesia. The constant allies of France and Prussia were Spain and Bavaria; various other powers at intervals joined them. The cause of Austria was supported almost as a matter of course by England and Holland, the traditional enemies of France. The only recent war service of this army had been in the desultory Rhine campaign of 1757. It was therefore regarded as one of the minor armies of Europe, and few thought that it could rival the forces of Austria and France. While the Austrians had to wait for drafts to complete the field forces, Prussian regiments could take the field at once, and thus Frederick was able to overrun Silesia almost unopposed. His army was concentrated quietly upon the Oder, and without declaration of war, on the 16th of December, it crossed the frontier into Silesia. The Austrian generals could do no more than garrison a few fortresses, and with the small remnant of their available forces fell back to the mountain frontier of Bohemia and Moravia. The Prussian army was soon able to go into winter quarters, holding all Silesia and investing the strong places of Glogau, Brieg and Neisse. Silesian Campaign of 1757 The Austrians in Neisse and Brieg still held out. Glogau, however, was stormed on the night of the 9th of March, the Prussians, under Prince Leopold the younger of Anhalt-Dessau, executing their task in one hour with a mathematical precision which excited universal admiration. The Prussian right wing of cavalry was speedily routed, but the day was retrieved by the magnificent discipline and tenacity of the infantry. The Austrian cavalry was shattered in repeated attempts to ride them down, and before the Prussian volleys the Austrian infantry, in spite of all that Neipperg and his officers could do, gradually melted away. After a stubborn contest the Prussians remained masters of the field. Frederick himself was far away. Schwerin thus, like Marshal Saxe at Fontenoy, remained behind to win the victory, and the king narrowly escaped being captured by wandering Austrian hussars. The task of Sweden was to prevent Russia from attacking Prussia, but her troops were defeated, on the 3rd of September, at Wilmanstrand by a greatly superior Russian army, and in another great reverse was sustained in the capitulation of Helsingfors. In central Italy an army of Neapolitans and Spaniards was collected for the conquest of the Milanese. The Allies in Bohemia. A French corps moved via Amberg and Pilsen. The elector marched on Budweis, and the Saxons who had now joined the allies invaded Bohemia by the Elbe valley. The Austrians could at first offer little resistance, but before long a considerable force intervened at Tabor between the Danube and the allies, and Neipperg was now on the march from Neisse to join in the campaign. The French in the meantime had stormed Prague on the 26th of November, the grand-duke Francis, consort of Maria Theresa, who commanded the Austrians in Bohemia, moving too slowly to save the fortress. The elector of Bavaria, who now styled himself archduke of Austria, was crowned king of Bohemia 19th December and elected to the imperial throne as Charles VII. In Bohemia the month of December was occupied in mere skirmishes. In Italy the allied Neapolitans and Spaniards had advanced towards Modena, the duke of which state had allied himself with them, but the vigilant Austrian commander Count Traun had outmarched them, captured Modena, and forced the duke to make a separate peace. Frederick had not rested on his laurels; in the uneventful summer campaign of 1757 he had found time to begin that reorganization of his cavalry which was before long to make it even more efficient than his infantry. A combined plan of operations was made by the French, Saxons and Prussians for the rescue of Linz. The extreme outposts of the Prussians appeared before Vienna. The Saxons, discontented and demoralized, soon marched off to their own country, and Frederick with his Prussians fell back by Zwittau and Leutomischl to Kuttenberg in Bohemia, where he was in touch with Broglie on the one hand and Glatz having now surrendered with Silesia on the other. Prince Charles, in pursuit of the king marched by Iglau and Teutsch Deutsch Brod on Kuttenberg, and on the 17th of May was fought the battle of Chotusitz or Czaslau, in which after a severe struggle the king was victorious. His cavalry on this occasion retrieved its previous failure, and its conduct gave an earnest of its future glory.

not only by its charges on the battlefield, but its vigorous pursuit of the defeated Austrians. Almost at the same time Broglie fell upon a part of the Austrians left on the Moldau and won a small, but morally and politically important, success in the action of Sahay, near Budweis May 24, Frederick did not propose another combined movement. His victory and that of Broglie disposed Maria Theresa to cede Silesia in order to make good her position elsewhere, and the separate peace between Prussia and Austria, signed at Breslau on the 11th of June, closed the First Silesian War. The War of the Austrian Succession continued. The French at Prague. The prince pushed back the French posts everywhere, and his army converged upon Prague, where, towards the end of June, the French were to all intents and purposes surrounded. Broglie had made the best resistance possible with his inferior forces, and still displayed great activity, but his position was one of great peril. The French government realized at last that it had given its general inadequate forces. The French army on the lower Rhine, hitherto in observation of Hanover and other possibly hostile states, was hurried into Franconia. His operations were no more than a demonstration, and had so little effect that Broglie was sent for in haste to take over the command from him, Belleisle at the same time taking over charge of the army at Prague. This, under Prince Lobkowitz, was little superior in numbers or quality to the troops under Belleisle, under whom served Saxe and the best of the younger French generals, but its light cavalry swept the country clear of provisions. The French were quickly on the verge of starvation, winter had come, and the marshal resolved to retreat. On the night of the 16th of December, the army left Prague to be defended by a small garrison under Chevert, and took the route of Eger. The retreat December was accounted a triumph of generalship, but the weather made it painful and costly. The brave Chevert displayed such confidence that the Austrians were glad to allow him freedom to join the main army. In Italy, Traun held his own with ease against the Spaniards and Neapolitans. Naples was forced by a British squadron to withdraw her troops for home defence, and Spain, now too weak to advance in the Po valley, sent a second army to Italy via France. The Campaign of opened disastrously for the emperor. The French and Bavarian armies were not working well together, and Broglie and Seckendorf had actually quarrelled. A French army, under Marshal Noailles, was being collected on the middle Rhine to deal with this new force. But Broglie was now in full retreat, and the strong places of Bavaria surrendered one after the other to Prince Charles. The French and Bavarians had been driven almost to the Rhine when Noailles and the king came to battle. Noailles blocked the outlet and had posts all around, but the allied troops forced their way through and inflicted heavy losses on the French, and the battle of Dettingen is justly reckoned as a notable victory of the British arms June Both Broglie, who, worn out by age and exertions, was soon replaced by Marshal Coigny, and Noailles were now on the strict defensive behind the Rhine. Not a single French soldier remained in Germany, and Prince Charles prepared to force the passage of the great river in the Breisgau while the king of England moved forward via Mainz to co-operate by drawing upon himself the attention of both the French marshals. The Anglo-allied army took Worms, but after several unsuccessful attempts to cross, Prince Charles went into winter quarters. The king followed his example, drawing in his troops to the northward, to deal, if necessary, with the army which the French were collecting on the frontier of Flanders. Austria, England, Holland and Sardinia were now allied. Saxony changed sides, and Sweden and Russia neutralized each other peace of Abo, August Frederick was still quiescent; France, Spain and Bavaria alone continued actively the struggle against Maria Theresa. In Italy, the Spaniards on the Panaro had achieved a Pyrrhic victory over Traun at Campo Santo February 8, , but the next six months were wasted in inaction, and Lobkowitz, joining Traun with reinforcements from Germany, drove back the enemy to Rimini. The Spanish-Piedmontese war in the Alps continued without much result, the only incident of note being a combat at Casteldelfino won by the king of Sardinia in person. Frederick, disquieted by the universal success of the Austrian cause, secretly concluded a fresh alliance with Louis XV. France had posed hitherto as an auxiliary, her officers in Germany had worn the Bavarian cockade, and only with England was she officially at war. She now declared war direct upon Austria and Sardinia April A corps was assembled at Dunkirk to support the cause of the Pretender in Great Britain, and Louis in person, with 90, men, prepared to invade the Austrian Netherlands, and took Menin and Ypres. His presumed opponent was the allied army previously under King George and now composed of English, Dutch, Germans and Austrians. On the Rhine, Coigny was to make head against Prince Charles, and a fresh army under the prince de Conti was to assist the

Spaniards in Piedmont and Lombardy. Coigny, however, cut his way through the enemy at Weissenburg and posted himself near Strassburg. At the same time Frederick crossed the Austrian frontier August. The attention and resources of Austria were fully occupied, and the Prussians were almost unopposed. One column passed through Saxony, another through Lusatia, while a third advanced from Silesia. Prague, the objective, was reached on the 2nd of September. Six days later the Austrian garrison was compelled to surrender, and the Prussians advanced to Budweis. Prince Charles withdrew from Alsace, unmolested by the French, who had been thrown into confusion by the sudden and dangerous illness of Louis XV. Only Seckendorf with the Bavarians pursued him. No move was made by the French, and Frederick thus found himself after all isolated and exposed to the combined attack of the Austrians and Saxons. Marshal Traun, summoned from the Rhine, held the king in check in Bohemia, the Hungarian irregulars inflicted numerous minor reverses on the Prussians, and finally Prince Charles arrived with the main army. The campaign resembled that of ; the Prussian retreat was closely watched, and the rearguard pressed hard. At the same time, the Austrians gained no foothold in Silesia itself. On the Rhine, Louis, now recovered, had besieged and taken Freiburg, after which the forces left in the north were reinforced and besieged the strong places of Flanders. In the Italian war became for the first time serious. A grandiose plan of campaign was formed, and as usual the French and Spanish generals at the front were hampered by the orders of their respective governments. The adhesion of Genoa was secured, and a road thereby obtained into central Italy. But Lobkowitz had already taken the offensive and driven back the Spanish army of Count de Gages towards the Neapolitan frontier. The king of Naples at this juncture was compelled to assist the Spaniards at all hazards. A combined army was formed at Velletri, and defeated Lobkowitz there on the 11th of August. The crisis past, Lobkowitz then went to Piedmont to assist the king against Conti, the king of Naples returned home, and de Gages followed the Austrians with a weak force. The war in the Alps and the Apennines was keenly contested. Villefranche and Montalban were stormed by Conti on the 20th of April, a desperate fight took place at Peyre-Longue on the 18th of July, and the king of Sardinia was defeated in a great battle at Madonna del Olmo September 30 near Coni Cuneo. The two armies had, therefore, failed in their attempt to combine, and the Austro-Sardinians still lay between them. Twelve days previously, the death of Charles VII. The Bavarian army was again unfortunate; caught in its scattered winter quarters action of Amberg, January 7 , it was driven from point to point, and the young elector had to abandon Munich once more. No help was to be expected from France, whose efforts this year were centred on the Flanders campaign. In Silesia the customary small war had been going on for some time, and the concentration of the Prussian army was not effected without severe fighting.

Chapter 3 : War of the Austrian Succession | Revolv

The first period of fighting from to was known as the "War of the Austrian Succession" or in England as "King George's War". Austria and Prussia fought in Silesia and Bohemia while French armies invaded Bavaria.

This was to be the key justification for France and Prussia, joined by Bavaria, to challenge Habsburg power. When Charles succeeded his elder brother Joseph I in , he was the last male Habsburg heir in the direct line; this meant their lands would be divided on his death as Salic law prevented women inheriting in their own right. A family issue became a European one due to tensions within the Holy Roman Empire, whose monarch was officially chosen by seven prince-electors. The same was also true of the Habsburgs, who now viewed the title of Emperor as being hereditary in practice if not principle Sigismund the last non-Habsburg Emperor ruled from These centrifugal forces led to a war that reshaped the traditional European balance of power; the various legal claims were largely pretexts and seen as such. The losses of men, money and territory in these two conflicts of low strategic value weakened Austria at exactly the wrong time, while Charles also failed to prepare Maria Theresa for her new role, excluding her from any role in government. Austria, Great Britain, the United Provinces with allies. Prussia, Spain, France with allies. For much of the eighteenth century, France approached its wars in the same way: It would either let its colonies defend themselves, or would offer only minimal help sending them only limited numbers of troops or inexperienced soldiers, anticipating that fights for the colonies would likely be lost anyway. In marked contrast to France, Britain strove to actively prosecute the war in the colonies once it became involved in the war, taking full advantage of its naval power. Silesian Campaign of Maria Theresa, Queen regnant of Hungary and Bohemia and Archduchess of Austria, Holy Roman Empress Prussia in was an emerging power, a small but well-organized state whose new king, Frederick II, wanted to unify the disparate and scattered holdings of his crown by gathering intervening lands into a unified, contiguous state. Prince Frederick was 28 years old when he ascended to the throne on 31 May upon the death of his father, Frederick William I. Neither Frederick nor his father had ever been fond of Austria and its various snubs against Prussia such as offering them the duchies of Julich and Berg in return for an alliance, only to renege later. Nobody in the Habsburg court trusted the motives of the new rising power of Prussia and, therefore, the Holy Roman Emperor did not call on the Prussians, who were vassals of the Holy Roman Empire, for military support of the Empire. Accordingly, the Prussian Army had an uninspiring reputation and was counted as one of the many minor armies of the Holy Roman Empire. By comparison, the Austrian Empire had 16 million citizens but had an army only half its authorised size because of financial restraints. Thus, in defending the vast territory of the Austrian Empire this small army was more of "a sieve"[17] than a shield against foreign invasion. Lands of the Bohemian Crown until when most of Silesia was ceded to Prussia Moreover, the Prussian army was better trained than other armies in Europe and was led by an excellent officer corps. King Frederick William I and "the guiding genius of the Prussian Army",[18] Leopold I, Prince of Anhalt-Dessau or "Old Dessauer", had drilled the Prussian Army to a perfection previously unknown in Europe; they were without rival in their discipline, precision and rate of fire. Furthermore, while the Austrians had to wait for conscription to complete the field forces, Prussian regiments took the field at once. With this army it might not have been surprising that Frederick was able to overrun Silesia. However, Frederick sought even more advantages in the war he was planning. Accordingly, he had his Foreign Minister "Heinrich von Podewils" secretly negotiate a treaty with France to put Austria in a two front war. In this way, Prussia could attack the Austrians in the east while France would attack Austria from the west. A treaty with France was signed in April As a result, the Austrians had fewer than 3, troops available to defend Silesia, and although this was increased to 7, shortly before the Prussian attack, they could only hold the fortresses of Glogau, Breslau, and Brieg, abandoning the rest of the province and retreating into Moravia, at which point both sides went into winter quarters. A French corps moved via Amberg and Pilsen. The Elector marched on Budweis, and the Saxons who had now joined the allies against Austria[28] invaded Bohemia by the Elbe valley. With fewer Austrian troops in Silesia Frederick now had an easier time. The remaining fortresses in Silesia were taken by the Prussians. Francis Stephen, husband of Maria Theresa,

who commanded the Austrians in Bohemia, moved too slowly to save the fortress. The Elector of Bavaria, who now styled himself Archduke of Austria, was crowned King of Bohemia 9 December and elected to the imperial throne as Charles VII 24 January, but no active measures were undertaken. In Bohemia the month of December was occupied in mere skirmishes. Frederick made a secret truce with Austria and thus, lay inactive in Silesia. Campaigns of Prince Charles Alexander of Lorraine Frederick had hoped by the truce to secure Silesia, for which alone he was fighting; although allied with the French, he had no wish to see them become the dominant power in Germany through the destruction of Austria. For their part, the French had aspirations to divide most of the Habsburg territories between themselves, Prussia, Bavaria and Saxony. Frederick had not rested idle on his laurels. In the uneventful summer campaign of he had found time to begin the reorganisation of his cavalry. In December, therefore, the Prussian general field marshal Kurt Christoph Graf von Schwerin crossed the border and captured Olmutz. Glatz also was invested, and the Prussian army was concentrated about Olmutz in January. A combined plan of operations was made by the French, Saxons and Prussians for the rescue of Linz. But Linz soon fell. Brno was invested about the same time February, but the direction of the march was changed, and instead of moving against Prince Charles, Frederick pushed on southwards by Znojmo and Mikulov. The extreme outposts of the Prussians appeared before Vienna. No defence of Olmutz was attempted, and the small Prussian corps remaining in Moravia fell back towards Upper Silesia. On 17 May Frederick turned around and faced the Austrian forces that were pursuing him. After a severe struggle Frederick won a major Prussian victory. Frederick did not propose another combined movement. The French and Bavarian armies were not working well together, and Field Marshal Broglie had been placed in command of the allied army in Bavaria. Broglie openly quarrelled with the Bavarian field marshal Friedrich Heinrich von Seckendorff. The Bavarians, under the command of Count Minuzzi, suffered a severe reverse at the town of Simbach near Braunau on 9 May at the hands of Prince Charles of Lorraine. This allied army became known as the "Pragmatic Army," because it was drawn from a confederation of states that supported the Pragmatic Sanction of, which made Maria Theresa sole heir of the Habsburg territories. The Pragmatic Army had been advancing southward up the Main into Neckar country prior to this retreat in the summer of. A French army, under Marshal Noailles, was being collected on the middle Rhine to deal with this new force. Strong places of Bavaria were surrendered one after the other to Prince Charles. In the Dettingen, Noailles attempted a daring maneuver to envelop the British army but his subordinate the Duke de Gramont, without orders, attacked the Pragmatic Army and was defeated with heavy casualties. Neither Austria nor the British knew how to exploit their victory at Dettingen. The French and Bavarian army had been completely outmanoeuvred and was in a position of the greatest danger between Aschaffenburg and Hanau in the defile formed by the Spessart Hills and the river Main. Yet the Pragmatic Army did not quickly follow up the attack. Thus, Marshal Noailles had time to block the outlet and had posts all around. At this point, the allied troops had to force their way through the French and Bavarian lines. Still, because of the heavy losses inflicted on the French, the Battle of Dettingen and the follow up is justly reckoned as a notable victory of Anglo-Austrian-Hanoverian arms. The coalition against Frederick was suddenly weakened when the St. Petersburg court discovered a plot to overthrow Tsarina Elisabeth and bring back the child Ivan VI as Tsar, with his mother Grand Duchess Anna Leopoldovna serving as regent for the child. Indeed, the plot became known as the "Botta Conspiracy. Not a single French soldier remained in Germany, and Prince Charles prepared to force the passage of the Rhine river in the Breisgau while George II, King of Britain, moved forward via Mainz to co-operate by drawing upon himself the attention of both the French marshals. The Anglo-allied army took Worms, but after several unsuccessful attempts to cross the Rhine river, Prince Charles went into winter quarters. The king followed his example, drawing his troops to the north, to deal, if necessary, with the army which the French were collecting on the frontier of the Southern Netherlands. Austria, Britain, the Dutch Republic and Sardinia were now allied. Saxony changed sides and the entry of Sweden had offset the loss of Russia to the allies. Frederick was still quiescent. France, Spain and Bavaria actively continued the struggle against Maria Theresa. While the Battle of Dettingen and Russian Botta plot were capturing all the attention during the summer of, negotiations between the British, the Austrians and Sardinians were proceeding quietly in the city of Worms. Thus, the Austrians sought a separate peace with

Sardinia in Italy. Under the terms of the Treaty of Worms, which was signed on 13 September, the Austrian Habsburgs surrendered all territory in Italy located west of the Ticino River and Lake Maggiore to Sardinia. Frederick of Prussia was disquieted by the universal success of the Austrians and their alliance with Sardinia. Accordingly, he secretly concluded another alliance with Louis XV of France. France now declared war directly upon Austria and Sardinia April. At this point, the French planned a diversion that they hoped would cause Britain to leave the war. A significant element of the British population still hoped for the return of the Stuart family as monarchs. Indeed, in, France had sponsored an uprising in Scotland, which the pretender James had joined, but it was defeated. Charles Edward Stuart was born and lived his whole life in the Palazzo Muti. Charles had much more charisma than his father, and now Louis XV was favourably disposed toward helping him create another uprising in Scotland. In the spring of, Prince Charles secretly arrived in France and was about to board the ships that would take him to England. However, on the night before he was to board, a fierce storm blew up this storm became known as the "Protestant Wind" and wrecked or dispersed the entire fleet. However, Charles did not give up hope of restoring the Stuart family to the throne of England. During naval operations that were possible preparations for a coordinated French invasion of England, the largest sea battle of the war occurred, on 22 February. A smaller French and Spanish naval force attacked the British blockade and damaged some of the British ships, forcing the British to withdraw and seek repairs. Thus, the British blockade of the French coast was relieved, and the Spanish fleet apparently controlled the Mediterranean Sea. A Spanish squadron took refuge in the harbour at Toulon. The British fleet watched this squadron carefully from a harbour a short distance to the east. On 21 February, the Spanish ships put to sea with a French fleet. Admiral Mathews took his British fleet and attacked the Spanish fleet from 22 February until 23 February in what has become known as the Battle of Toulon. However, because of miscommunication and possibly treachery on the part of Rear Admiral Lestock, the smaller Spanish fleet was allowed to escape. With the knowledge that a larger French fleet was sailing to the rescue the British ships broke off combat and retreated to the northeast. Although technically the Battle of Toulon was regarded as a victory for Britain,[55] in Britain the public feared that the combined French and Spanish ships were making for the Strait of Gibraltar and for a gathering of ships at Brest for a planned invasion of England. Consequently, both Mathews and Lestock were tried in naval court. Lestock was acquitted unjustly according to some, while Mathews was found guilty also regarded as an injustice by some commentators.

Chapter 4 : War of the Austrian Succession or King George's War

The War of Austrian Succession does not have the cache of the better known Seven Years War or the War of Spanish Succession. Nevertheless, the War of Austrian Succession/Silesian Wars has a lot to recommend it.

When Charles succeeded his elder brother Joseph I in , he was the last male Habsburg heir in the direct line; this meant their lands would be divided on his death as Salic law prevented women inheriting in their own right. A family issue became a European one due to tensions within the Holy Roman Empire , whose monarch was officially chosen by seven prince-electors. The same was also true of the Habsburgs, who now viewed the title of Emperor as being hereditary in practice if not principle Sigismund the last non-Habsburg Emperor ruled from These centrifugal forces led to a war that reshaped the traditional European balance of power; the various legal claims were largely pretexts and seen as such. The losses of men, money and territory in these two conflicts of low strategic value weakened Austria at exactly the wrong time, while Charles also failed to prepare Maria Theresa for her new role, excluding her from any role in government. Austria, Great Britain, the United Provinces with allies. Prussia, Spain, France with allies. For much of the eighteenth century, France approached its wars in the same way: It would either let its colonies defend themselves, or would offer only minimal help sending them only limited numbers of troops or inexperienced soldiers , anticipating that fights for the colonies would likely be lost anyway. In marked contrast to France, Britain strove to actively prosecute the war in the colonies once it became involved in the war, taking full advantage of its naval power. Silesian Campaign of [edit] Further information: First Silesian War Maria Theresa , Queen regnant of Hungary and Bohemia and Archduchess of Austria, Holy Roman Empress Prussia in was an emerging power , a small but well-organized state whose new king, Frederick II , wanted to unify the disparate and scattered holdings of his crown by gathering intervening lands into a unified, contiguous state. Prince Frederick was 28 years old when he ascended to the throne on 31 May upon the death of his father, Frederick William I. Neither Frederick nor his father had ever been fond of Austria and its various snubs against Prussia such as offering them the duchies of Julich and Berg in return for an alliance, only to renege later. Nobody in the Habsburg court trusted the motives of the new rising power of Prussia and, therefore,[citation needed] the Holy Roman Emperor did not call on the Prussians, who were vassals[dubious â€” discuss] of the Holy Roman Empire, for military support of the Empire. Accordingly, the Prussian Army had an uninspiring reputation and was counted as one of the many minor armies of the Holy Roman Empire. By comparison, the Austrian Empire had 16 million citizens but had an army only half its authorised size because of financial restraints. Thus, in defending the vast territory of the Austrian Empire this small army was more of "a sieve" [17] than a shield against foreign invasion. Lands of the Bohemian Crown until when most of Silesia was ceded to Prussia Moreover, the Prussian army was better trained than other armies in Europe and was led by an excellent officer corps. King Frederick William I and "the guiding genius of the Prussian Army", [18] Leopold I, Prince of Anhalt-Dessau or "Old Dessauer", had drilled the Prussian Army to a perfection previously unknown in Europe; they were without rival in their discipline, precision and rate of fire. Furthermore, while the Austrians had to wait for conscription to complete the field forces, Prussian regiments took the field at once. With this army it might not have been surprising that Frederick was able to overrun Silesia. However, Frederick sought even more advantages in the war he was planning. Accordingly, he had his Foreign Ministerâ€” Heinrich von Podewils â€”secretly negotiate a treaty with France to put Austria in a two front war. In this way, Prussia could attack the Austrians in the east while France would attack Austria from the west. A treaty with France was signed in April As a result, the Austrians had fewer than 3, troops available to defend Silesia, and although this was increased to 7, shortly before the Prussian attack, they could only hold the fortresses of Glogau , Breslau , and Brieg , abandoning the rest of the province and retreating into Moravia, at which point both sides went into winter quarters.

Chapter 5 : War of the Austrian Succession / Useful Notes - TV Tropes

AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION, WAR OF THE (-). AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION, WAR OF THE (-). On 20 October the death of the last male Habsburg, the Holy Roman emperor Charles VI (ruled -), precipitated a major European war for the succession both to his territories and to the elected position of emperor.

The battle on 30th April that gave the British and Hanoverian infantry a reputation for dogged bravery Battle of Rocoux: The battle on 30th September at which General Ligonier, in command of the British, Hanoverian and Hessian troops, showed his tactical ability in handling an overwhelming attacking force of French troops. In the deaths of two European monarchs plunged the continent into war. On his death the Prussian throne passed to his ruthlessly ambitious son, Frederick. With the crown, Frederick inherited the most advanced army in Europe supported by a state bureaucracy of unrivalled efficiency, institutions his father had spent a lifetime perfecting. Charles feared that the powerful states of Europe would upon his death seize chunks of the empire, expecting that his daughter would be unable to defend her inheritance. If Frederick thought Maria Theresa would acquiesce in this outrage, he was mistaken. She declared war on Prussia and invaded Silesia, precipitating the wars that would rage for a quarter of a century. The English force was dispatched to Flanders in mid and remained there until the end of the war in , fighting the four battles of Dettingen , Fontenoy , Rocoux and Lauffeldt. There was one major interlude from late to , when Prince Charles, the Young Pretender, landed in Scotland and invaded England with a highland army. This adventure, encouraged and resourced by France, brought the Hanoverian Crown to the brink of disaster and was retrieved only when the Flanders regiments returned to Britain and defeated the highlanders at Culloden Moor. In , England had not fought a European war since the time of the Duke of Marlborough. In the intervening twenty years of peace, the army had been neglected by governments reluctant to spend money on the armed services. He was hampered by the refusal of the Dutch, Austrian and British commanders to co-operate in a plan of campaign. This led to the Battle of Fontenoy. Most of the British troops were withdrawn to combat the rebellion. Only in did the British troops return in numbers to the Flanders War. The pattern continued of the French under Saxe inexorably overrunning the province. The battles of Rocoux and Lauffeldt were fought and in peace came, although only as an interlude before the serious bludgeoning of the Seven Years War began in Britain used the return of Louisburg, captured by the New England colonists, as the bargaining counter to persuade the French to give up their conquests.

For the War of the Austrian Succession, the British were allied with Austria (although this was the last war in which they were allied with Austria; by the time of the Seven Years' War, they were allied with Prussia).

Austrian Succession, War of the 18th Europe, to On 20 October the death of the last male Habsburg , the Holy Roman emperor Charles VI ruled 1740 , precipitated a major European war for the succession both to his territories and to the elected position of emperor. The lands over which Charles had ruled consisted of the Austrian duchies, the kingdom of Bohemia including Silesia and Moravia , the kingdom of Hungary , the duchy of Milan, and the ten provinces of the southern Netherlands. Over the course of his reign he had sought political guarantees from the territorial princes of the empire and the other great powers that they would uphold the Pragmatic Sanction an edict he had first promulgated in 1713 and ensure that the succession to the Habsburg lands would pass to his daughter Maria Theresa b. The War of the Austrian Succession was precipitated in December by the invasion of Silesia by Frederick II "the Great" of Brandenburg- Prussia ruled 1740 , who had himself succeeded to his throne only six months earlier on the death of his father, Frederick William I ruled 1713 This was followed in June by the provisional peace of Breslau between Prussia and Maria Theresa, and the final expulsion of the French from Bohemia in December that year. From then on, the war took on wider European and even global dimensions, as Britain -Hanover and France, ostensibly still neutral, confronted each other in western Germany and at sea. In the French were almost completely forced out of the empire, and in March and April Louis XV ruled 1715 formalized hostilities by declaring war first on Great Britain and then on Austria. For the previous four years Britain and Spain had already been at war over trade with the Spanish American empire. In Europe, Spain, for its part, had been trying to divest Maria Theresa of Lombardy in northern Italy since 1701 , but faced the opposition of Charles Emmanuel III, king of Sardinia and ruler of Piedmont ruled 1701 , and warfare in northern Italy remained indecisive throughout the period up to 1706 In spite of renewed Prussian hostilities toward Austria, when Frederick II signed a full alliance with France in June, the campaigns in the Low Countries and the empire were also inconclusive. But the military tide had not by any means turned, for French arms were proving dangerously triumphant in the Netherlands. On 11 May Maurice de Saxe, marshal of France, defeated the combined Anglo-Austrian-Dutch army at Fontenoy, and went on to capture a string of fortresses in Flanders stretching nearly as far as Antwerp by the end of the year. They were not to return in force to the continent until well into the following year. Meanwhile, Prussia forced Austria to sign the treaty of Dresden in December 1745 , on broadly similar terms to that of Breslau three years earlier. Nevertheless, Austrian fortunes still showed few signs of improving. Warfare in the Caribbean had proved largely uneventful, while the British colonial authorities in Massachusetts back in June had succeeded with the help of the Royal Navy in capturing the French fortress of Louisbourg on Cape Breton Island , which Louis XV wanted back but could not regain by military and naval means. This was offset by the French capture of Madras from the British in September 1746 , the only notable action in India. But the price France paid for the return of Louisbourg and for Austrian concessions to the Spanish Bourbons was high: Louis XV returned to Austria all his conquests in the Netherlands, to the irritation of French public opinion. Aix-La-Chapelle was more of a truce than a definitive treaty, for even in Italy the creation of stability required another round of agreements in 1748 Further conflict was both likely and imminent. The War of the Austrian Succession , 1740-1748 The War of the Austrian Succession. New York , France and the Jacobite Rising of 1745 The Rise of the Great Powers, 1648-1763 Guy Rowlands Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography. Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World. Retrieved November 11, from Encyclopedia. Then, copy and paste the text into your bibliography or works cited list. Because each style has its own formatting nuances that evolve over time and not all information is available for every reference entry or article, Encyclopedia.

Chapter 7 : War of the Spanish Succession - Wikipedia

The War of the Spanish Succession () was a European conflict of the early 18th century, triggered by the death of the childless Charles II of Spain in November His closest heirs were members of the Austrian Habsburg and French Bourbon families; acquisition of an undivided Spanish Empire by either threatened the European balance.

The only recent war service of its army had been in the desultory Rhine campaign of - It therefore had a reputation as one of the minor armies of Europe, and few thought that it could rival the forces of Austria and France. While the Austrians had to wait for drafts to complete the field forces, Prussian regiments could take the field at once, and thus Frederick was able to overrun Silesia almost unopposed. His army massed quietly on the Oder , and without declaration of war, on 16 December , it crossed the frontier into Silesia. The Austrian generals could do no more than garrison a few fortresses , and with the small remnant of their available forces fell back to the mountain frontier of Bohemia and Moravia. The Prussian army was soon able to go into winter quarters, holding all Silesia and investing the strong places of Glogau , Brieg and Neisse. In effect, Prussia had doubled its population and made huge gains in its industrial productivity. The Austrians in Neisse and Brieg still held out. Glogau, however, was stormed on the night of 9 March , the Prussians, under Prince Leopold the younger of Anhalt-Dessau , executing their task in one hour with a mathematical precision which excited universal admiration. It was a work of the greatest difficulty to collect the army, for the ground was deep in snow, and before it was completed Neisse was relieved and the Prussians cut off from their own country by the march of Neipperg from Neisse on Brieg. A few days of slow manoeuvring between these places ended in the Battle of Mollwitz 10 April , the first pitched battle fought by Frederick and his army. The Prussian right wing of cavalry was speedily routed, but the day was retrieved by the magnificent discipline and tenacity of the infantry. The Austrian cavalry was shattered in repeated attempts to ride down the Prussians, and before the Prussian volleys the Austrian infantry, in spite of all that Neipperg and his officers could do, gradually melted away. After a stubborn contest the Prussians remained masters of the field. Frederick himself was far away. Schwerin thus, like Marshal Saxe at Fontenoy , remained behind to win the victory, and the king narrowly escaped being captured by wandering Austrian hussars. The immediate result of the battle was that the king secured Brieg, and Neipperg fell back to Neisse, where he maintained himself and engaged in a war of manoeuvre during the summer. Thenceforward the "Silesian adventure" became the War of the Austrian Succession. Saxony was already watched by a Prussian army under Prince Leopold of Anhalt-Dessau , the "old Dessauer", who had trained the Prussian army to its present perfection. The task of Sweden was to prevent Russia from attacking Prussia, but her troops were defeated, on 3 September , at Villmanstrand by a greatly superior Russian army, and in another great reverse was sustained in the capitulation of Helsingfors in Finland. In central Italy an army of Neapolitans and Spaniards was collected for the conquest of the Milanese. A French corps moved via Amberg and Pilsen. The Elector marched on Budweis , and the Saxons who had now joined the allies invaded Bohemia by the Elbe valley. The French in the meantime had stormed Prague on 26 November , the Grand-Duke Francis , consort of Maria Theresa, who commanded the Austrians in Bohemia, moving too slowly to save the fortress. The Elector of Bavaria, who now styled himself Archduke of Austria , was crowned King of Bohemia 9 December and elected to the imperial throne as Charles VII 24 January , but no active measures were undertaken. In Bohemia the month of December was occupied in mere skirmishes. In Italy the allied Neapolitans and Spaniards had advanced towards Modena , the duke of which state had allied himself with them, but the vigilant Austrian commander, Count Traun had out-marched them, captured Modena, and forced the duke to make a separate peace. Frederick had not rested on his laurels. In the uneventful summer campaign of he had found time to begin that reorganization of his cavalry which was before long to make it even more efficient than his infantry. In December , therefore, Schwerin had crossed the border and captured Olomouc. Glatz also was invested , and the Prussian army was concentrated about Olomouc in January A combined plan of operations was made by the French, Saxons and Prussians for the rescue of Linz. But Linz soon fell. Brno was invested about the same time February , but the direction of the march was changed, and instead of moving against Prince Charles, Frederick pushed on southwards by

Znojmo and Mikulov. The extreme outposts of the Prussians appeared before Vienna. No defence of Olomouc was attempted, and the small Prussian corps remaining in Moravia fell back towards Upper Silesia. Prince Charles, in pursuit of the king, marched by Jihlava and Teutsch Deutsch Brod on Kutna Hora, and on 17 May was fought the battle of Chotusice or Caslav, in which after a severe struggle the king was victorious. His cavalry on this occasion retrieved its previous failure, and its conduct gave an earnest of its future glory not only by its charges on the battlefield, but by its vigorous pursuit of the defeated Austrians. Almost at the same time Broglie fell upon a part of the Austrians left on the Vltava and won a small, but morally and politically important, success in the action of Sahay, near Budweis 24 May. Frederick did not propose another combined movement. His victory and that of Broglie disposed Maria Theresa to cede Silesia in order to make good her position elsewhere, and the separate peace between Prussia and Austria, signed at Breslau on 11 June, closed the First Silesian War. The War of the Austrian Succession continued. The prince pushed back the French posts everywhere, and his army converged upon Prague, where, towards the end of June, the French were to all intents and purposes surrounded. Broglie had made the best resistance possible with his inferior forces, and still displayed great activity, but his position was one of great peril. The French government realized at last that it had given its general inadequate forces. The French army on the lower Rhine, hitherto in observation of Hanover and other possibly hostile states, was hurried into Franconia. Marshal Maillebois, the French commander, then manoeuvred from Amberg towards the Eger valley, to make contact with Broglie. Maillebois, on the contrary, conceived that his work was simply to disengage the army of Broglie from its dangerous position, and to cover its retreat. His operations were no more than a demonstration, and had so little effect that Broglie was sent for in haste to take over the command from him, Belle-Isle at the same time taking over charge of the army at Prague. This, under Prince Lobkowitz, was little superior in numbers or quality to the troops under Belle-Isle, under whom served Saxe and the best of the younger French generals, but its light cavalry swept the country clear of provisions. The French were quickly on the verge of starvation, winter had come, and the marshal resolved to retreat. On the night of 16 December, the army left Prague to be defended by a small garrison under de Chevert, and took the route of Eger. The retreat December was accounted a triumph of generalship, but the weather made it painful and costly. The brave Chevert displayed such confidence that the Austrians were glad to allow him freedom to join the main army. In Italy, Traun held his own with ease against the Spaniards and Neapolitans. Naples was forced by a British squadron to withdraw her troops for home defence, and Spain, now too weak to advance in the Po valley, sent a second army to Italy via France. The French and Bavarian armies were not working well together, and Broglie and Seckendorf had actually quarrelled. The Bavarians suffered a severe reverse near Braunau 9 May, and now an Anglo-allied army commanded by King George II, which had been formed on the lower Rhine on the withdrawal of Maillebois, was advancing southward to the Main and Neckar country. A French army, under Marshal Noailles, was being collected on the middle Rhine to deal with this new force. But Broglie was now in full retreat, and the strong places of Bavaria surrendered one after the other to Prince Charles. The French and Bavarians had been driven almost to the Rhine when Noailles and the king came to battle. George, completely outmanoeuvred by his veteran antagonist, was in a position of the greatest danger between Aschaffenburg and Hanau in the defile formed by the Spessart Hills and the river Main. Noailles blocked the outlet and had posts all around, but the allied troops forced their way through and inflicted heavy losses on the French, and the Battle of Dettingen is justly reckoned as a notable victory of British arms June. Both Broglie, who, worn out by age and exertions, was soon replaced by Marshal Coigny, and Noailles were now on the strict defensive behind the Rhine. Not a single French soldier remained in Germany, and Prince Charles prepared to force the passage of the great river in the Breisgau while the king of Britain moved forward via Mainz to co-operate by drawing upon himself the attention of both the French marshals. The Anglo-allied army took Worms, but after several unsuccessful attempts to cross, Prince Charles went into winter quarters. The king followed his example, drawing in his troops to the northward, to deal, if necessary, with the army which the French were collecting on the frontier of the Southern Netherlands. Austria, Britain, Holland and Sardinia were now allied. Frederick was still quiescent. France, Spain and Bavaria alone actively continued the struggle against Maria Theresa. In Italy, the Spaniards on the Panaro had achieved a Pyrrhic victory over Traun at Campo Santo 8

February , but the next six months were wasted in inaction, and Lobkowitz, joining Traun with reinforcements from Germany, drove back the enemy to Rimini. The Spanish- Piedmontese war in the Alps continued without much result, the only incident of note being a combat at Casteldelfino won by the King of Sardinia in person. Frederick of Prussia, disquieted by the universal success of the Austrian cause, secretly concluded a fresh alliance with Louis XV of France. France had posed hitherto as an auxiliary, her officers in Germany had worn the Bavarian cockade , and only with Britain was she officially at war. She now declared war direct upon Austria and Sardinia April This plan was, however, at once dislocated by the advance of Charles, who, assisted by the veteran Traun, skilfully manoeuvred his army over the Rhine near Philippsburg July 1 , captured the lines of Weissenburg , and cut off the French marshal from Alsace. Coigny, however, cut his way through the enemy at Weissenburg and posted himself near Strasbourg. Louis XV now abandoned the invasion of the Southern Netherlands , and his army moved down to take a decisive part in the war in Alsace and Lorraine. At the same time Frederick crossed the Austrian frontier August. The attention and resources of Austria were fully occupied, and the Prussians were almost unopposed. One column passed through Saxony, another through Lusatia , while a third advanced from Silesia. Prague, the objective, was reached on 2 September. Six days later the Austrian garrison was compelled to surrender, and the Prussians advanced to Budweis. Maria Theresa once again rose to the emergency, a new "insurrection" took the field in Hungary, and a corps of regulars was assembled to cover Vienna, while the diplomats won over Saxony to the Austrian side. Prince Charles withdrew from Alsace, unmolested by the French, who had been thrown into confusion by the sudden and dangerous illness of Louis XV at Metz. Only Seckendorf with the Bavarians pursued him. No move was made by the French, and Frederick thus found himself after all isolated and exposed to the combined attack of the Austrians and Saxons. Marshal Traun, summoned from the Rhine, held the king in check in Bohemia, the Hungarian irregulars inflicted numerous minor reverses on the Prussians, and finally Prince Charles arrived with the main army. The campaign resembled that of Prague fell, and Frederick, completely outmanoeuvred by the united forces of Prince Charles and Traun, regained Silesia with heavy losses. At the same time, the Austrians gained no foothold in Silesia itself. On the Rhine, Louis XV, now recovered, had besieged and taken Freiburg , after which the forces left in the north were reinforced and besieged the strong places of Southern Netherlands. There was also a slight war of manoeuvre on the middle Rhine. In the Italian war became for the first time serious. A grandiose plan of campaign was formed, and as usual the French and Spanish generals at the front were hampered by the orders of their respective governments. The adhesion of Genoa was secured, and a road thereby obtained into central Italy. But Lobkowitz had already taken the offensive and driven back the Spanish army of the Count de Gages towards the Neapolitan frontier. The King of Naples at this juncture was compelled to assist the Spaniards at all hazards. A combined army was formed at Velletri , and defeated Lobkowitz there on 11 August.

The great issue dominating Austria in the years after the War of the Spanish Succession is again a problem of succession - this time relating to the remaining Habsburg territories, ruled from Vienna. The emperor Charles VI has a son, born in , but the child dies before the year is out. A.

Check new design of our homepage! War of Austrian Succession: Everything You Ever Needed to Know To understand the war of Austrian succession, it is essential that we first understand the background and causes of the war. The war, in itself consisted of countless battles, has a substantial timeline, that altered the political scene of Imperial Europe substantially. To know more, read on. Historyplex Staff Last Updated: Jul 22, A common feature of all the wars fought in the Imperial era was that the European monarchies had several colonies and interests in almost all the parts of the world, plus there was also certain monarchical houses and families with varied interests in the belligerents. Basically, the entire war of Austrian succession involved all of Imperial Europe and their respective colonies, which saw action at some or the other point of time. Some would however dispute the exact cause. Causes and Background The house of Habsburg had been ruling substantial portions of Europe for several centuries, including, Austria, Hungary, Spain and several other smaller regions. By the means of Pragmatic Sanction of , King Charles VI had of course, taken measures prior to his death in order to ensure that his daughter would be able to ascend the throne without hindrance. The Pragmatic Sanction of , which was a formal request and agreement was accepted and signed by several people, German Kings, nobles, Lords, members of royalty and many other people who were affected by the title of Holy Roman Emperor. Though the sanction was successfully seen through, the big problem that persisted was that, no lady had been a Holy Roman Empress. In , using some pretext and interpretation, from a prior treaty of Brieg , the ambitious King Frederick II of neighboring Prussia invaded the Austrian area of Silesia, which triggered off the actual action. As one action has a reaction, the remaining European powers stepped in with the belligerents of Spain, France, Bavaria, Saxony, Naples and Sicily and Sweden siding with Prussia. There were claims to the throne, allied treaties and colonies and even self-interests which dragged almost half of the world directly or indirectly, into the war. A Summary The timeline of the war is divided into 7 major campaigns and several minor campaigns, continental battles and skirmishes in colonies. Here is a quick summary of what actually happened: Citing an interpretation in the Treaty of Brieg, Frederick invaded Austria and the Prussian armies quickly crossed the Oder river in the December of The small Austrian resistance was pushed back to Bohemia and Moravia, while Prussia established strong holds and bases at Glogau, Brieg and Neisse. In , the Prussians backed by Bavarian Elector forces advanced further into Austria, via the Danube. The invaders further got the support of French forces, which moved to Amberg and Pilsen. The elector marched towards, Budweis whereas the Saxons invaded Bohemia. In addition to that, the Austrians also got the support of Hungary. The liberating campaign went smoothly, and Munich was won on 24 January This year was quite uneven and the Austrians lost several territories that had been won in to the Prussian Field Marshal Kurt Christoph Graf von Schwerin, who reached Vienna, the Austrian capital. Prince Charles Alexander of Lorraine, an Austrian leader, started diversionary and screen troop-tactics at Budweis and Jihlava against Frederick. Following the withdrawal his allies, the Saxons, Frederick started a withdrawal. The Armies of Prince Charles and Fredrick met at standoff at the Battle of Chotusitz in Bohemia, which was one of the bloodiest battles in the entire war. The Austrian objective of the battle was to retake Prague which remained unaccomplished. George II of Great Britain entered the Anglo-Austrian-Hanovarian alliance and another victorious yet reckless standoff took place at the Battle of Dettingen, where the Anglo-Austrian-Hanovarian forces pushed the invaders further west. Prince Charles started marching towards Breisgau and King George II marched towards Mainz and Worms, both armies were marching westwards, to reclaim the invaded lands. The repelling march threatened the Dutch of Southern Netherlands who joined the British and Austrians. Saxony changed its alliance and Sardinia also stepped into the Austrian support. Spain on the other hand supported the Prussians and French. The Prussian side which had broken into a considerable sweat, planned to invade England via Dunkirk, the attempt was however unimplemented due to storms. The

same pattern that was seen at the start of the war then took place. However at Metz, Louis XV of France fell violently ill and the entire French army was routed under confusion, making it almost dysfunctional. Frederick sat on the hot seat, as the Prussians were constantly pricked by Hungarians. Meanwhile Prince Charles arrived at the western front with an enormous army and once again Prague was won pushing the Prussians backwards and westwards. The year was the time of 3 mammoth battles. Battle of Hohenfriedberg, took place on 4 June , where Fredrick defeated the Austrians and Saxons under the command of Prince Charles who was marching westwards. The third battle was fought in present day Belgian territory, was lost to the French, and the Netherlands was lost. Three victories again prompted Fredrick to launch another invasion into Austria. A very wired format was seen, wherein, Prince Charles was defeated two times at different skirmishes and two armies of Prussia routed the Austrian and Saxon armies at the western front. Maria Theresa, to avoid the constant bloodshed, agreed to treaty. Next, France withdrew from the conquered Dutch territory, against the handing over of Cape Breton Island which had been lost during the war. Maria Theresa who had the rights to Duchy of Parma, Piacenza and Guastalla handed over the same to Spain to stop them from supporting the Prussian alliance. Duchy of Modena and the Republic of Genoa, which had been conquered by Austria were declared to be independent. Asiento contract and Treaty of Madrid between Spain and Britain were settled by monetary reparations. There were several other smaller battles fought in Europe, America and India. The outcome of the War of Austrian succession was however, disastrous as Austria and Netherlands, lost substantial territory. After several centuries of dominance in Europe, the Habsburg dynasty was finally weakened.

The War of the Austrian Succession, which took place from to , is a perfect example of this. Although the original conflict was over who would take the Austrian throne, the fight that.

First Silesian War Prussia in was a small but well-organised emerging international power whose new, well-educated king, Frederick II wanted to unify the disparate and scattered crown holdings by gathering intervening lands into a unified, contiguous state. Prince Frederick had been only 28 years of age on 31 May when his father, Frederick William I died and Prince Frederick ascended to the throne. Although the Salic Law prevented succession through the female line, during his lifetime Emperor Charles VI obtained consent from several of the individual German states that were a part of the Holy Roman Empire for his Pragmatic Sanction of which circumvented the Salic Law to allow his daughter to succeed to the throne. Nobody in the court of the Holy Roman Empire trusted the motives of the new rising power of Prussia and, therefore, the Holy Roman Emperor did not call on the Prussians, who were vassals of the Holy Roman Empire, for military support of the Empire. Accordingly, the Prussian Army had an uninspiring reputation and was counted as one of the many minor armies of the Holy Roman Empire. By comparison, the Austrian Empire had 16 million citizens but had an army only half its authorised size because of financial restraints. Thus, in defending the vast territory of the Austrian Empire this small army was more of "a sieve" [13] than a shield against foreign invasion. Moreover, the Prussian army was better trained than other armies in Europe. Furthermore, while the Austrians had to wait for conscription to complete the field forces, Prussian regiments took the field at once. With this army it might not have been surprising that Frederick was able to overrun Silesia. However, Frederick sought even more advantages in the war he was planning. Accordingly, he had his Foreign Minister-- Heinrich von Podewils --secretly negotiate a treaty with France to put Austria in a two front war. In this way, Prussia could attack the Austrians in the east while France would attack Austria from the west. A treaty with France was signed in April The Prussians were able to capture the fortress at Ohlau almost immediately and use it as winter quarters. In one step, Prussia had effectively doubled its population and made huge gains in its industrial productivity and resource base. Nationalism as we know it today was not a factor, but an evolving concept just coming into its early years. Prussia benefited greatly from the apolitical nature of the society of the era, as the masses in central Germany would correspondingly suffer as the contending armies rampaged through their plains yet again. A French corps moved via Amberg and Pilsen. The Elector marched on Budweis , and the Saxons who had now joined the allies against Austria [22] invaded Bohemia by the Elbe valley. With fewer Austrian troops in Silesia Frederick now had an easier time. The remaining fortresses in Silesia were taken by the Prussians. The French in the meantime had stormed Prague on 26 November , Francis Stephen , husband of Maria Theresa, who commanded the Austrians in Bohemia, moving too slowly to save the fortress. The Elector of Bavaria, who now styled himself Archduke of Austria , was crowned King of Bohemia 9 December and elected to the imperial throne as Charles VII 24 January , but no active measures were undertaken. In Bohemia the month of December was occupied in mere skirmishes. Frederick made a secret truce with Austria and thus, lay inactive in Silesia. Campaigns of Prince Charles Alexander of Lorraine. Frederick had hoped by the truce to secure Silesia, for which alone he was fighting. Frederick had not rested on his laurels. In the uneventful summer campaign of he had found time to begin the reorganisation of his cavalry. Before long the cavalry would be more efficient than the Prussian infantry. In December , therefore, the Prussian general field marshal Kurt Christoph Graf von Schwerin crossed the border and captured Olmutz. Glatz also was invested , and the Prussian army was concentrated about Olomouc in January A combined plan of operations was made by the French, Saxons and Prussians for the rescue of Linz. But Linz soon fell. Brno was invested about the same time February , but the direction of the march was changed, and instead of moving against Prince Charles, Frederick pushed on southwards by Znojmo and Mikulov. The extreme outposts of the Prussians appeared before Vienna. No defence of Olomouc was attempted, and the small Prussian corps remaining in Moravia fell back towards Upper Silesia. On 17 May Frederick turned around and faced the Austrian forces that were pursuing him. After a severe struggle

Frederick won a major Prussian victory. Frederick did not propose another combined movement. The French and Bavarian armies were not working well together, and Field Marshal Broglie had been placed in command of the allied army in Bavaria. Broglie openly quarrelled with the Bavarian field marshal Friedrich Heinrich von Seckendorff. The Bavarians, under the command of Count Minuzzi, suffered a severe reverse at the town of Simbach near Braunau on 9 May at the hands of Prince Charles. This English army became known as the "Pragmatic Army. A French army, under Marshal Noailles , was being collected on the middle Rhine to deal with this new force. Strong places of Bavaria were surrendered one after the other to Prince Charles. Neither Austria nor the English knew how to exploit their victory at Dettingen. The French and Bavarian army, had been completely outmaneuvered and was in a position of the greatest danger between Aschaffenburg and Hanau in the defile formed by the Spessart Hills and the river Main. Yet the English Pragmatic Army did not quickly follow up the attack. Thus, Marshal Noailles had time to block the outlet and had posts all around. At this point, the allied troops had to force their way through the French and Bavarian lines. Still, because of the heavy losses inflicted on the French, the Battle of Dettingen and the follow up is justly reckoned as a notable victory of Anglo-Austrian-Hanoverian arms. The coalition against Frederick was suddenly weakened when the St. Petersburg court discovered a plot to overthrow Tsarina Elisabeth and bring back the child Ivan VI as Tsar with his mother, Grand Duchess Anna Leopoldovna serving as regent for the child. Indeed the plot became known as the "Botta Conspiracy. Not a single French soldier remained in Germany, and Prince Charles prepared to force the passage of the Rhine river in the Breisgau while the George II, King of Britain, moved forward via Mainz to co-operate by drawing upon himself the attention of both the French marshals. The Anglo-allied army took Worms, but after several unsuccessful attempts to cross the Rhine river, Prince Charles went into winter quarters. The king followed his example, drawing his troops to the north, to deal, if necessary, with the army which the French were collecting on the frontier of the Southern Netherlands. Austria, Britain, the Dutch Republic and Sardinia were now allied. Saxony changed sides and the entry of Sweden had offset the loss of Russia to the allies. Frederick was still quiescent. France, Spain and Bavaria actively continued the struggle against Maria Theresa. While the Battle of Dettingen and Russian Botta plot were capturing all the attention during the summer of , negotiations between the British, the Austrians and Piedmont-Sardinians were proceeding quietly in the city of Worms. Thus, the Austrians sought a separate peace with Piedmont-Sardinia in Italy. Under the terms of the Treaty of Worms , which was signed on 13 September , the Austrian Hapsburgs surrendered to Piedmont-Sardinia all territory in Italy which was located west of the Ticino River and Lake Maggiore.