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Macmillan History of Europe

Eighteenth-Century Europe

Jeremy Black

Second Edition

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First edition 1990

Second edition 1999

MACMILLAN PRESS LTD

Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 6XS
and London

Companies and representatives
throughout the world

ISBN 978-0-333-77335-2 ISBN 978-1-349-27768-1 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-27768-1

A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library.

This book is printed on paper suitable for recycling and
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10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
08	07	06	05	04	03	02	01	00	99

Published in the United States of America by
ST. MARTIN'S PRESS, INC.,
Scholarly and Reference Division
175 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010

ISBN 978-0-312-22539-1 (paper)

To Robert Baldock
a friend whose wise counsel
I appreciate as greatly as
I enjoy his company

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Chronology

International relations

- 1698, 1700 First and Second Partition Treaties divide Spanish empire between claimants
- 1700 Outbreak of Great Northern War. Charles II of Spain dies
- 1701 Hostilities begin in War of the Spanish Succession. England enters war in 1702
- 1704 Battle of Blenheim
- 1709 Battle of Poltava
- 1711 Pruth campaign
- 1713 Peace of Utrecht } end War of the
- 1714 Peace of Rastadt } Spanish Succession
- 1716–18 Austro-Turkish War
- 1717 Spain conquers Sardinia
- 1718 Spain attacks Sicily. Start of conflict between Spain, and Britain and France (ends 1720)
- 1721 Treaty of Nystad: end of Great Northern War
- 1725 Treaties of Vienna (Austria, Spain) and Hanover (Britain, France, Prussia)
- 1731 Second Treaty of Vienna: Anglo-Austrian alliance
- 1733–5 War of the Polish Succession
- 1735 Outbreak of Russo-Turkish hostilities
- 1737 Austria joins Russia
- 1739 Treaty of Belgrade: end of Balkan war
- 1739–48 Anglo-Spanish conflict: War of Jenkins' Ear
- 1740 Prussia invades Silesia: start of War of the Austrian Succession
- 1741–3 Russo-Swedish War
- 1748 Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle ends War of the Austrian Succession
- 1754 Anglo-French hostilities begin in North America
- 1755 Outbreak of undeclared Anglo-French war: formal hostilities in 1756
- 1756 Anglo-Prussian Treaty of Westminster. Austro-French Treaty of Versailles. Frederick II invades Saxony. Outbreak of Seven Years War

1759	Britain's year of victories. Fall of Québec
1761	Third Family Compact: France–Spain. First two in 1733 and 1743
1763	Peace of Paris and Treaty of Hubertusburg end Seven Years War
1768	Outbreak of Russo-Turkish war. France purchases Corsica
1772	First partition of Poland
1774	Treaty of Kutchuk-Kainardji: ends Russo-Turkish war
1776	American Declaration of Independence
1778–9	War of Bavarian Succession
1778	France enters War of American Independence
1781	Austro-Russian alliance against Ottoman Empire
1783	Russia seizes Crimea. Treaty of Versailles ends American war
1786	Anglo-French commercial treaty
1787	Turks attack Russia. Prussians intervene in the United Provinces
1788	Gustavus III of Sweden attacks Russia
1790	End of Austro-Turkish and Russo-Swedish hostilities. Anglo-Spanish Nootka Sound Crisis
1791	Ochakov Crisis between Britain and Russia
1792	Treaty of Jassy ends Russo-Turkish conflict. Outbreak of the French Revolutionary war
1793	Britain joins Revolutionary war. Second Partition of Poland
1795	Third Partition of Poland

Britain

1701	Act of Settlement establishes terms of Hanoverian succession
1707	Union of England and Scotland
1714	Whigs replace Tories following accession of George I
1715–16	Jacobite rising
1716	Septennial Act: elections only necessary every 7 years
1720	South Sea Bubble bursts
1721	Walpole becomes chief minister
1733	Excise Crisis
1742	Walpole falls after 1741 elections
1745–6	Jacobite rising
1754	Death of Henry Pelham inaugurates period of ministerial instability

1757–61	Pitt–Newcastle ministry
1770–82	Lord North chief minister
1781	Surrender of army at Yorktown
1783	William Pitt the Younger becomes chief minister
1788–9	Regency crisis

France

1713	Bull <i>Unigenitus</i> condemns alleged Jansenist doctrines
1715	Accession of Louis XV. Orléans regent until 1723
1720	Collapse of Law's financial schemes
1726–43	Cardinal Fleury chief minister
1749	New tax, the <i>Vingtième</i> , imposed
1751	First volume of <i>Encyclopédie</i> appears
1758–70	Duc de Choiseul chief minister
1764	Expulsion of the Jesuits
1771	The 'Maupeou Revolution': reorganisation of the <i>parlements</i>
1774	Accession of Louis XVI, fall of Maupeou, recall of <i>parlements</i>
1774–6	Turgot controller-general of finances
1787	Assembly of Notables meets. Calonne replaced by Brienne
1788	Assembly of Notables fails. Estates General summoned. Brienne replaced by Necker
1789	Estates General meets. Fall of the Bastille. Estates General becomes National Assembly. Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen
1791	Flight to Varennes. New constitution
1792	Monarchy abolished
1793	Louis XVI executed

Habsburg Territories

1703–11	Rakoczi rising in Hungary
1711	Hungary revolt ended by Peace of Szatmár
1713	Pragmatic Sanction issued
1753–93	Kaunitz chancellor
1781	Religious liberty granted to non-Catholic Christians
1782	Pius VI visits Vienna

Prussia

1722	General Directory established
1740	Frederick II accedes and invades Silesia
1744	Acquisition of East Friesland
1766	New excise introduced

Russia

1700	Battle of Narva: Peter I defeated by Sweden
1703	Building of St Petersburg begun
1708	Revolt of Ukraine
1710–11	Conquest of Baltic provinces
1711	Creation of the Senate
1718	Murder of Tsarevich Alexis. Creation of administrative colleges (ministries) begun
1722	Table of Ranks issued
1730	Leading nobles fail to impose restrictions on Anna
1741	Coup by Elizabeth
1762	Accession, deposition and murder of Peter III. Abolition of compulsory state service for the nobility
1767	Legislative Commission meets
1773–5	Pugachev serf rising
1775	Reform of provincial administration
1785	Charters to the nobility and the towns issued

Other States

1720	New written constitution greatly reduces power of Swedish monarchy
1747	Orangist revolution in the United Provinces
1750–77	Pombal chief minister in Portugal
1759	Jesuits expelled from Portugal
1759–76	Tanucci chief minister in Naples
1765–90	Grand Duke Leopold ruler of Tuscany
1770–2	Struensee reforms in Denmark
1773	Dissolution of the Jesuit Order
1786	Synod at Pistoia

Rulers of the Major States

Austrian Dominions: Habsburgs

Leopold I	1657–1705
Joseph I	1705–1711
Charles VI	1711–1740
Maria Theresa	1740–1780
(Joseph II co-regent	1765–1780)
Joseph II	1780–1790
Leopold II	1790–1792

France: Bourbon dynasty

Louis XIV	1643–1715
Louis XV	1715–1774
(Regency of duke of Orléans	1715–1723)
Louis XVI	1774–1793

Great Britain

William III	1689–1702
Anne	1702–1714
George I	1714–1727
George II	1727–1760
George III	1760–1820

} Hanoverian dynasty

Prussia: Hohenzollerns

Frederick I	1688–1713
Frederick William I	1713–1740
Frederick II ‘the Great’	1740–1786
Frederick William II	1786–1797

Russia: Romanovs

Peter I 'the Great'	1682–1725
Catherine I	1725–1727
Peter II	1727–1730
Anna	1730–1740
Ivan VI	1740–1741
Elizabeth	1741–1762
Peter III	1762
Catherine II 'the Great'	1762–1796

Spain: Bourbons

Philip V	1700–1746
Ferdinand VI	1746–1759
Charles III	1759–1788
Charles IV	1788–1808

Sweden: Vasa

Charles XII	1697–1718
Ulrika Eleonora	1718–1720
Frederick I	1720–1751
Adolphus-Frederick	1751–1771
Gustavus III	1771–1792

United Provinces (Dutch Republic): stadtholders

William III	1672–1702
No stadtholders in major provinces	1702–1747
William IV	1747–1751
William V	1751–1795

Popes

Innocent XII	1691–1700
Clement XI	1700–1721
Innocent XIII	1721–1724
Benedict XIII	1724–1730
Clement XII	1730–1740

Benedict XIV	1740–1758
Clement XIII	1758–1769
Clement XIV	1769–1774
Pius VI	1775–1799
Pius VII	1800–1823

Frederick II of Prussia is referred to in the text as Frederick the Great to distinguish him from Frederick II of Hesse-Cassel.

Preface to the Second Edition

'Not enough on Rousseau. Too much on Russia.' 'Too much on Russia. Not enough on Rousseau.' If it is impossible to write a general work that will satisfy all, that has become even more the case as the scholarly agenda has widened. It is no longer acceptable to offer simply what one scholar unfairly reviewing an earlier general work on this period referred to as 'comfortable old chums like "The Rise of Great Britain", "The Decline of the Dutch Republic" and "The Emergence of Prussia"'. The selection of material entails the risk of bias. How is the teleological challenge posed by the French and industrial revolutions to be faced? Is what happened in Prussia more important than developments in Piedmont? As there are no obvious criteria by which such questions can be answered those interested in this period can benefit from the varied approaches of different scholars. This book is thematic rather than chronological or national in its organisation. For those who prefer the latter approaches there are a number of excellent surveys available.

I owe thanks to a number of institutions and individuals. By asking me to produce an expanded edition of this book Jonathan Reeve provided me with the opportunity of undertaking a very interesting project. Two chapters are entirely new and all the others have been extensively revised. My research was helped by those institutions which, in supporting foreign archival work, gave me the opportunity to work in libraries after the archives were shut. Furthermore, the book benefits from my work in Austrian, British, Dutch, French, German and Italian archives since 1978. The use of original examples enlivens this study and, more significantly, a grounding in eighteenth-century archival sources has provided a grasp of the uncertainties and compromises of the period. This contributes to a feature of this book, an emphasis on the difficulty of offering sweeping explanations. Instead, there is a stress on the contrasts of the age, the variety of developments and the complexity of analysis. In place of traditional preconceptions and easy explanatory antitheses, such as despotism and revolution, *ancien régime* and new order, privilege and protest, tradition and progress, stability and strife, liberty and order,

authoritarianism and affection, high and low culture, there is a concern with detail in order both to show the vivid concreteness of the age and to suggest interaction as well as tensions within the eighteenth-century world. There is also a stress on the protean, adaptable character of the old order.

Wendy Duery provided crucial secretarial support. Matthew Anderson, Nigel Aston, Edward Corp, Malcolm Crook, Bill Gibson, Sheridan Gilley, Jan Glete, Nick Henshall, Murray Pittock, David Sturdy and Peter Wilson helpfully discussed aspects of the new edition, which was written in the summer of 1998. The preface to the last edition closed: 'The book was begun in 1983, two homes ago. I thank Sarah for everything.' Now, it should read three homes. The thanks are the same.

JEREMY BLACK

Map 1 Europe 1700

Map 2 The Habsburg Empire

Map 3 Italy 1713-48

Map 4 France in 1789