Eighteenth Century Dynastic Rivalries and Politics

Politics
- 18th century state system characterized by many kinds of rivalries
  - Global Rivalries
    - Territorial
    - Expand Borders
  - Commercial Rivalries
    - Trade
    - Desire for goods increased
      - New World and China
      - Colonial Rivalries
    - English
      - British East India Company Expanded
        - Territorial reach
        - Military power
          - Ran the government in India
        - Commodities
          - Slaves
          - Opium
          - Manufactures
          - Tea
    - Spanish
      - Still largest empire
        - Caribbean
        - Philippines
        - Most of South America
  - Dutch
    - Global Empire
      - South America
      - West and South Africa
        - Cape Colony
      - India
      - Japan
      - Philippines
      - Indonesia
  - French
    - New France
      - St. Lawrence and Mississippi Rivers
      - Scattered military and trading posts
      - Small percentage of population
        - Different from British Settlements
- Rivalries
  - British and French
    - N. America, W. Indies, India, Europe
  - British and Spain
    - Disputes over trading rights
  - Dynastic Rivalries
    - Challenges to ruling families
      - England
      - Austria
**England**

- George I
  - 1714-1727
  - First of the line of Hanover
  - Rarely went to England
    - Spent most of his time in Germany
    - depended on Robert Walpole
      - First Prime Minister
  - The Fifteen (1715)
    - Uprising in support of James III
      - Jacobites – the pretenders
    - Started in Scotland
    - Quickly put down

- George II
  - More sensitive to England
    - Still very German
    - Not very personable; boring
  - The Forty-Five (1745)
    - Another Stuart rebellion
    - In support of Charles
      - Son of James III
      - “Bonnie Prince Charlie”
        - “The Pretender”
    - Began in Scotland
      - Invaded England
      - Battle of Culloden Moor 1746
      - Bonnie Prince Charlie fled back to France

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

**Austria**

- Charles VI
  - 1711-1740
  - Hapsburg
  - Emperor of Austria and Holy Roman Empire
  - Goal: to keep Hapsburg lands together
    - Upset by loss of Spain in War of Spanish Succession
    - Feared growth of Prussia
  - No Son
    - Pragmatic Sanction
      - 1713
      - Hapsburg lands indivisible
      - Recognized right of female successor
- Maria Theresa
  - 1740-1780
  - Empress of Austria
    - Not Holy Roman Empire
  - Inherited weak nation
    - No Money
    - No Army
    - No Bureaucracy
    - Bad Advisors
  - Mildly enlightened
  - France and Prussia
    - Threat to Maria Theresa
      - Despite Pragmatic Sanction
    - Main threat is Frederick the Great of Prussia

Poland
- Characteristics
  - Large
    - Bordered by Ottoman Empire, Russia, Austria
  - Heterogeneous Population
    - Poles, Russians, Jews, Austrians, Slavs
  - Social Classes
    - 8% were aristocrats
      - Aristocrats were very suspicious, and stronger than the king
      - Poor peasants
        - Serfdom
    - No Middle class
  - No major trade

- Government
  - Monarchy
    - Elected by the nobles
    - Very weak
    - France and Russia had strong influence
  - Lack of centralization
  - Exploding the Diet
    - Liberum Veto (free vote)
      - If only one vetoed, then the whole diet was dismissed and reorganized
  - Power vacuum
    - Had no power, and all other countries were being sucked in

- Three Partitions of Poland
  - 1772
    - Austria, Russia, Prussia
    - Prussia united some of its land
  - 1793
    - Russia, Prussia
  - 1795
    - Russia, Prussia, Austria
  - Easy to partition since king had no power
  - The nobles invited to come in
Great Wars of the 18th Century
- Fought to maintain balance of power
  - War of Austrian Succession
    - Civil struggle within the Holy Roman Empire
    - Conflict between Hapsburgs and Bourbons
  - 7 Years War

War of Austrian Succession
- Frederic the Great invades Silesia
  - Wealthiest Hapsburg province
  - Broke Pragmatic Sanction
- Alliances
  - Britain, Austria, Russia, Spain, Netherlands
  - France, Prussia
- Battle of Fontenot
  - Most important battle
- Battle of Louisburg
  - British defeated the French
  - Tilted the balance
- Peace of Aix-La-Chapelle
  - 1748
  - Prussia kept Silesia
  - Everything goes back to status quo
- Long-term results
  - Weakness of French position revealed
  - Austrians bitter but satisfied
  - German Dualism
    - Two major German states
7 Years War
- Diplomatic Reversal
  o 1756
  o Same countries switch sides
    ▪ Austria, France, Russia
    ▪ Prussia, Britain
- Fighting on three continents
  o Europe
  o North America
    ▪ Canada and Caribbean
  o Asia
    ▪ India
- War in India
  o British East India Company vs. France East India Company
  o Robert Clive
    ▪ Led British troops and Indian mercenaries to Bengal
    ▪ Black Hole of Calcutta
      • French locked British troops in a cave and let them die
    ▪ British win in India
- War in Canada
  o French and Indian War
    ▪ British advantages
      • Permanent population and navy
      • Indian allies
    ▪ French advantages
      • Indian allies
    ▪ British won
- Treaty of Paris and Peace of Hubertusburg
  o 1763
  o Prussia kept Silesia
  o Austria kept Austrian Netherlands
  o Saxony remained independent
  o British got India, Canada, and all territories east of Mississippi
  o Spanish got all French territories west of Mississippi

18th Century Warfare
- Part of Aristocratic culture
  o Took war very lightly
  o Romantic view
  o Gentleman’s game
- Officers had more in common with enemy officers than own men
  o Sometimes the officers were foreigners to the men
    ▪ Ex. Hapsburgs
- Conscription
  o Misfit soldiers
    ▪ Forced to serve against their will
    ▪ Long term enlistments
    ▪ Desertion widespread and common
  o Economically useless
    ▪ Productive people more useful at home
- Mercenary Soldiers
  - Wages
  - Highly Trained
  - Barracks
  - Bright uniforms

- Style
  - Weapons not very destructive
    - Or accurate
  - Infantry predominant
  - Generals hesitated to risk troops
  - Little national feeling
  - Wars were between governments and not people
    - Governments went to war lightly and withdrew readily
  - Civilians affected very little
    - Except in India and America
  - Brutal discipline and training
  - Large Standing Armies
    - Except Great Britain
    - Mostly defensive
  - Linear formations
    - Maneuvering
  - More “civilized”
    - Prisoners well treated

- Navy
  - Few decisive battles in the 18th century
    - Battles too expensive
  - More sailors died of disease than battle