

The War of Austrian-Succession



Michelle Davis

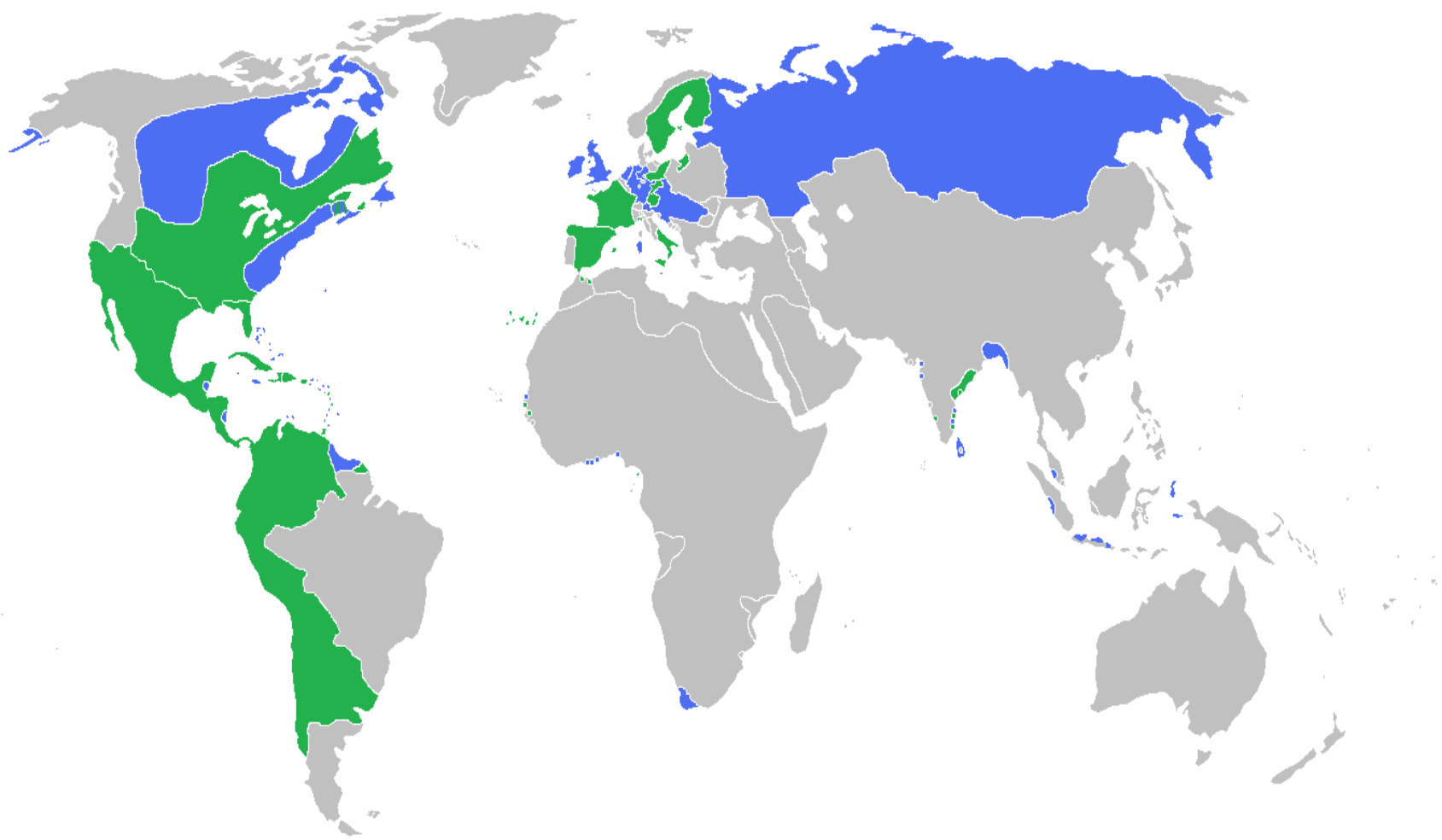
Pages 616, 620, 622, and 647

What was It?

- A combination of multiple wars between 1740 and 1748
 - War of Jenkin's Ear (1739), First Carnatic War (1746), the First and Second Silesian Wars (1740 & 1744), and King George's War (1744)

These individual wars are essentially just the different regional theatres of the War of Austrian Succession.

- Officially, the war concerned the succession of Maria Theresa to the Habsburg monarchy. In reality, it was launched by other countries to either challenge Habsburg power, for expansion, or to protect diplomatic interests.



King George's War- North American Theatre between France and England
War of Jenkin's Ear- waged between England and Spain in the West Indies
Carnatic Wars- Indian Theatre between France and England
Silesian Wars- series of three wars between Austria and Prussia*

*Only the first two Silesian Wars are included in the War of Austrian Succession

Major Players



Frederick II of Prussia

Inherits large, unused army from father; hoped to unite his scattered empire



Louis XV of France

Anti-Habsburg Policy; protect colonies; expansion



Philip V of Spain

Expansion; defend Spanish interests in the west from the British

Maria Theresa of Austria

Protected by Pragmatic Sanction; Silesian territory invaded by Prussia



George II of Great Britain

Interests in Flanders and the Netherlands threatened, largely by France; expansion



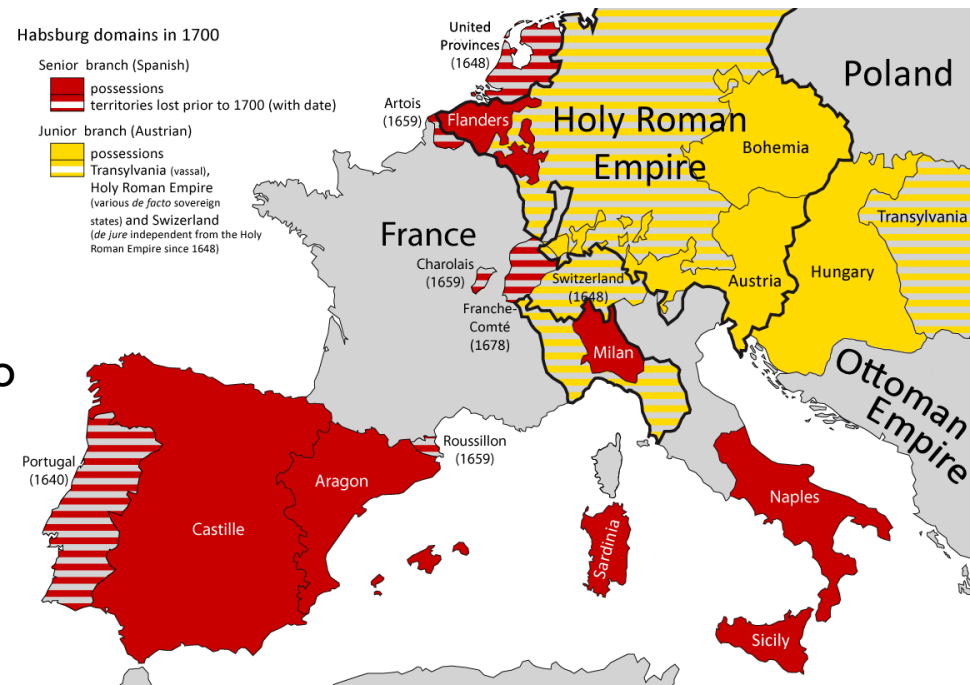
Huh, the Habsburgs?

- The Austrian Habsburgs ruled an empire that included Austria, Bohemia, and the autonomous Hungary.

PRAGMATIC SANCTION

- ❖ Issued by Charles VI in 1713
- ❖ Stated that the Habsburg domains could not be divided and must be passed down to ONE heir, whether they be male or FEMALE
- ❖ These measures were because, by 1711, Charles had no heirs and became obsessed with the successful succession of his possible daughters.

- ❖ Charles spent many years striving to have other nations agree to these terms, many of which did. Obviously, some would later choose to go against their word.
- ❖ This topic would eventually lead to the War of Austrian Succession upon his death in 1740.



Anyway, about Prussia...

In May of 1740, the Hohenzollern king Frederick I (the Soldier King), died, leaving the throne to his well-educated son (...who is also named Frederick).

Under Frederick I, Prussian military power had been expanding exponentially. The Soldier King hardly utilized his vast military force, however, and when Frederick II became ruler of Prussia, he was eager to change Prussia into one of Europe's "top dogs".

In October of 1740, Charles VI of the Habsburg dynasty died, leaving his throne to Maria Theresa, the perfect opening for Frederick II, who just so happened to not accept the Pragmatic Sanction...

Four out of every
one-hundred
people in Prussia
were in the army.



SOLDIERS!!!

In 1740, Silesia Gets Gory

- Frederick's forces suddenly invaded the Habsburg province of Silesia by claiming that the ambiguous Treaty of Brieg (1537) allowed him to annex Brieg, a duchy in Silesia. He had practically conquered all of Silesia within seven weeks!
- However, Maria fought back! At the Battle of Mollwitz, Frederick's army won (immediately after he had begun his personal retreat). This was the first real battle he fought in Silesia.
- When France and the Electorate of Bavaria joined the war in 1741, the Austrians retreated out of Silesia to their capital of Vienna. The Prussian landslide victory at the Battle of Chotusitz led to the Austrians conceding to the Treaty of Breslau, which ended the First Silesian War.

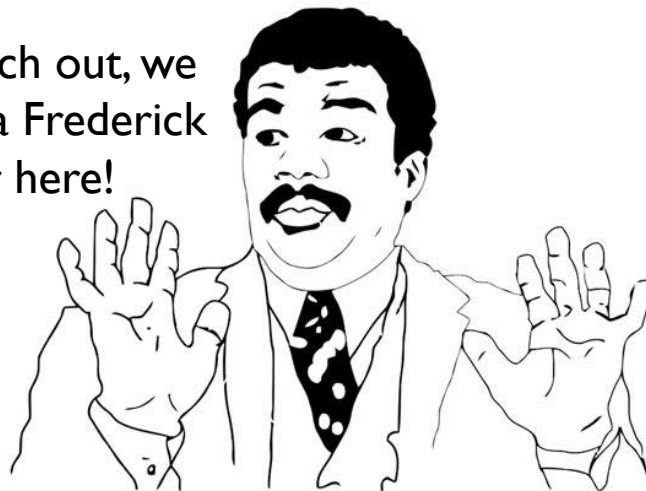
GETTIN' REAL
TIRED OF YOUR
CRAP, MARIA.



1744 Starts Another War

- Frederick was suspicious of an Austrian counter-measures, so he invaded Bohemia with his army and took the city of Prague (in the modern-day Czech Republic).
- At the Battle of Hohenfriedberg, Frederick trapped a force of Saxons and Austrians who had just passed over the mountains and defeated them, and then, at the Battle of Soor, he defeated another force of Austrians.
- Eventually, the Austrians agreed to the Treaty of Dresden that basically forced Austria to obey the Treaty of Breslau and surrender Silesia to Austria. Maria Theresa was still allowed to be coronated as the Empress of the Holy Roman Empire with her husband Ferdinand I.

Watch out, we
got a Frederick
over here!



War of Jenkin's Ear

1739-1748

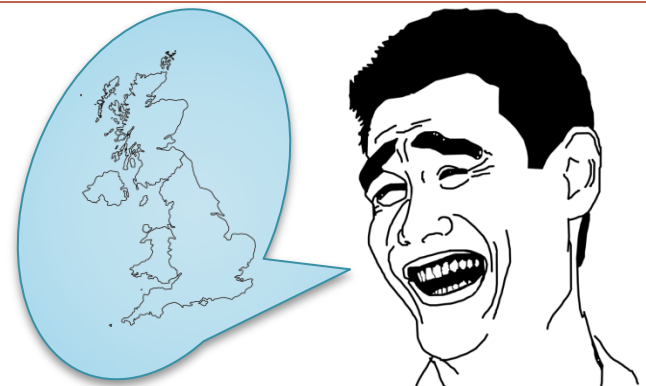
- Sir Robert Walpole, the First Earl of Oxford, was forced to declare war on Spain after coast guards allegedly cut off the ear of Captain Robert Jenkins.
- Largely characterized by the naval engagements of Admiral Edward Vernon, who led a large-scale amphibious assault on Cartagena de Indias in modern-day Colombia (British loss) and the attack on Porto Bello (British Victory).
- Ended with the Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle (1748) <- status quo antebellum
- Considerably more British casualties than Spanish

The Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle officially ended the War of Austrian Succession.

Carnatic Wars

1746-1748

- France and Britain fought for dominance of their own East India Companies
- Emphasized to natives and the belligerents that well-trained, modern forces were crucial to have an advantage over the Indian powers.
- French forces led by Governor-General Joseph Francois Dupleix.
- Inconclusive victor due to the Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle
- British dominance asserted.
- Madras in India taken by French.



King George's War

1744-1748

- Third of the Four French and Indian Wars
- Heavy death toll in the British Colonies
- No disputes were solved because of the Treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle's status quo antebellum conclusion. Because of this, the Fourth French and Indian War (1754) would occur.
- Louisburg was returned to France with the treaty as well, assuming that they would return Madras (taken in the Carnatic Wars) to England.

- France
- New France
- Wabanaki Confederacy

- Great Britain
- British America
- Iroquois Confederacy



Why was This Important Again?

- Prussia annexed Silesia and was considered a major European power.
 - Maria Theresa maintained control over the Habsburg monarchy.
- Even more colonial disputes, particularly between France and England, occurred.
 - Distinguished Germany from Prussia and fostered German nationalism.
- Pragmatic Sanction had been disregarded/ Habsburg power had been challenged.
 - Treaty of Utrecht's Balance of Power Principle had been disrupted.
 - Prussian militaristic methods influenced the remainder of Europe.
 - Increased European tensions

