



Learning from Pictures Maria Theresa was one of Austria's most popular rulers. Among her 16 children was Marie Antoinette, future queen of France.

This region's rich fur trade drew many people. Much like the pioneers of the American West, the early Russian settlers built small posts for trade and defense that grew into the towns and cities of Siberia. By the 1640s the Russians had reached the Pacific Ocean. At the Amur River they came in contact with the Chinese, who resisted Russian expansion into their country. In 1689 the Russians and Chinese signed a treaty that fixed the boundary between them north of the Amur River and provided for Chinese-Russian trade. Also, by 1741 the Russians had crossed the Bering Strait to establish a colony in Alaska in North America. Later, they set up posts on the California coast to control the trade in sea otter pelts.

Hapsburg Austria

The Austrian Hapsburgs lost much territory in the Thirty Years' War. In the 100 years after the war, however, Austria won new lands. These gains came in the form of lands won from the Turks in central Europe and the Balkans and territories received as a

result of the Treaty of Utrecht, which ended the War of the Spanish Succession. The Hapsburgs now had an empire that extended to Hungary and the Italian Peninsula.

In 1740 Emperor Charles VI died, leaving no sons and only his 23-year-old daughter, Maria Theresa, to inherit Austria and the other Hapsburg lands. Charles had spent most of his reign trying to persuade other European rulers to sign an agreement called the Pragmatic Sanction. By this agreement the rulers of Europe promised to allow Maria Theresa to inherit the Hapsburg lands intact.

Although the laws of the Holy Roman Empire prevented Maria Theresa from being elected

What If?

Russian Expansion

Instead of expanding westward, Russia expanded overland to the east and colonized Alaska. If the Russians had colonized all of what is now Canada as well as Alaska, how might the history of the United States have been different?

empress, in 1745 she became Holy Roman Empress by making certain that her husband was elected emperor.

Maria Theresa inherited a patchwork of territories and peoples: Germans, Hungarians, Italians, Belgians, Romanians, Poles, Bohemians, Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes. This great variety led to many conflicts of language, religion, and nationality within the empire.

Several German states envied Hapsburg power. Bavaria, in southern Germany, jealously guarded its lands and independence, sometimes by forming alliances with France against the Hapsburgs. In the north, Saxony and Hanover—whose rulers had been kings of England since 1714—also preferred to act independently of the Holy Roman Empire. Austria's chief rival, however, was Brandenburg-Prussia, a small north German state which in 1740 did not even have a common boundary with Austria.

The Rise of the Hohenzollerns

During the Middle Ages, the Hohenzollerns (HOH • uhn • zahl • uhrns) had ruled only a small territory in southern Germany. However, the ambitious family wanted to increase its power, influence, and landholdings. Near the end of the Middle Ages, one branch of the family settled in Brandenburg, in northern Germany. The ruler of Brandenburg eventually became an elector of the Holy Roman Empire.

During the Reformation the Calvinist Hohenzollerns seized lands belonging to the Catholic church in their territories. By the end of the Thirty Years' War in 1648, they ruled several widely scattered territories in Germany, including Prussia, which bordered the Baltic Sea.

One of the greatest of the Hohenzollerns, Frederick William, called the Great Elector, guided his state through the difficult last years of the Thirty Years' War. He then turned to the rebuilding and

The Hohenzollerns	
1640-1688	Frederick William, the Great Elector
1688-1713	Frederick I
1713-1740	Frederick William I
1740-1786	Frederick II (the Great)



Learning from Pictures Frederick the Great encouraged industry and agriculture. The German people considered him a strong king and a great military hero.

further strengthening of Brandenburg-Prussia. The Great Elector reorganized the armies of all his lands into one strong force. He also improved the tax collection system and encouraged agriculture, industry, and transportation.

Beginning with the reign of Frederick I, the Great Elector's successor and the first king of Prussia,* all the Hohenzollern possessions in northern Germany were called Prussia. The original duchy of Prussia became known as East Prussia.

Frederick William I. Frederick I, one of the many European rulers who tried to imitate Louis XIV of France, built a lavish palace in the style of Versailles. His son and successor, Frederick William I, disliked French ways intensely. He got rid of much of this luxury when he became king in 1713.

Frederick William I used the money he saved to strengthen Prussia. He doubled the size of the Prussian army and made it the best and most efficient

*As a reward for supporting the Hapsburgs in the War of the Spanish Succession, the Holy Roman Emperor granted Frederick I the title "King of Prussia" in 1701.

the country, but they were caught. The king forced the son to watch as his friend was beheaded.

After this ordeal, the son seemed to have submitted to his father's wishes. Frederick William I need not have worried. Frederick II—or Frederick the Great—proved to be an even stronger ruler than his father. He became king in 1740, the same year that Maria Theresa became ruler of Austria.

Conflict Between Prussia and Austria

Though Frederick William I had signed the Pragmatic Sanction guaranteeing Maria Theresa her Hapsburg possessions, Frederick II argued that it did not apply to him. Almost immediately after becoming king, Frederick marched the strong army his father had created into Maria Theresa's richest province, Silesia. Prussia had no legal claim to Silesia. But it was a valuable region, populated largely by Germans, with rich farmlands and iron deposits, and its possession would greatly add to Frederick's own lands. Frederick did not declare war on Austria, and he took the Austrians by surprise. He said later that in seizing Silesia he lost only 20 men and 2 officers.

European and world war. The conquest of Silesia marked the beginning of two major European wars—the War of the Austrian Succession, which lasted from 1740 to 1748, and the Seven Years' War, from 1756 to 1763. Almost all of Europe became involved at one time or another. And, because European countries had colonies overseas, the fighting was not limited to Europe. Battles were also fought, notably between Great Britain and France, in India and North America. In America the Seven Years' War is known as the French and Indian War.

At one point Prussia, surrounded by enemies in Europe, was getting financial help only from Great Britain. Three times, enemy armies invaded the Prussian capital of Berlin. Fighting against great odds, Frederick dashed from one front to another to direct his troops in holding off the invaders. For all his great skill, he was spared only because Czar Peter III of Russia, who admired Frederick, made peace with Prussia. From then on the fighting decided nothing. Both sides agreed to the Treaty of Hubertusburg in 1763. Under its terms Prussia kept Silesia.

The years of peace. Frederick the Great spent the first 23 years of his reign at war. He spent

the last 23 showing that he also had a genius for organization and administration. He expanded and further improved public education and the already excellent Prussian civil service system. He continued the Hohenzollern policy of religious freedom. For example, when the pope dissolved the Jesuit order in 1773, Frederick II invited its members to Protestant Prussia. He made legal and court reforms and encouraged trade and manufacturing. Through Frederick's hard work and wise direction, the expanded state of Prussia recovered the prosperity it had lost during the long years of war.

Prussia continued to make territorial gains. Frederick the Great helped to bring about the First Partition of Poland in 1772. By taking Polish territory along the Baltic coast, he linked Prussia and East Prussia. When he died in 1786, Frederick left a greatly enlarged and prosperous nation. Prussia had become a formidable rival of Austria for control of the German states and a first-class power in Europe.

The Diplomatic Revolution. Maria Theresa recognized that she could never recover Silesia, but she was determined not to lose any more of her possessions. To accomplish this, she gave up the old alliance with Great Britain—first formed in the long series of wars against Louis XIV—and made instead an alliance of Hapsburg Austria with its ancient enemy, Bourbon France. This was the Diplomatic Revolution, or reversal of alliances, made during the Seven Years' War. For many years afterward, France and Austria steadfastly opposed Great Britain and Prussia.

SECTION 5 REVIEW

1. **Identify** Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, Maria Theresa, Frederick William I, Frederick the Great
2. **Locate** Moscow, Black Sea, Sea of Azov, Gulf of Finland, St. Petersburg, Crimea, Siberia, Amur River, Bavaria, Silesia, Berlin
3. **Understanding Ideas** What factors separated Russia from western Europe?
4. **Interpreting Ideas** (a) Describe how Peter the Great tried to Westernize Russia both culturally and politically. (b) How did Catherine the Great continue Peter's foreign policy?
5. **Summarizing Ideas** What conditions in Poland made it easy for foreign powers to divide the country?
6. **Analyzing Ideas** (a) What were the reasons for the War of the Austrian Succession? (b) What were its results?



he Prussian
And, con-
firmatory edu-
e requiring
ool.
end of his
s son Fred-
military life
uth wrote
ophy. The
imprison-
d of son he
i to escape