

# UTMUN



## HOUSE OF HABSBURG

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## A LETTER FROM YOUR DIRECTOR

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the House of Habsburg Crisis Committee. Over the span of 4 months my dedicated team has prepared and planned every element of your experience during our committee; we strove to make the best committee we could, offering venues of learning for the new delegates and strategy for the experienced among you. In this committee, you will see 18th-century diplomacy brought to life through a crisis centred around the War of the Austrian Succession. Within our crisis, you will have to negotiate with other parties to place your assigned country on the highest of standings. I wish to see all of you use the mechanics provided to rewrite the history and lead to a better outcome for your country.

I started Model United Nations 3 years ago when I first entered CEGEP. In Quebec City, Model UN was unheard of at the high school level and a fringe activity for those in college and university. My first Model UN was at McGill, and I was immediately fixated with this new activity. I hope to inspire the new among you as McMun inspired me. Furthermore, I understand the fears of beginners, which is why I am emphasising mechanics that allow for even the shyest to have fun and to participate within this committee.

Currently, I am in my second year at the University of Toronto studying social sciences and hoping to major in International Relations and Archaeology. Apart from this, I am involved with the University of Toronto Model United Nations Society. This is my first time staffing a conference, and I hope I can create a committee up to all of your standards.

I am eager to meet with all of you and to see you come up with new and innovative solutions to the crisis we created. I wish all of you the best of luck in this committee.

Sincerely,

Benoit Janelle  
Crisis director  
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## INTRODUCTION

Perhaps the war that established the system of European great powers until the First World War, this committee takes place during the War of Austrian Succession. The war centres around the question of Maria Theresa's right to rule.<sup>1</sup> In October of 1740, the Habsburg Emperor, Charles VI, has suddenly become sick. With no male heir to the throne, the next in line to be proclaimed Emperor of the Austrian Empire was Maria Theresa, Charles' eldest daughter.<sup>2</sup> During this time period, a woman as the head of the Austrian Empire would have been seen as a great insult towards other states and especially the smaller Germanic states, as this would place a woman in a position of authority over their male leaders.<sup>3</sup> Despite this, her ascension to the throne seemed secure as all of the great powers and most small Germanic states had signed the Pragmatic Sanction, endorsing her to be the next ruler of Austria.<sup>4</sup>

Unbeknownst to the Queen of Hungary, a ruler with new ambitions arrived in Prussia. Frederick II had a different vision for Prussia than his father. His obsession with territorial conquest paired with an army standing 80 000 soldiers strong made his thirst for power an actionable ambition.<sup>5</sup> Frederick II eyed the Austrian province of Silesia.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, the French and the Prussians wished to install a new Emperor of Austria, the Bavarian Elector, Charles Albert.

In this committee, you will become a representative of a European State. Great power or not, your job is to advance the position of your state within this conflict. Who will bear the Austrian throne? Will Austria be able to call themselves a great power? All these questions will need to be answered and the fate of the European Balance of Power is now in peril. To whom will the burden of Austria fall?

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<sup>1</sup> H. M. Scott, *The Birth of a Great Power System, 1740-1815*, (Harlow, England; New York: Pearson/Longman, 2006), 47

<sup>2</sup> M. S. Anderson, *The War of the Austrian Succession, 1740-1748*, (London; New York: Longman, 1995), 7.

<sup>3</sup> Anderson, 7.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 47.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 61.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 68.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### THE WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION

Before dealing with the War of the Austrian Succession, it is important to acknowledge the previous conflicts leading to the war. The losses incurred during the War of the Spanish Succession will form the motivation for certain actors later on and the alliances formed because of this war will again influence those seen during the War of the Austrian Succession.

The masterfully redacted will of Charles II of Spain was probably the leading cause of the War of the Spanish Succession. Before the death of Charles II, the great powers, most notably Britain and France, had negotiated the future of the Spanish throne.<sup>7</sup> France had been aware of their inability to fight a war during that time period and knew that a peaceful transition without any fighting would lead to the most optimal outcome for France. Therefore, Britain, France and Austria had negotiated a simple division of Spanish territories to best suit all parties involved.<sup>8</sup> However, Charles II was unsatisfied with the division of his territories and concocted a plan to ensure the unity of his nation.<sup>9</sup> The plan was simple. The entire inheritance would pass to Louis XIV's grandson. If Louis refused, the Spanish Empire would pass to the heir of the Hapsburg throne; Archduke Charles.<sup>10</sup>

This outcome would have been disastrous for France. If Charles was to become the ruler of Spain, France would be flanked by Habsburgs which, knowing the French proclivity for war against the Habsburgs, would leave France in an impossible situation for future wars. France's only option was to go to war to secure the place of Philip as the rightful ruler of the Spanish empire.<sup>11</sup> The problem of waging war to gain the Spanish throne was not the armies of the Hapsburgs. Instead, it was the British reaction. British policy in Europe centred around one thing: Maintaining the balance of power. If France was to gain influence over the Spanish throne, they would have the power to destabilize the balance of power in Europe, potentially leading to a threat on the British Isles. The British, therefore, had to join the Hapsburgs, as that outcome would lead to a more stable Europe.<sup>12</sup>

The fighting started out well for the French but turned for the worse as the war progressed. The Austrians and the English managed to win several battles against the French

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<sup>7</sup> David Parrott, "Spanish Succession, War of the (1701–1714)," *Europe, 1450 to 1789: Encyclopedia of the Early Modern World* (n.p.: The Gale Group, 2004), <https://www.encyclopedia.com/history/modern-europe/wars-and-battles/war-spanish-succession>.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

leading to Archduke Charles controlling Madrid. Worse still was the famine in France making a french recuperation and counter-attack near impossible.<sup>13</sup>

The powers eventually came to the bargaining table after the death of Leopold I, making Archduke Charles the head of Austria. The British, believing that Habsburg dominance of Austria and Spain would be as much of a problem as France controlling Spain, had decided to end their aid of the Austrians, which significantly helped the French effort in the war.<sup>14</sup> The overall result of the war was Britain making massive gains in North America. Austria would gain the Spanish Netherlands, Milan and Naples. France would gain their wish, and Philip V would ascend as king of Spain.<sup>15</sup> The War of the Spanish Succession worsened the Habsburg-Bourbon rivalry. France will want to regain the territory it lost. Most importantly, This war would lead to a bourbon being head of Spain, making great allies between France and Spain. This important detail will be critical in the War of the Austrian Succession.

## THE BOURBONS, HABSBURGS AND BAVARIA

One of the greatest rivalries before the Diplomatic Revolution of 1756 was that of the French Bourbons and the Austrian Hapsburgs. At the root of this bitter rivalry was the Holy Roman Empire.<sup>16</sup> The Bourbons and the Habsburgs had long fought over control of the amalgam of states that was the Holy Roman Empire. For the French, a friendly Holy Roman Empire meant that it would not have to worry about an invasion from East of the Rhine.<sup>17</sup> The chief strategy for acquiring allies in Germany was not conquest but instead fiscal and military support of potential allies. Through this France hoped to gain the trust and allegiance of key German states.<sup>18</sup> Germany, however, was not very responsive to French advances. This is primarily due to the Holy Roman Empire remembering the massacres that happened under Louis XIV and Austria's powerful friend Russia, who as Poland would later attest, is a bad enemy to have.<sup>19</sup>

The French, knowing that the string of losses the Austrians had suffered in the years leading up to the war had diminished their standing within the Imperial Diet, sought to elect a new Holy Roman emperor friendly to the French. Their chief candidate was the Bavarian Elector Charles Albert.<sup>20</sup> The Bavarian territory was a prized possession for both the French and the Austrians. The French viewed Bavaria as a key state in their arsenal due to its proximity to Austria. Austria viewed the Bavarians in the same light, with their proximity and was concerned about the Bavarian elector's legitimacy as emperor of the Holy Roman

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<sup>13</sup> Parrott.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Reed Browning, *The War of the Austrian Succession* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1993), 27.

<sup>17</sup> Browning, 27.

<sup>18</sup> Anderson, 6.

<sup>19</sup> Browning, 27.

<sup>20</sup> Anderson, 6.

Empire.<sup>21</sup> To Austria's dismay, the Bavarians had already sided with the French prior to the war.<sup>22</sup>

The Bavarian question will come to centre stage when a new Holy Roman Emperor needs to be elected because Charles VI is sick. Since the laws of the Holy Roman Empire forbid a woman from becoming emperor, Maria Theresa can thus only secure the role for her husband, Francis Stephen.<sup>23</sup> However, his candidacy would be met by Charles Albert as opposition. Stephen, being more French than German, faced a serious challenge by Charles Albert. If Maria Theresa were to lose this election, it would only further the downfall of the Austrian empire.<sup>24</sup>

Another conflict pertaining to the Bourbons and the Habsburgs was that of the Spanish and Habsburg claims to Italy after the War of the Spanish Succession, the state in charge of Italy was now under dispute. Even though the Habsburgs had gained sections of Italy for their family during the War of the Spanish Succession, the Spanish Bourbons had now claimed sections of Italy due to the previous Spanish occupation of the region.<sup>25</sup> This was primarily due to the wife of Philip V, Elizabeth Farnese wanting to secure a kingdom for their sons.<sup>26</sup>

## PRAGMATIC SANCTION

The dangers of Austrian succession were on the mind of Charles VI. With no male heir to his name and a very successful empire to be inherited, The power vacuum surrounding his passing could tear his beloved empire apart. Fortunately, Charles VI was graced with an heir in the form of Maria Theresa in 1711.<sup>27</sup> Nevertheless, confirming a female heir would be a difficult task. First of all, the Austrian emperor traditionally held the role of Holy Roman Emperor. A woman could not qualify for that title, meaning that the Austrians were placing themselves in a position where the loss of this traditional role was a possibility.<sup>28</sup> In order to secure a relatively smooth transition of power, Charles IV wrote the Pragmatic Sanction. This document was meant to be signed by other nations in order to support the following line of succession: sons, daughters, family members.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Anderson, 6.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 7.

<sup>23</sup> Browning, 38.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid., 40.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., 28.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 20.

<sup>27</sup> Anderson, 8

<sup>28</sup> Browning, 38.

<sup>29</sup> Anderson, 8.

Charles had asked all of the nations of Europe to support this document. The following nations had agreed to uphold the document: Spain, Russia, Prussia, Great Britain and France. Bavaria and Saxony both refused to accept the document.<sup>30</sup>

## FREDERICK AND SILESIA

Prussia's newfound infatuation with Silesia was determined by the change of administration from Frederick I to Frederick II. Prussia had ambitions to conquer Silesia before 1740. However, Frederick's father was a cautious man who seldom sought war.<sup>31</sup> The son was much more comfortable with the idea of waging armed conflict. It was the Frederick II's ambitions to reshape Prussia into a European great power that motivated his hawkish demeanour.<sup>32</sup>

Frederick targeted Silesia with good reason. Prussia was in a formidable position before the war. It counted an army 80 000 strong.<sup>33</sup> This army contained some of the best soldiers in Europe. Additionally, the Prussian army was endowed with a war chest of 8 million Thalers thanks to Frederick's father's frugal spending.<sup>34</sup> The Prussian army was ready for war and the province of Silesia was a prime target. The Austrian state was in dire straits. The ministers responsible for the Austrian state were all in old age, and the Austrian coffers were empty.<sup>35</sup> Furthermore, the Austrian army may have been 160 000 soldiers strong on paper, but they could only deploy 80 000 troops. The army was poorly trained and had low morale.<sup>36</sup> Prussia knew that, for Austria to survive, they would have to gain an ally. The proposition of a European war did not bother Frederick. With the complicated system of alliances, Frederick knew he would gain at least one major power.

A Prussian invasion had to rely on speed to win the day. Prussia hoped to capture the province of Silesia and then negotiate from a position of strength with the Austrians<sup>37</sup>. If Silesia is captured, Frederick had planned to make considerable concessions to Austria in the form of military aid. All of his plans were centred around the goal of having a quick war in which he could irrefutably conquer Silesia, and, in the process, secure the place of Prussia as a great power.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Anderson, 9.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 60.

<sup>32</sup> Browning, 39

<sup>33</sup> Anderson, 30.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., 61.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid., 62.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid., 62.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 67

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., 69.



## 18TH CENTURY WARFARE

The structure of 18th-century armies was vastly different from their modern counterparts. Armies were often heavily decentralized and functioned more as an agglomeration of individual regiments. At the head of a unit was a Colonel or a Captain. These men did not achieve their rank through education or battle experience. Instead, these men were placed in this position of authority because of their nobility.<sup>39</sup> The nobility was not drawn to arms because of some deep-seated love of the country. In fact, commanding a regiment was an excellent money-making opportunity. Military commanders could sell clothing or guns to their regiment and even take a cut of the soldiers' pay.<sup>40</sup> The training soldiers received varied widely. Captains and Colonels would make a training plan that suited them, meaning that depending on the unit assigned, a soldier could have received a vastly different military education.<sup>41</sup>

Armies themselves were always headed by the ruling class. This was simply because the nobility believed that those who owned property and had a stake in the governance of day to day affairs would defend the country with greater ability.<sup>42</sup> The soldiers of the line, however, were far less impressive. A large proportion of soldiers were obtained through purchase or kidnapping.<sup>43</sup> The remainder of the army was often recruited from the particular region from which the Captain or Colonel hailed. Soldiers were often from the lowest rungs of society and merely joined because it would provide them with a change of scenery or a stable source of income.<sup>44</sup> As a result, desertion was common. Frederick II would avoid marching his armies through forests or at night in order to minimize the chance that soldiers could flee.<sup>45</sup>

Wars of attrition were by far the most popular method of warfare of the time period. Generals often thought that singular decisive battles were too risky to fight and would avoid having large scale conflicts. Instead, armies would focus on quick battles meant to strike at the supply lines of the opposing force. These engagements required fewer men to fight, which meant less potential losses, and it inflicted massive damage since the supply lines required to maintain large armies were often times very costly and difficult to rebuild.<sup>46</sup> Most importantly, a war was very costly. A state usually had to raise taxation extensively in order to fund their operations. An unfavourable war could lead to a population revolting. Lastly, disease spread rampantly through war zones, killing thousands in its wake.<sup>47</sup> War was, therefore, a costly

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<sup>39</sup> Anderson, 21.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 23.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 25.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid., 27.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 30.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., 33.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., 30.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., 35.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., 47.

endeavour that had to be undertaken with great caution. Even though it would rarely lead to great territorial change. Oftentimes, those who paid for war was the everyday citizen.



## TOPICS TO CONSIDER

### AUSTRIAN SUCCESSION AND THE HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR

Is Maria Theresa the rightful heir to the Austrian throne? The Pragmatic Sanction seems to indicate so. Yet, an opportunity has arisen to fundamentally alter the balance of power in Europe. Through the use of coercion, states could achieve a great ally in the form of Austrian allegiance. The individual nations that constitute the empire possess little to no allegiance to the Habsburgs. Proper diplomacy and action could lead to an unfavourable position for the Austrians. Furthermore, The title of King of the Romans is still on the table. Having the King of the Romans on your side would be a great help in securing the legitimacy to subvert the Habsburgs. In order, to elect a Holy Roman Emperor, the electors of the empire must vote. Territorial concessions, funding or military support plays a great role in deciding who to vote for.

### RUSSIA

The Russian threat had been on the minds of every diplomat before the War of the Austrian Succession. Frederick himself feared Russian intervention extensively knowing that any Russian intervention against Prussia would lead to the decimation of his nation.<sup>48</sup> The heart of the Russian threat was not the formidable quality of Russian Soldiers but the endless horde of Russian Cossack and Kalmuck's that, once deployed, quickly devastate regions. To Frederick's dismay, the Austrians and the Russians had signed an alliance making an attack on Austria a very dangerous action. Yet, the death of Empress Anna in October of 1740 could change everything for Frederick. The new sovereign of Russia can drastically change their foreign policy. Additionally, Russian politicians are notoriously easy to corrupt and care more for their own power than that of their Tsar. Perhaps some fiscal incentive could convince a legion to change course.<sup>49</sup> Ignoring Russia may be catastrophic. The one constant with revolutions is that they are unpredictable. If the wrong leader is elected the whole of Europe may have to deal with one of the largest armies ever fielded, and no one will be safe.

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<sup>48</sup> Anderson, 63.

<sup>49</sup> Anderson, 65.

## CHARACTERS

**Great Britain**, led by George II and Sir Richard Walpole, you are the elector of Hanover. No country has the fundraising ability of the British. Whether it be their vast empire or the efficiency of the English bureaucracy, England appears to have bottomless coffers.<sup>50</sup> Its separation from the continent has multiple impacts on the isles. On one hand, it is virtually uninvadable, only France or Spain possess a Navy capable of going toe to toe with the likes of the Royal Navy.<sup>51</sup> However, it's distance makes the deployment of expeditionary forces complicated logistical feat, making the true military impact on the continent limited at best. Furthermore, the British are the only nation beholden to public opinion. While this increases the possibility of drastic policy changes, revolution is infrequent and is not much of a worry for the British. Britain's relationship with the rest of the world is never set in stone. The traditional alliance with the Habsburgs still holds. In order for Britain to realize their vision for Europe, the Habsburgs will need to be supported in an impending war. Britain's primary objective needs to be to maintain the balance of power on the continent. How Britain wishes to accomplish this lofty goal is up to them.

**France** was being led by Louis XV and Cardinal André Hercule de Fleury. The country was perhaps the biggest boogeyman of Europe at the time. They were the chief power on the continent.<sup>52</sup> With a massive population able to deploy hundreds of thousands of soldiers and a relatively formidable navy.<sup>53</sup> France's Achilles heel is debt. They accrued a significant debt load during Louis XIV Campaigns.<sup>54</sup> A lengthy campaign could bankrupt the country very easily. It is therefore in France's interests to win quickly and avoid lengthy wars. France's chief goal is to obtain more influence over the Germanic states. This will require challenging their chief rival on the continent: the Habsburgs. It would be in their interest to replace Maria Theresa with a more friendly ruler. This would hopefully bring more states into its orbit and cement its role as the leader of Europe. It does have allies in this battle. The Spanish Bourbons are a great ally in this fight. The new Prussian leader has upset the balance of power in Europe and would make a great ally in your quest to gain more influence over Germany. Additionally, the Elector from Bavaria, Charles Albert, has a legal claim to inherit the Habsburg throne, If France were to place him on the throne, France may finally become the chief hegemon of the European continent.

**Prussia** was led by Frederick II later named Frederick the Great, the elector from Brandenburg (Actually called Margrave but that's not important). Prussia has a great opportunity. Flush with money and soldiers, Prussia can become a great power. Prussia's greatest strength is its army. Their soldiers are perhaps the best trained and equipped in the

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<sup>50</sup> Scott, 16.

<sup>51</sup> Scott, 17.

<sup>52</sup> Scott, 8.

<sup>53</sup> Scott, 9.

<sup>54</sup> Scott, 9.

world.<sup>55</sup> Prussian discipline and military tradition have delivered them a great prize in Silesia, but now they are faced with the dilemma of keeping the land. Prussian armies are sustained through the huge lump-sum of cash. With the money gone, Prussia is forced to deal with the realization that they are still a small country without the ability to levy funds like Austria or France. Their chief objective is to keep Silesia. In this fight, they can find an ally in France and Bavaria. Prussia must decide what it will take to secure Silesia from the Austrians. Prussia should also look to influence the outcome of Russian instability. If the Austrians receive help from Russia, Prussia will lose everything it has worked for and may even be wiped off the map.

**Austria** The Austrian Empire was led by Maria Theresa and Stephen Francis at this time. You are the elector of Bohemia. At first sight, the Austrian Empire was a mess, but fear not as the Austrian cause is far from hopeless. The empire in 1740 was bankrupt and thoroughly divided.<sup>56</sup> The Empire was less a cohesive country and more an amalgamation of states in one central unit. The Austrian army was poorly organized and had a very poor track record. Austria's greatest strength lies in Europe's love of the Status Quo. It's chief ally, Great Britain, is vital to the Austrian defence strategy. If they can secure subsidies from the British, their large population can be rallied and a powerful army can be raised to fight the opposition. Furthermore, some of the smaller German states may not like the idea of France as hegemon of Europe. The fact is, most nations would much rather maintain the balance of power in the region.<sup>57</sup> Austria must find allies and utilize those to its fullest extent. Furthermore, Austria must look to Russia for help. They had previously signed an alliance together, but the instability since the death of Empress Anne has left this treaty unfulfilled.<sup>58</sup> If Austria can place a friendly leader in Russia, It will be able to secure all of Silesia and erase Prussia from the map.

**Spain** is currently being ruled by Elizabeth Farnese and Philip V. They are part of the Bourbon family group. Spain has been a dying power for much of the 18th century. After the War of Spanish Succession, it was clear that they are clearly the subordinate of other great powers. However, Spain does possess a formidable navy and a decent war chest.<sup>59</sup> It has been the Spanish dream to reconquer some of Italy and place it under the influence of Spain.<sup>60</sup> Elizabeth Farnese wanted to secure kingdoms for her 2 sons. In this fight, Spain can look to the help of their royal relative Louis XV. France would very much like to end the Hapsburg control of the region. Spain may also want to break from its role as a subordinate to France and adopt a great power role. To do this Spain would have to break with the family and perhaps offer assistance to the Habsburgs. However, making an enemy of France may spell disaster for Spain. Choose carefully.

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<sup>55</sup> Anderson, 27.

<sup>56</sup> Scott, 23.

<sup>57</sup> Browning, 27.

<sup>58</sup> Anderson, 63.

<sup>59</sup> Scott, 13.

<sup>60</sup> Browning, 27.

**Bavaria** The elector of Bavaria, Charles Albert is a grave threat to the Habsburg Dynasty. He may be the only person with the legitimacy to dethrone the Habsburgs. He may even have a legal basis for being the emperor of Austria through agreements made with Ferdinand I in the mid-1500s.<sup>61</sup> Bavaria has the unique role of being the de facto opposition to the Habsburgs. Bavaria does not have the army or the influence to grow past its borders. However, with the help of powerful states like France or Prussia, Bavaria may be able to control all of the Austrian Empire. Bavaria's goal should be to overthrow the Habsburg regime. The only way to accomplish this is through force. Persuasion will be your greatest challenge.

**Sardinia and Savoy.** While his statement may seem unimpressive and small the location of Savoy makes it strategically invaluable. The approval of Charles Emmanuel to cross Savoy makes troop movements easy and is an advantage any great power would love to attain.<sup>62</sup> As a smaller state, Sardinia and Savoy will not have the largest army or the most resources. That being said, any invasion of Austria would be made much easier for your permission to cross. Furthermore, you also need to take into account the balance of powers in Italy and on the continent. It would not be a favourable position if all of Italy is subordinate to the Bourbons. Furthermore, your participation in this war could be rewarded. Sardinia was very concerned with what they could achieve.<sup>63</sup> Therefore it is important to choose the position that offers you the highest net gain.

**Poland and Saxony** Led by Augustus III, the elector of Saxony holds special rights in the Imperial Diet. since Augustus was Imperial Vicar, he was required to send an army to aid Maria Theresa against Prussia.<sup>64</sup> Poland is a vast country but it has no natural borders. Poland has always relied on the help of greater states like Russia. However, Augustus' father had planned for Poland to play a more prominent role in European politics.<sup>65</sup> Will Poland now use this opportunity to break from its chains and be considered one of the great powers? Poland must decide whether to uphold its role and aid Maria Theresa or abandon her and potentially make huge gains. Furthermore, Poland must also decide whether it wants to remain subordinate to Russia or attempt to break free. This revolution may provide the perfect opportunity to do so.

**Russia** Hail Tsar! Or perhaps not. A chaotic series of upheavals between the reigns of Peter and Catherine the Great made Russia deeply unstable.<sup>66</sup> The imperial dynasty was severely weakened, and inheritance was shaky at best.<sup>67</sup> Following the death of Peter the Great, who had been a notable reformer in many areas, including the military and taxation, the

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<sup>61</sup> Anderson, 73.

<sup>62</sup> Anderson, 97.

<sup>63</sup> Anderson, 98.

<sup>64</sup> Anderson, 72

<sup>65</sup> Scott, 28.

<sup>66</sup> Vasili O. Kliuchevsky, *A course in Russian history : the time of Catherine the Great.* trans. Marshall S. Shatz. (New York: Routledge, 2015), 3.

<sup>67</sup> Kliuchevsky, 3.



gentry made a concerted effort to re-assert their own power.<sup>68</sup> The delegate from Russia will be in a tricky spot, with a country whose power is on the rise externally, and collapsing internally. Between 1725 and 1762, there were 8 Coup d'Etats. Anna Ioannovna, the empress, died of natural causes in October 1740, succeeded by her heir Ivan Antonovich (a two-month-old baby, represented by his mother, Anna Leopoldovna).<sup>69</sup> A coup against the former chief minister was organised by November 7th.<sup>70</sup> Anna Leopoldovna seems to have had little policy beyond staying the course, reinforcing the class structure, and trying to raise her son.<sup>71</sup> In our world, she was deposed in November 1741.<sup>72</sup> If you can get your hands on it, Rianovsky and Stenberg's *A History of Russia* is a good resource. This delegation may not have a great deal to work with, but don't be too nervous! Russia has Great potential (especially if your name is Peter or Catherine).

**Sweden** Sweden had endured several losses to Russia before the War of the Austrian Succession. This loss had led to Sweden's decline in population and finance.<sup>73</sup> Furthermore, the government had become a constitutional monarchy with 2 rival parties often being influenced by foreign governments<sup>74</sup>. Sweden later became obsessed with taking back land from Russia.<sup>75</sup> Sweden must focus on responding to its parliament and finding a way to reacquire land from Russia. To do this, Sweden can look into subsidies from different countries to rebuild its forces and mount an attack. Sweden must have the support of other states or it will risk serious losses to Russia. It can also look into influencing the current instability in Russia. Finally, Sweden must be very cautious not to levy too many taxes as it may lead to a revolution in the country.

**Portugal** Portugal was ruled by John V in 1740. Portugal was swimming in money at this time. The Brazilian colonies had supplied the Portuguese with endless amounts of gold, making John V and his country very wealthy.<sup>76</sup> Because of Portugal's wealth, the king was immensely powerful and often times could ignore the Portuguese assembly (Called the Cortes). However, this does not mean that Portugal should ignore popular demands. Furthermore, John V was a religious man often appointing clergy members as ministers.<sup>77</sup> Portugal has a very strong alliance with the British and should work to maintain it. Portugal's chief priority is to

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<sup>68</sup> Kliuchevsky, 10.

<sup>69</sup> Aleksander Kamenskii, *The Russian Empire in the Eighteenth Century*, trans. David Griffiths. (New York: Routledge, 2015), 157-158.

<sup>70</sup> Kamenskii, 159.

<sup>71</sup> Kamenskii, 161.

<sup>72</sup> Kamenskii, 163.

<sup>73</sup> Scott, 29.

<sup>74</sup> Scott, 30.

<sup>75</sup> Scott, 30.

<sup>76</sup> The Columbia Encyclopedia, "John V (King Of Portugal)," *The Columbia Encyclopedia, 6th Ed* (n.p.: Columbia University Press, 2000), <https://www.encyclopedia.com/people/history/spanish-and-portuguese-history/biographies/john-v-portugal>.

<sup>77</sup> The Columbia Encyclopedia.

maintain its colonies. Without the colonies, Portugal and the King's prosperity will begin to decay.

**Papal States** Starting in the early 4<sup>th</sup> century the popes began to acquire a large amount of land in and around Rome. With the fall of the western Roman empire, this amount of land and influence expanded exponentially. These lands were consolidated and unified into a rudimentary Papal State. The Papal States reached the height of its power in the mid-middle ages and has decreased since then. By the 1700s the great secular powers to the north began to take advantage of the Papal States.<sup>78</sup> Borders were no longer respected and armies crossed through without a thought. In 1740, the Papal State's head of state was Pope Benedict XIV. Though it was a sovereign state there was no official Papal military in 1740.<sup>79</sup> Instead, the Pope relied on mercenary forces and a small group of loyal Catholic volunteers. Though its global military and political power was somewhat limited the Papal States made up for its unique sway over other Catholic nations. The pope has influence over all Catholic rulers with the possibility to excommunicate those who blatantly go against the faith.

**Netherlands** In the eighteenth century, the Netherlands was known as the Dutch Republic. Despite their republican status, however, there were internal power struggles between the Orangists, who backed the princes of Orange, and the Republicans, who sought to change the political structure from a hereditary process into a true republican process.<sup>80</sup> The Orangists sought to model the government after the French monarchy, while the Republicans sought to move towards a more English model, by reducing the power of the head of state.<sup>81</sup> Economically, the Dutch Republic had a well-developed stock market with her surrounding regions,<sup>82</sup> and a banking system which allowed for economic ties with England. In addition, the Netherlands had a powerful navy that rivalled the Portuguese and allowed for conquests in Asia. During the period leading up to, and the early periods of the War of the Austrian Succession, Netherlands had aimed to remain neutral in the conflict between the major powers<sup>83</sup> due to its geographic position between the major powers of Europe.

**Denmark** During the eighteenth century Denmark began to eschew attempts toward territorial gains, focusing instead on maintaining neutrality while expanding economic development through trade and shipping.<sup>84</sup> Self-defence, however, remained a relevant concern for the Danish kingdom particularly in response to the conflicts presented by Schleswig and Holstein to the South.<sup>85</sup> While Denmark was able to solidify its position as a

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<sup>78</sup> Encyclopaedia Britannica, "Papal States," *Encyclopaedia Britannica* (n.p.: Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., 2015).

<sup>79</sup> Encyclopaedia Britannica.

<sup>80</sup> Velema, 70

<sup>81</sup> Velema, 72

<sup>82</sup> Arrighi, 47

<sup>83</sup> Israel, 996-997

<sup>84</sup> Scott, 31.

<sup>85</sup> Scott, 32.



naval power within the Baltic, its weakened land defence, however, established itself as a growing worry for the kingdom.<sup>86</sup> These rising concerns for Danish security led to the eventual formation of an alliance with, and eventual dependence on, Russia. However, neutrality and maintaining Denmark's position as an economic power within Europe should remain a priority.

**The Ottomans** The Ottomans were always outsiders in European diplomacy. Although interacting and waging war with Europe, the empire's commitment to Islam always meant that they had to distance themselves from Europe.<sup>87</sup> However, recent losses to Europe has forced the empire to enter into more traditional relationships with Europe at large.<sup>88</sup> The Ottoman empire was undergoing a decline during the 18th century with fiscal and military prestige decaying.<sup>89</sup> The Ottoman Empire now has the chance to reverse this course and reforge its reputation. A military victory in 1739 has given the Ottoman's the city of Belgrad.<sup>90</sup> This vital riverside city means that the Ottoman's can block Austrian sea access.<sup>91</sup> The Ottoman's must now decide who to support. Perhaps it can turn the tides on Austria and end the Habsburg reign. Although the Ottoman Empire must also be aware that France, Spain and Prussia are very unlikely to make any concessions to the Ottoman empire. The Ottoman's must also be cautious not to antagonize Europe as a whole.

**Note for Research:** I'm will admit: research will be a little tricky. This war is a little obscure. M.S. Anderson's War of the Austrian Succession is probably the best source for the War. Reading that or part of it should give you all of the background needed to succeed. It is also important to know that all of your countries have an objective. Find it, and the position your country must take on issues will be evident.

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<sup>86</sup> Scott, 32.

<sup>87</sup> Scott, 34.

<sup>88</sup> Scott, 34.

<sup>89</sup> Scott, 33.

<sup>90</sup> Scott, 32.

<sup>91</sup> Scott, 32.

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