Rise of Austria and Prussia

Objectives
• Outline causes and results of the Thirty Years’ War.
• Understand how Austria and Prussia emerged as great powers.
• Describe how European nations tried to maintain a balance of power.

Terms, People, and Places
elector War of the Austrian Succession
mercenary Peace of Westphalia
viceroy
Maria Theresa
Ferdinand
Frederick II
Frederick William I
Prussia
War of the Austrian Succession

Note Taking
Reading Skill: Identify Supporting Details. As you read this section, use a table like the one below to record details about the emergence of Austria and Prussia as European powers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rise of Austria</th>
<th>Rise of Prussia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria Theresa kept title of Holy Roman Emperor.</td>
<td>Hohenzollern rulers take over German states.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vocabulary Builder
Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

High-Use Word
aspire
Definition and Sample Sentence
Aspire to be ambitious, seek
She aspired to become the student body president.

Prepare to Read
Have students read this section using the Paragraph Shrinking strategy (TR, p. T20). As they read, have students fill in the table with details about the emergence of Austria and Prussia.

WITNESS HISTORY

The Thirty Years’ War Rages in Germany

The conflict known as the Thirty Years’ War ravaged the German states of central Europe for much of the first half of the seventeenth century. A German family Bible contained this entry describing the war’s end:

They say that the terrible war is now over. But there is still no sign of a peace. Everywhere there is envy, hatred, and greed: that’s what the war has taught us... We see animals, eating bark and grass. No one could have imagined that anything like this would happen to us. Many people say that there is no God."

Focus Question: How did the two great empires of Austria and Prussia emerge from the Thirty Years’ War and subsequent events?

Objectives
As you teach this section, keep students focused on the following objectives to help them answer the Section Focus Question and master core content.

• Outline causes and results of the Thirty Years’ War.
• Understand how Austria and Prussia emerged as great powers.
• Describe how European nations tried to maintain a balance of power.

Prepare to Read
Build Background Knowledge
Ask students to recall what they know about the Holy Roman Empire and the German states under Charles V. Ask them to predict how religious divisions would affect the region.

Set a Purpose
• WITNESS HISTORY Read the selection aloud or play the audio.

Preview
Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.

Note Taking
Have students read this section using the Paragraph Shrinking strategy (TR, p. T20). As they read, have students fill in the table with details about the emergence of Austria and Prussia.

Reading and Note Taking
Study Guide, p. 70

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Section 4 Assessment answers.)
The Thirty Years’ War
Ravages Europe

Instruct
1. Introduce: Vocabulary Builder
   Have students read the Vocabulary Builder term and definition. Ask what
   Catholic rulers aspired to do in Europe. (to eradicate Protestantism)
2. Teach: Display Color Transparency 98: The Holy Roman Empire, About
   1618. Ask students why the empire was difficult to rule and vulnerable to
   war. Point out that it really looked like a patchwork quilt. Then ask What
   happened in the Defenestration of Prague? (Protestant nobles tossed royal
   officials out the window.) Why did the war spread through Europe? (The
   continent was divided by religion and shifting political alliances.) What were
   the results of the war in German states? (One third of the population died;
   German lands were divided into 360 mostly small, independent states.)
3. Color Transparencies, 98
4. Quick Activity: Have students access Web Code nbp-1641 to take the
   Geography Interactive Audio Guided Tour and then answer the
   map skills questions in the text.

Independent Practice
1. Have students fill in the Outline Map Europe After the Peace of Westphalia.

Monitor Progress
Circulate to make sure students are filling in their Outline Maps accurately.
Administer the Geography Quiz.

Answers
Map Skills
1. Review locations with students.
2. (a) Austrian Hapsburgs: (b) Spain, Milan, Sar
   dina, Sicily, southern Italy, Spanish Nether
   lands, and other territories in the Holy Roman
   Empire
3. The map shows that areas within the Holy
   Roman Empire were ruled by several different
   powers, including Prussia and Spain.

164 The Age of Absolutism
The following year, Ferdinand was elected Holy Roman Emperor. With the support of Spain, Poland, and other Catholic states, he tried to roll back the Reformation by force. In the early stages of the war, he defeated the Bohemians (who had rebelled when he became emperor) and their Protestant allies. Alarmed, Protestant powers like the Netherlands and Sweden sent troops into Germany. Before long, political motives outweighed religious issues. Catholic and Protestant rulers shifted alliances to suit their own interests. At one point, Catholic France joined Lutheran Sweden against the Catholic Hapsburgs.

A Terrible Loss of Life The fighting took a terrible toll. Roving armies of mercenaries, or soldiers for hire, burned villages, destroyed crops, and killed without mercy. Murder and torture were followed by famine and disease. Wolves, not seen in settled areas since the Middle Ages, stalked the deserted streets of once-bustling villages. The war led to a severe depopulation, or reduction in population. Exact statistics do not exist, but historians estimate that as many as one third of the people in the German states may have died as a result of the war.

Peace at Last Finally, in 1648, the exhausted combatants accepted a peace treaty, known as the Peace of Westphalia. Because so many powers had been involved in the conflict, the treaties agreed both to bring about a general European peace and to settle other international problems. Among the combatants France emerged as a clear winner, gaining territory on both its Spanish and German frontiers. The Hapsburgs were not so fortunate. They had to accept the almost total independence of all the princes of the Holy Roman Empire. In addition, the Netherlands and the Swiss Federation (present-day Switzerland) won recognition as independent states.

The Thirty Years’ War left German lands divided into more than 360 separate states—one for every day of the year! These states still acknowledged the rule of the Holy Roman emperor. Yet each state had its own government, currency, church, armed forces, and foreign policy. The German states, potentially the most powerful nation in Europe if they could be united, thus remained fragmented for another 223 years.

**Checkpoint** What were some effects of the Peace of Westphalia?

**Hapsburg Austria Changes Its Focus** Though weakened by war, the Hapsburgs still wanted to create a strong united state. They kept the title “Holy Roman emperor,” but focused their attention on expanding their own lands. To Austria, they would soon add Bohemia, Hungary, and, later, parts of Poland and some Italian states.

**Challenges to Unity** Uniting these lands proved difficult. Not only were they divided by geography, they included a number of diverse peoples and cultures. By the 1700s, the Hapsburg Empire included Germans, Magyars, Slavs, and others. In many parts of the empire, people had their own languages, laws, and customs.

The Hapsburgs did exert some control over these diverse peoples. They sent German-speaking officials to Bohemia and Hungary and settled Austrians on lands they had seized in those provinces. They also put down revolts in Bohemia and Hungary. Still, the Hapsburgs never developed a centralized governmental system like that of France.

**Hapsburg Austria Changes its Focus**

**Instruct**
- **Introduce** Have students locate the territory controlled by Hapsburg Austria on the map on the previous page. Have them compare it with the map of Europe in the back of the book and name modern countries that were once part of Hapsburg Austria.
- **Teach** Use the Numbered Heads strategy (TE, p. T23) and ask students to weigh religious issues. Catholic and Protestant rulers shifted alliances to suit their own interests. At one point, Catholic France joined Lutheran Sweden against the Catholic Hapsburgs.

**Independent Practice**
- **Viewpoints** To help students better understand the reign of Maria Theresa, have them read the selection *Empress Maria Theresa* and complete the worksheet.
- **Advanced Readers** France gained land, the Hapsburgs lost land, the Netherlands and Swiss Federation gained independence, and the German lands were even more divided.

**Answer** France gained land, the Hapsburgs lost land, the Netherlands and Swiss Federation gained independence, and the German lands were even more divided.

**Gifted and Talented**

Rivals Maria Theresa of Austria and Frederick II of Prussia both emerged from promising beginnings to become great and powerful rulers. Both loved the arts. Both came to power in 1740; she was 24, and he was 28. One of his first acts was to invade the Hapsburg province of Silesia, which Maria Theresa called “the rape of Silesia.” Frederick defended his action by saying “the passions of rulers have no other curb but the limits of their power.” To his surprise, Maria Theresa vigorously defended her domain, although she never regained Silesia. In grudging respect, Frederick began to refer to her as “that man in Vienna.” Have students research these two rivals and write a report comparing their lives and their reigns.

**Advanced Readers**

- **Gifted and Talented**
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**Solutions for All Learners**

- **Gifted and Talented**
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Hohenzollern Prussia/ The Rivalry of Great Powers

Instruct

■ Introduce Read aloud the words of Frederick William that “nothing else in the world can confer upon a prince such fame and honor as the sword.” Discuss with students whether this was true during this period and whether other absolute rulers would agree.

■ Teach Explain that as Prussia emerged as a strong power, the concept of a balance of power among European nations took on greater urgency. Ask

How did the Hohenzollern consolide date power? (by seizing lands between their scattered holdings and setting up a central bureaucracy) What were the five main European powers? (Austria, Prussia, France, Britain, Russia)

Then have students look at the map titled European Nation-States, 1700, two pages back. Ask them to predict where war would break out next in Europe and explain their reasoning.

■ Analyzing the Visuals Have students analyze the picture of young Frederick on the next page. Ask students to contrast this image of Frederick with the description in the text of Frederick’s military prowess.

Independent Practice

Read aloud the quote that “Prussia is not a state which possesses an army, but an army which possesses a state.” Tell students that Frederick William once surr gly beat a soldier for having a button missing. Then have them write a short essay comparing Prussia and Sparta.

Monitor Progress

Check Reading and Note Taking Study Guide entries for student understanding.

Answers

Maria Theresa’s succession to the throne and Frederick II’s invasion of Silesia.

PRIMARY SOURCE Sample: determination, leadership, ability to judge character and to delegate, and good communication skills.

History Background

Frederick William: King Frederick William of Prussia led a militaristic lifestyle that was impressionable, and at times, bizarre. In public, he always wore his military uniform. Like a good soldier, he regularly began his work day at five or six in the morning. At 10, he usually reported to the parade ground to drill or inspect the troops. Any lapse in military discipline might trigger his violent temper. Frederick William had an unusual admiration for tall soldiers, whom he regarded as possessing superior strength and stamina. Like a fanatic basketball coach seeking the champ ionship, he sent scouts throughout much of Europe. One time, he decided it was time to retire, buy, and even kidnap the tallest soldiers for service in the Prussian army.

A Woman Emperor Takes the Throne In the early 1700s, a new challenge threatened Hapsburg Austria. Emperor Charles VI had no male heir. His daughter, Maria Theresa, was intelligent and capable, but no woman had yet ruled Hapsburg lands in her own name. Charles persuaded other European rulers to recognize his daughter’s right to suc cess him. When he died, however, many ignored their pledge.

The War of the Austrian Succession Shortly after Charles’s death in 1740, Frederick II of Prussia seized the rich Hapsburg province of Silesia. This action sparked the eight-year War of the Austrian Succession. Maria Theresa set off for Hungary to appeal for military help from her Hungarian subjects. The Hungarians were sedulously unfriendly to the Hapsburgs. But she made a dramatic plea before an assembly of Hungarian nobles. According to one account, the noble rose to his feet and shouted, “Our lives and blood for your Majesty!” She eventually got further help from Britain and Russia, who did not want Prussia to upset the balance of power by gaining new lands.

Maria Theresa never succeeded in forcing Frederick out of Silesia. Still, she did preserve her empire and win the support of most of her people. Equally important, she strengthened Hapsburg power by reorganizing the bureaucracy and improving tax collection. She even forestalled nobles and clergy to pay taxes and tried to ease the burden of taxes and labor services on peasants. As you will read, her son and successor, Joseph II, later extended many of her reforms.

Checkpoint What caused the War of the Austrian Succession?

Hohenzollern Prussia

While Austria was molding a strong Catholic state, a region called Prussia emerged as a new Protestant power. In the 1600s, the Hohen zollerns (huh-nuh-zol-nerz) family ruled scattered lands across north Ger many. In the century following the Peace of Westphalia, ambitious Hohenzollern rulers united their holdings, creating Prussia.

Creating a Bureaucracy Hohenzollern rulers set up an efficient cen tral bureaucracy. Frederick William I was a Prussian ruler who came to power upon the death of his father in 1713. He cleverly gained the loyalty of the Prussian nobility by providing for their comfort, feeding their egos, and giving them positions in the army and government. His tactic reduced the nobles’ independence and increased his own control. Frederick also placed great emphasis on military values and forged one of the best-trained armies in Europe. One Prussian military leader boasted, “Prussia is not a state which possesses an army, but an army which possesses a state.” By 1740, Prussia was strong enough to challenge rival Austria.

A Crown Prince Learns the Art of War Frederick William made sure that, from an early age, his son Frederick was trained in the art of war. He wrote,
In fact, young Frederick II preferred playing the flute and writing poetry. His father despised these pursuits and treated the young prince so badly that he tried to flee the country. Discovering these plans, Frederick William put his son in solitary confinement. Then he forced the 16-year-old prince to watch as the friend who had helped him was beheaded. Frederick’s harsh military training had an effect. After becoming king in 1740, Frederick II lost no time in using his army. As you have read, he boldly seized Silesia from Austria, opening the War of the Austrian Succession. In several later wars, Frederick continued to brilliantly use his disciplined army, forcing all to recognize Prussia as a great power. His exploits earned him the name Frederick the Great.

**Checkpoint** How did Frederick William increase his power?

### The Rivalry of Great Powers

By 1750, the great European powers included Austria, Prussia, France, Britain, and Russia. These nations formed various alliances to maintain the balance of power. Though nations sometimes switched partners, two basic rivalries persisted. Prussia battled Austria for control of the German states, while Britain and France competed to develop their overseas empires.

On occasion, these rivalries resulted in worldwide conflict. The Seven Years’ War, which lasted from 1756 until 1763, was fought on four continents. Prussia, Austria, Russia, France, and Britain battled in Europe. Britain and France also fought in India and Africa. In North America, where the conflict is known as the French and Indian War, Native American groups took sides with the French or the British. The Treaty of Paris ended these wars gave Britain a huge empire, thus changing Europe’s balance of power for the next hundred years.

**Checkpoint** What were the two main rivalries after 1750?

### Pettitioning a King

Frederick the Great, strolling in his gardens, receives a petition from a common person.

For additional assessment, have students access Progress Monitoring Online at Web Code nba-1641.

**Answers**

- He controlled the Junkers, created an efficient bureaucracy, and established a strong army.
- England and France; Austria and Prussia
- Sample: compassion, fair-mindedness, cultural literacy

**Writing About History**

Thesis statements should be appropriate for development in a persuasive essay and express a clear opinion.