

Central and Eastern Europe (1648-1715)

Central and Eastern Europe

- Compromise of power
- Traditional political and social elites vs. the government
- Local control vs. central authority (legal, fiscal, military)
- Social and political stability
- Absolutist regimes
- Landowning nobles
- France: Louis XIV, the Estates General (1614-1789)
- England: the Civil War, the Parliament (1629-1649)

Denmark-Norway

- Small country, under populated (less than 1 million)
- Very aristocratic (150 families, half the land, administr.)
- Frederick III (r. 1648-1670)
- 1655-1660: two lost wars (with Sweden), empty treasury
- *Coup d'Etat* (September 1660): convoked the Diet (new tax)
- Locked the Diet in Copenhagen
- Frederick III declared the Crown hereditary, absolute, disbanded the Diet
- Absolutist constitution (unlimited authority)
- No revolution
- Aristocracy accepted compromise (royal bureaucracy, local authority, profits)

Sweden

- Karl XI (r. 1660-1697) outmanoeuvred his magnates
- The society rested on the freest peasantry in Europe
- Post 1648, Sweden: northern (super) power
- Finland, Estonia, Livonia, western Pomerania
- Bremen-Verden, Stettin, two Norwegian provinces
- Under populated (1 million), scattered territories
- Aristocracy (no land control), peasants (free)
- Royal decline and recovery
- Queen Kristina (r. 1644-1654)
- Needed cash, so sold crown lands (with peasants) to nobility
- Upset balance
- Peasants, burghers, the clergy: take back the alienated lands
- The magnates richer (72% of the land), the state poorer
- Karl XI (r. 1660-1697) repossessed estates the Crown lost... Karl's *Reduktion* (s. 1680)
- Economic reforms: bloodless, balance

The Holy Roman Empire (of German Nation)

- Thirty Years War's devastation
- The Peace of Westphalia (1648): no confederation under the Habsburgs
- The Empire - fiction:
- The Emperor, the Constitution, but no army, taxes, foreign policy...
- 300+ principalities and cities/France: weakened Empire
- Habsburgs: status quo in Germany

- 1663-1806: The Imperial Diet
- 150 ambassadors of sovereign states, integral German assembly
- Manpower shortage: keep tax-paying peasants from fleeing (ruler, aristocracy)
- Peasant-landlord relations after 1648: the status varied from region to region

Habsburg Lands:

- Emperors Leopold I (r. 1658-1705), Joseph I (r. 1705-1711)
- Multinational empire, the sum of its parts
- The Holy Roman Emperor, a mediator/conciliator among princes
- The dynastic lands: kingdoms, duchies, principalities in Central and Eastern Europe
- Different ethnic groups and nationalities (spec. constitutional agreements)
- Loyalty to the dynasty: degrees of autonomy to regional elites
- Unitary political ideal: incomplete and inadequate support
- Service to the ruler evolving into service to the empire
- Absentee nobles at the Court in Vienna
- Magnates/Gentries in land barrier between
- The government and its subjects
- The nobility paid to taxes
- The Peace of Utrecht (1713)
- The Peace of Rastatt ?
- The Kingdom of Bohemia (1648): the Bohemian crown hereditary
- Chancellery in Vienna (aristocracy), office in Prague
- Bohemian Diet, tax collection: the Bohemian aristocracy
- The Kingdom of Hungary (1648)
- Leopold I (r. 1658-1705): the Turks (true, partition of Hungary)
- The Hungarian nobles: revolt, guerilla warfare
- Vienna (12th September 1683): King Jan Sobieski of Poland, Duke Charles of Lorraine
- Settlement of 1687:
 - The crown hereditary, the Diet restored, landlord support
- F. Rakoczi's reb