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978-0-521-15463-5 - Cultures of Power in Europe During the Long Eighteenth Century

Edited by Hamish Scott and Brendan Simms

Frontmatter

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Cultures of Power in Europe during the Long Eighteenth Century

This original volume seeks to get behind the surface of political events and to identify the forces which shaped politics and culture from 1680 to 1840 in Germany, France and Great Britain. The contributors, all leading specialists in the field, explore critically how 'culture', defined in the widest sense, was exploited during the 'long eighteenth century' to buttress authority in all its forms and how politics infused culture. Individual essays explore topics ranging from the military culture of central Europe through the political culture of Germany, France and Great Britain, music, court intrigue and diplomatic practice, religious conflict and political ideas, the role of the Enlightenment, to the very new dispensations which prevailed during and after the French Revolution and the Napoleonic watershed. The book will be essential reading for all scholars of eighteenth-century European history.

HAMISH SCOTT is Wardlaw Professor of International History at the University of St Andrews. His recent publications include *The Emergence of the Eastern Powers, 1756–1775* (2001) and *The Birth of a Great Power System, 1740–1815* (2006).

BRENDAN SIMMS is Reader in the History of International Relations at the University of Cambridge and Fellow of Peterhouse. His previous publications include *The Impact of Napoleon: Prussian High Politics, Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Executive, 1797–1806* (1997) and as an editor with Torsten Rott, *The Hanoverian Dimension in British History, 1714–1837* (2007).

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Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

For Tim Blanning

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Edited by Hamish Scott and Brendan Simms

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>page</i> ix
<i>List of contributors</i>	xi
1 Introduction: culture and power during the long eighteenth century	1
JAMES J. SHEEHAN	
2 When culture meets power: the Prussian coronation of 1701	14
CHRISTOPHER CLARK	
3 Military culture in the Reich, c. 1680–1806	36
PETER H. WILSON	
4 Diplomatic culture in old regime Europe	58
HAMISH SCOTT	
5 Early eighteenth-century Britain as a confessional state	86
ANDREW C. THOMPSON	
6 ‘Ministers of Europe’: British strategic culture, 1714–1760	110
BRENDAN SIMMS	
7 Confessional power and the power of confession: concealing and revealing the faith in Alpine Salzburg, 1730–1734	133
JAMES VAN HORN MELTON	
8 The transformation of the <i>Aufklärung</i> : from the idea of power to the power of ideas	158
JOACHIM WHALEY	
9 Culture and <i>Bürgerlichkeit</i> in eighteenth-century Germany	180
MAIKEN UMBACH	

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-15463-5 - Cultures of Power in Europe During the Long Eighteenth Century

Edited by Hamish Scott and Brendan Simms

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii	Contents	
10	The politics of language and the languages of politics: Latin and the vernaculars in eighteenth-century Hungary	200
	R. J. W. EVANS	
11	‘Silence, respect obedience’: political culture in Louis XV’s France	225
	JULIAN SWANN	
12	Joseph II, petitions and the public sphere	249
	DEREK BEALES	
13	The court nobility and the origins of the French Revolution	269
	MUNRO PRICE	
14	The French Revolution and the abolition of nobility	289
	WILLIAM DOYLE	
15	Foreign policy and political culture in later eighteenth-century France	304
	GARY SAVAGE	
16	Power and patronage in Mozart’s <i>La clemenza di Tito</i> and <i>Die Zauberflöte</i>	325
	MARK BERRY	
17	Between Louis and Ludwig: from the culture of French power to the power of German culture, c. 1789–1848	348
	EMMA L. WINTER	
	<i>Index</i>	369

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-15463-5 - Cultures of Power in Europe During the Long Eighteenth Century

Edited by Hamish Scott and Brendan Simms

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Preface

In April 2007, Professor T. C. W. Blanning – Tim to all his friends and now to the scholarly community as well – will celebrate his sixty-fifth birthday, improbable as this will seem. In order to mark this occasion, to celebrate his enormous contribution to the study of modern European history, and to convey a sense of the immense regard in which he is universally held, it was decided to publish a volume of essays dedicated to him and written by some of his many friends and admirers. It takes its cue and also its starting point from Tim's celebrated *The Culture of Power and the Power of Culture: Old Regime Europe, 1660–1789* (Oxford University Press, 2002). Contributors were asked to extend the perspectives of that seminal book, and to explore critically how 'culture' (defined in the widest sense) was exploited during the 'long eighteenth century' to buttress authority in all its forms and how politics infused culture. Coherence was also sought by a decision to concentrate on the period – the long eighteenth century – which has been the principal focus of Tim's own scholarship and on the areas which his work has particularly illuminated: the German-speaking lands, France and Britain. While this, together with the period selected for consideration, had the unfortunate effect of excluding some friends and colleagues who would have been obvious contributors, it was inevitable given the realities of present-day publishing. Tim's renowned openness to all subjects and all approaches encouraged us to produce a volume which fully reflected the various uses to which the concept of 'culture' has been put.

The essays published in this volume were first given as papers at a highly enjoyable conference held in Cambridge in September 2005, and were revised for publication in the light of discussions and comments at this gathering. We are grateful to the contributors for their willingness to revise their essays in the interests of the volume's overall coherence and for their remarkable ability to deliver their essays by the due date: a tribute, in many cases, to the good habits inculcated by Tim's doctoral supervision. The conference was funded by the German Historical Institute, London, and we are deeply indebted to its Director, Professor Hagen Schulze, for

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-15463-5 - Cultures of Power in Europe During the Long Eighteenth Century

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x Preface

this extraordinary generosity, which is only the latest example of the Institute's remarkable support of scholarship in the British academic world. Its Deputy, Dr Benedikt Stuchtey, very kindly attended the Cambridge conference. The Trevelyan Fund of the University of Cambridge also made a generous grant to cover the travel expenses of the participants. At the Press we are indebted to Bill Davies who did much to get the project off the ground and to his successor Michael Watson who smoothed the passage to publication. Nancy Bailey has applied her electronic wizardry to the production of a finished manuscript, while Christopher Riches made the Index: we are grateful to them both. In the planning stages, Derek Beales provided important advice, while Nicky Blanning furnished decisive, if for a time covert, assistance, and Tom, Lucy and Molly kept us all enchanted. We owe most to Tim, however, both for providing the excuse for this academic stock-taking on Blanning's eighteenth century, and for his scholarship and celebrated generosity, both professional and personal, from which all the contributors have frequently benefited. Celebration of his birthday is accompanied with our best wishes for many more years of personal happiness and scholarly productivity.

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Cambridge University Press

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Edited by Hamish Scott and Brendan Simms

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Contributors

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-15463-5 - Cultures of Power in Europe During the Long Eighteenth Century

Edited by Hamish Scott and Brendan Simms

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xii List of contributors

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-15463-5 - Cultures of Power in Europe During the Long Eighteenth Century

Edited by Hamish Scott and Brendan Simms

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of contributors

xiii

Historical Journal 41 (1998) and ‘Novel Narratives, New Research: The French Revolution after the Bicentennial’, *Historical Journal* 40 (1997). He is currently preparing his Cambridge Ph.D. thesis (2005) on ‘The French Revolution and the *secret du roi*: Diplomatic Tradition, Foreign Policy and Political Culture in Later Eighteenth-Century France (1756–1792)’ for publication as a monograph.

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-15463-5 - Cultures of Power in Europe During the Long Eighteenth Century

Edited by Hamish Scott and Brendan Simms

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

xiv List of contributors

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Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-15463-5 - Cultures of Power in Europe During the Long Eighteen Century

Edited by Hamish Scott and Brendan Simms

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

List of contributors

xv

Painting and the New Houses of Parliament at Westminster, 1834–51', *Historical Journal* 47 (2004) and 'Prince Albert, Fresco Painting, and the New Houses of Parliament', in J. Davis and F. Bosbach, eds., *Prinz Albert – ein Wettiner in Großbritannien/Prince Albert – a Wettin in Britain* (Munich, 2004). She is currently preparing her Cambridge doctoral thesis (2005), on the relationship between art and taste, state and nation in Germany and England between 1789–1858, for publication.