

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-45360-8 - The Impact of Napoleon: Prussian High Politics, Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Executive, 1797-1806

Brendan Simms

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

## Contents

---

<i>List of maps</i>	<i>page</i> x
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xi
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiii
1 Introduction	1
Method: the primacy of foreign policy; geopolitics; high politics; the antechamber of power	2
The political history of Prussia before Jena: the state of research	18
Sources	28
<b>Part I: The structures</b>	
2 The structure of Prussian politics during the early reign of Frederick William III	35
From discussion to decision: the development of the decision- making process in Prussia and its underlying assumptions	35
Discussion instead of decision: structural weaknesses in the political system of post-Frederician Prussia	41
The monarch and his servants: Frederick William III and the antechamber of power	46
Alternative power centres? Aristocracy, bureaucracy and the autocratic state	56
3 Problem areas of Prussian policy and politics: the centres of attention abroad, 1797–1804	67
From intervention to neutrality: a brief outline of Prussian foreign policy, 1792–1804	67
The role of geopolitical thinking in Prussian foreign policy	71
Hanover: the ‘neuralgic spot’	81
Prussia and her neighbours (1): the French threat	89
Prussia and her neighbours (2): Russia, Austria, Great Britain, the Reich and the smaller German states	101
	vii

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-45360-8 - The Impact of Napoleon: Prussian High Politics, Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Executive, 1797-1806

Brendan Simms

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

viii	Contents	
4	Problem areas of Prussian policy and politics: the centres of attention at home, 1797–1804	115
	The primacy of foreign policy: the French threat, fear of revolution and the reform of state and society	115
	The executive reform debate before 1804	128
	The struggle for the executive: adversarial politics in Prussia, 1797–1804	136
	The politics of neutrality	148
<b>Part II: The events</b>		
5	The failure of neutrality: Prussian policy and politics, October 1804–September 1805	159
	The Rumbold affair	159
	The beginning of a new policy towards Prussia	168
	The French alliance overtures	176
	The Russian threat	182
6	Delayed decisions: Prussian policy and politics, October 1805–February 1806	191
	Ansbach, Potsdam and after: the ascendancy of Hardenberg	191
	The Harrowby mission: Hanover or the Netherlands?	201
	Schönbrunn: the issues of the ratification debate	207
	Schönbrunn: the high politics of the ratification debate	218
	The Prussian dilemma after Austerlitz	224
7	The Hanoverian crisis: Prussian policy and politics, March–June 1806	230
	The Treaty of Paris: the ratification debate and the hegemony of France	231
	The triumph of Haugwitz. High politics and foreign policy in Prussia during the early stages of the Hanoverian crisis	240
	The role of economic interest groups in Prussian policy	245
	<i>Secret du Roi</i> : Frederick William and the parallel foreign policy	254
<b>Part III: The responses</b>		
8	Facing Napoleonic France: Prussian responses to the French threat, 1804–1806	269
	The primacy of foreign policy and the ‘imperious dictates of geography’: Prussia confronts the French threat, October 1804 to June 1806	269
	Redressing ‘la défectuosité la plus monstrueuse de l’assiette géographique de la Prusse’. Hanover and the annexation debate, 1804–1806	280
	The uses of adversity: the French threat and high politics in Prussia, 1804–1806	285

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-45360-8 - The Impact of Napoleon: Prussian High Politics, Foreign Policy and the Crisis of the Executive, 1797-1806

Brendan Simms

Table of Contents

[More information](#)

---

Contents	ix
The decision against France, June–July 1806	291
‘Now or never’: the road to Jena, August–September 1806	296
9 The search for decision: Prussian reform attempts immediately before Jena	304
The historiography of the (pre-)Reform movement in Prussia	305
The Prussian executive in crisis, 1804–1806	312
The substance of Reform: decision, not discussion	318
The adversarial context of Reform	329
10 Conclusion	338
<i>Bibliography</i>	344
<i>Index</i>	383