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H. M. Scott

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The Emergence of the Eastern Powers, 1756–1775

Throughout the nineteenth century, international relations in Europe were dominated by the five great powers – Britain, France, Russia, Austria and Prussia – who collectively determined the continent's political destiny. The creation of this system has been located traditionally in the long struggle with Revolutionary and Napoleonic France, and specifically in the peace settlement at Vienna of 1814–15 which ended a generation of intensive warfare. By contrast, this study demonstrates that its origins lie half a century earlier.

During the third quarter of the eighteenth century, the European states system was transformed by the military rise of Russia and Prussia in the Seven Years War of 1756–63. Simultaneously the actual term 'great power' and the concept of the five leading states together dominating Europe became established both among theorists and practical statesmen. Until the middle of the eighteenth century western European issues had dominated international relations, and France had been the pre-eminent power. This now ceased to be the case. Eastern Europe became pre-eminent. During the 1770s Poland was partitioned for the first time by her three powerful neighbours, while Russia and Austria also seized territory from the Ottoman empire. Europe's centre of gravity moved sharply eastwards, and by the later 1770s Russia was emerging as the leading continental power.

This study, based upon manuscript and printed sources from six countries, provides the first comprehensive study of these critical events.

H.M. SCOTT is Professor of International History, University of St Andrews

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To Isabel de Madariaga

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Dates and place names

Unless otherwise indicated, all dates in this study are given in the New Style. During the second half of the eighteenth century, the Russian calendar was still eleven days behind that in use throughout the rest of Europe, and all such dates are indicated by OS.

The wide geographical focus of this study, together with the frequent later changes of political geography, creates an obvious problem over personal and proper names. The solution adopted is pragmatic rather than linguistically correct. Where an established English form exists it has been used: thus 'Vienna' rather than 'Wien'. In a similar way I have written 'Prussia' rather than 'Brandenburg-Prussia' and 'Poland' instead of the more correct 'Poland-Lithuania', and also utilised 'Austria' as a synonym for the 'Habsburg Monarchy', exactly as it was used at the time. 'Empire' where it stands alone and is capitalised designates the 'Holy Roman Empire'. Otherwise the most familiar version has been utilised, with the present-day equivalent sometimes given in brackets on the first occasion it is mentioned.

Abbreviations

AAE	Archives du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (Paris)
ABB	<i>Acta Borussica: Denkmäler der Preussischen Staatsverwaltung im 18. Jahrhundert – Die Behördenorganisation und die allgemeine Staatsverwaltung Preussens im 18. Jahrhundert</i> , ed. G. Schmoller <i>et al.</i> (16 vols., Berlin, 1894–1982)
Add. MSS	Additional Manuscripts
AKV	<i>Arkiv kniazia Vorontsova</i> , ed. P. Bartenev (40 vols., Moscow, 1870–95)
AÖG	<i>Archiv für Österreichische Geschichte</i>
Arneth, GMT	Alfred Ritter von Arneth, <i>Geschichte Maria Theresias</i> (10 vols., Vienna, 1863–79)
Beales, <i>Joseph II</i>	Derek Beales, <i>Joseph II</i> , vol. 1: <i>In the Shadow of Maria Theresa, 1741–1780</i> (Cambridge, 1987)
Beer, <i>Erste Theilung Polens</i>	Adolf Beer, <i>Die Erste Theilung Polens</i> (3 vols., Vienna, 1873)
<i>Bernstorff Corr.</i>	<i>Correspondance Ministérielle du Comte J.H.E. Bernstorff 1751–1770</i> , ed. P. Vedel (2 vols., Copenhagen, 1882)
<i>Bernstorffsche Papiere</i>	<i>Bernstorffsche Papiere</i> , ed. Aage Friis (3 vols., Copenhagen, 1904–13)
Bielfeld, <i>Institutions politiques</i>	J.F. von Bielfeld, <i>Institutions politiques</i> (2 vols., The Hague, 1760)
BL	British Library, London
CP	Correspondance Politique
<i>Danske Tractater</i>	<i>Danske Tractater, 1751–1800</i> (Copenhagen, 1882)
Dickson, <i>Finance</i>	P.G.M. Dickson, <i>Finance and Government under Maria Theresia 1740–1780</i> (2 vols., Oxford, 1987)
<i>Die politischen Testamente</i> , ed. Dietrich	<i>Die politischen Testamente der Hohenzollern</i> , ed. R. Dietrich (Cologne and Vienna, 1986)
Doniol, <i>Participation de la France</i>	Henri Doniol, <i>Histoire de la participation de la France à l'établissement des Etats-Unis d'Amérique</i> (5 vols., Paris, 1886–92)

List of abbreviations

FBPG	<i>Forschungen zur brandenburgischen und preussischen Geschichte</i>
GStAPK	Geheimes Staatsarchiv Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Berlin-Dahlem
Hammer, <i>Histoire de l'empire Ottoman</i>	J. de Hammer (Joseph von Hammer-Purgstall), <i>Histoire de l'empire Ottoman, depuis son origine jusqu'à nos jours</i> (18 vols., Paris, 1835–41)
HHStA	Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv, Vienna
JGO	<i>Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas</i>
KuF	<i>Briefe der Kaiserin Maria Theresia an ihre Kinder und Freunde</i> , ed Alfred Ritter von Arneth (4 vols., Vienna, 1881)
Madariaga, <i>Russia</i>	Isabel de Madariaga, <i>Russia in the Age of Catherine the Great</i> (London, 1981)
MA–JII	<i>Correspondance secrète du comte de Mercy-Argenteau avec l'Empereur Joseph II et le Prince de Kaunitz</i> , ed. Alfred Ritter von Arneth and Jules Flammermont (2 vols., Paris, 1889–91)
<i>Mémoires de Choiseul</i> , ed. Calmettes	<i>Mémoires du duc de Choiseul 1719–85</i> , ed. F. Calmettes (Paris, 1904)
MD	Mémoires et Documents
Martens, <i>Recueil des traités</i>	F. von Martens, <i>Recueil des traités et conventions conclus par la Russie avec les puissances étrangères</i> (15 vols., St Petersburg, 1874–1909)
MT–JII	<i>Maria Theresia und Joseph II: ihre Correspondenz</i> , ed. Alfred Ritter von Arneth (3 vols., Vienna, 1867–8)
MT–MA	<i>Marie Antoinette: correspondance secrète entre Marie-Thérèse et le comte de Mercy-Argenteau</i> , ed. Alfred Ritter von Arneth (3 vols., 2nd edn, Paris, 1874–5)
NF	Neue Folge
NLS	National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
<i>Oeuvres</i>	<i>Oeuvres de Frédéric le Grand</i> , ed. J.D.E. Preuss (30 vols., Berlin, 1846–56)
<i>Pol. Corr.</i>	<i>Politische Correspondenz Friedrichs des Grossen</i> , ed. J.G. Droysen et al. (46 vols., Berlin, 1879–1939)
PRO	Public Record Office, London
<i>Recueil</i>	<i>Recueil des instructions données aux ambassadeurs et ministres de France, depuis les traités de Westphalie jusqu'à la Révolution Française</i> (32 vols. to date, Paris, 1884–)
<i>Repertorium</i>	<i>Repertorium der diplomatischen Vertreter aller Länder</i> , ed. L. Bittner, L. Gross and L. Santifaller (3 vols., Berlin, Zürich and Graz, 1936–65)

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- Ségur, *Politique de tous les cabinets* L.P. de Ségur, *Politique de tous les cabinets de l'Europe pendant les règnes de Louis XV et de Louis XVI* (3 vols., Paris, 1802)
- SHAT Service Historique de l'Armée de Terre, Vincennes
- Soloviev, *History of Russia* Sergei M. Soloviev, *History of Russia from the Earliest Times* (multi-volume English translation, Gulf Breeze, FL, 1981–)
- SIRIO *Sbornik imperatorskogo russkogo istoricheskogo obshchestva* (148 vols., St Petersburg, 1867–1916)
- SP State Papers (Foreign) series