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978-0-521-81431-7 - Emperor Charles V, Impresario of War: Campaign Strategy, International Finance, and Domestic Politics

James D. Tracy

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## Emperor Charles V, Impresario of War

*Campaign Strategy, International Finance, and Domestic Politics*

Emperor Charles V (1500–1558) asserted his princely authority by deciding at times to lead his own armies to war, despite the misgivings of advisers. But because Europe's wars were fought with money borrowed against future revenues, even an emperor had to share power with his bankers and his parliaments. This book examines all three dimensions of European warfare. Charles's role as commander in chief is evaluated by measuring the strategic aims of his personal campaigns. The process by which bankers took control of the finances of the Habsburg lands becomes clear from an examination of where the money came from to pay for Charles's campaigns. Finally, a comparison of the realms that provided most of Charles's revenues – Castile, Naples, and three Low Countries provinces – shows how some parliamentary bodies, if not all, successfully pursued long-term local interests by exploiting the dynasty's need for money.

James D. Tracy has been a faculty member at the University of Minnesota since 1966. He was a professeur associé at the Université de Paris-IV for spring 2001 and has also been a visiting lecturer at the Rijksuniversiteit te Leiden. He is the editor of *City Walls: The Urban Enceinte in Global Perspective* (2000) and *The Political Economy of Merchant Empires: State Power and Global Trade, 1350–1750* (1991) and the author of *Europe's Reformations, 1450–1650* (1999) and *Erasmus of the Low Countries* (1996). He is also the editor of the *Journal of Early Modern History*.

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**JAMES D. TRACY**

*University of Minnesota*



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For David Kieft

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James D. Tracy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

<i>List of Illustrations</i>	page ix
<i>List of Tables</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiii
<i>List of Abbreviations</i>	xv
Introduction	i
<b>Part 1 Strategy and Finance</b>	17
1 The Grand Strategy of Charles V	20
2 The Habsburg-Valois Struggle: Italy, 1515–1528	39
3 The Search for Revenue, I: The Hard Roads of Fiscal Reform	50
4 The Search for Revenue, II: Parliamentary Subsidies	67
5 The Search for Credit: Charles and His Bankers	91
<b>Part 2 Impresario of War: Charles's Campaigns, 1529–1552</b>	109
6 Finding Uses for an Army: Charles in Italy, 1529–1530	114
7 Crusades in Austria and the Mediterranean, 1532–1535	133
8 Failures in Provence and at Prevesa and Algiers, 1536–1541	158
9 Charles's Grand Plan, 1543–1544	183
10 The First Schmalkaldic War, 1546–1547	204
11 The Second Schmalkaldic War and the Assault on Metz, 1552	229
<b>Part 3 War Taxation: Parliaments of the Core Provinces of the Low Countries, Naples, and Castile</b>	249
12 Fiscal Devolution and War Taxation in the Low Countries	254
13 Baronial Politics and War Finance in the Kingdom of Naples	274

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81431-7 - Emperor Charles V, Impresario of War: Campaign Strategy, International Finance, and Domestic Politics

James D. Tracy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

Contents

14	Town Autonomy, Noble Magistrates, and War Taxation in Castile	289
	Conclusions	305
	<i>Bibliography</i>	317
	<i>Index</i>	329



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978-0-521-81431-7 - Emperor Charles V, Impresario of War: Campaign Strategy, International Finance, and Domestic Politics

James D. Tracy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Illustrations*

## MAPS

Int.1. Habsburg dominions in Europe, 1555 (based on Brandi, <i>Kaiser Karl V</i> )	<i>page</i> 3
3.1. The core provinces: Flanders, Brabant, and Holland	52
3.2. The Kingdom of Naples	55
3.3. The Kingdom of Castile	64
6.1. Northern Italy, with Alpine passes, 1530	118
7.1. The Danube campaign of 1532	140
7.2. Habsburg and Ottoman Empires at war in the Mediterranean	142
8.1. The Provence campaign of 1536	162
9.1. The Rhineland campaign of 1543	189
9.2. Charles's invasion of northern France, 1544	193
10.1. The First Schmalkaldic War, 1546–1547	211
11.1. Charles's retreat to Villach	236

## FIGURES

5.1. Jan Ossaert, <i>Francisco de los Cobos</i> , Getty Museum, Los Angeles	93
6.1. Titian, <i>La Emperatriz Doña Isabella</i> , Prado, Madrid	115
7.1. Anonymous, <i>Andrea Doria with a Cat</i> , Palazzo Doria, Genoa	136
7.2. <i>Siege of Goletta</i> , in the 1555 Antwerp edition of <i>Historiarum sui Temporis</i> by Paolo Giovio, University of Minnesota Library	148
7.3. <i>Tunis Captured</i> , in the 1555 edition of <i>Kurze Verzeichnis wie Keyser Carolus der V in Africa . . .</i> , Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel	150

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81431-7 - Emperor Charles V, Impresario of War: Campaign Strategy, International Finance, and Domestic Politics

James D. Tracy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

x

## Illustrations

- |       |  |     |
|-------|--|-----|
| 8.1.  | <i>Siege of Algiers</i> , in the 1555 Antwerp edition of <i>Historiarum sui Temporis</i> by Paolo Giovio, University of Minnesota Library                                | 175 |
| 10.1. | <i>The Ingolstadt Cannonade</i> , in the 1550 Antwerp edition of <i>Commentariorum de Bello Germanico</i> by Luis de Ávila, University of Minnesota Library              | 212 |
| 10.2. | <i>Spaniards Wading the Elbe at Mühlberg</i> , in the 1550 Antwerp edition of <i>Commentariorum de Bello Germanico</i> by Luis de Ávila, University of Minnesota Library | 216 |
| 10.3. | Titian, <i>Charles V as the Victor at Mühlberg</i> , Prado, Madrid   | 218 |

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81431-7 - Emperor Charles V, Impresario of War: Campaign Strategy, International Finance, and Domestic Politics

James D. Tracy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Tables*

5.1. Lenders to be repaid by the treasury of Castile, 1521–1555	<i>page</i> 101
5.2. Revenue structure of Charles V's lands	102
II.1. Warfare and loans against the treasury of Castile during Charles's reign	110
8.1. Sources of funds for Charles's campaigns, 1529–1541	182
9.1. Castile's revenues, 1543–1548, and <i>cambios</i> for Charles remitted 1543–1544	203
II.1.1. Loans charged against the treasury of Castile in 1552	245
II.1.2. Sources of funds for Charles's campaigns, 1543–1552	247
III.1. Average annual subsidies of the core provinces, Naples, and Castile, 1519–1553	250
III.2. Largest parliamentary grants during Charles's reign	251
12.1. Charges against the ordinary subsidies of the Low Countries in 1531	263
12.2. Sources of funds raised by the three core provinces, 1543–1544	266

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81431-7 - Emperor Charles V, Impresario of War: Campaign Strategy, International Finance, and Domestic Politics

James D. Tracy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-81431-7 - Emperor Charles V, Impresario of War: Campaign Strategy, International Finance, and Domestic Politics

James D. Tracy

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## *Acknowledgments*

Some years ago, a textbook publisher asked me for a new biography of Charles V that was to be done in time for the 500th anniversary of his birth (2000). In his own day Charles was a ruler of European scope, but in his own day it seems fair to say he was more feared than admired. Seeing Charles mainly as a man of war, I took it as my challenge to tell the story of his wars mainly from the emperor's point of view, but with some appreciation of how others saw him, and of the long-term impact of his campaigns. That the book did not appear in 2000, and is not a biography, will suggest that there have been some detours along the way. In its final form, *Emperor Charles V* owes a great deal to the careful criticisms of Cambridge University Press's three readers, whom I wish to thank, and to those of my Minnesota colleague, David Kieft, whose friendship and support of my work over the years I wish to recognize in a special way.

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[More information](#)

---

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James D. Tracy

Frontmatter

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AJ	Andries Jacobszoon, “Prothocolle van alle die reysen . . . bij mij Andries Jacops gedaen [1522–1538],” Gemeentearchief, Amsterdam.
Aud.	Algemeen Rijksarchief/Archives Généraux du Royaume, Brussels, “Papiers d’État et de l’Audience.”
“Berichte”	“Berichte und Studien zur Geschichte Karls V,” I–XIX, <i>Nachrichten von der Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen, Philologisch-Historische Klasse</i> , 1934–1941.
Busto	Otto Adalbert Graf von Looz-Corswaren, ed., <i>Bernabé de Busto, Geschichte des Schmalkaldischen Krieges</i> (Burg, 1938) = <i>Texte und Forschungen im Auftrage der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, herausgegeben von der Romanischen Kommission</i> , Band I.
<i>Corpus Documental</i>	Manuel Fernández Álvarez, ed., <i>Corpus Documental de Carlos V</i> (5 vols., Salamanca, 1973–1981).
Estado	Archivo de Simancas, Valladolid, Colecion Estado.
<i>Familienkorrespondenz</i>	<i>Die Korrespondenz Ferdinands I</i> : vol. I, Wilhelm Bauer, ed., <i>Familienkorrespondenz bis 1526</i> (Vienna, 1912); vol. II, Wilhelm Bauer and Robert Lacroix, eds., <i>Familienkorrespondenz 1527–1528</i> (Vienna, 1930); vol. III, Wilhelm Bauer and Robert

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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- GRK Rijksarchief van Zuid-Holland, The Hague, “Graafelijkheids Rekenkamer.”
- HHSA-B Haus- Hof- und Staatsarchiv, Vienna, “Belgien.”
- Lanz Karl Lanz, ed., *Korrespondenz des Kaisers Karls V aus dem Königlichem Archiv und der Bibliothèque de Bourgogne zu Brüssel* (3 vols., Leipzig, 1844–1846).
- Lille B “Comptes des Receveurs Généraux de toutes les finances,” Series B, Archives du Département du Nord, Lille. Film copy at Algemeen Rijksarchief/Archives Généraux du Royaume, Brussels.
- RSH *Resolutiën van de Staten van Holland, 1524–1795* (278 vols., Amsterdam, 1789–1814).
- Staatspapiere* Karl Lanz, ed., *Staatspapiere des Kaisers Karls V aus dem Königlichem Archiv und der Bibliothèque de Bourgogne zu Brüssel* (Stuttgart, 1848).