

Source: [KBHistoryMasterIndex](#)

1 | Diplomacy, Kissinger

The Document: [KBe20hist201srcKissingerAnnotated](#)

CLAIM: European balance of power system emerged after medieval collapse

1.1 | European Power Balance

Development into model of "universality" => one emperor, one church

[KBhHIST201HolyRomanEmpire1500s](#) * If the Holy Roman Emperor were to actually succeed, all of Europe would become auxiliaries to it * So, why no central control? 1. Lack of transportation and communication systems made tying large countries together difficult 2. HRE had separation between church and state, which makes the authority less authoritative * Pope + emperor constantly fought * Need constitution to settle * Enabled feudal rulers to enhance autonomy * Habsburg dynasty + combination with Spanish royalty => Über powerful HRE => Almost centralized nation * CLAIM: eventually weakened pope brought end to religious universality, which brought end to that centralized Europe idea * Raison d'état * *Each state depended on the other. The well being of the state justified whatever means were employed to further it. The national interest supplanted the medieval notion of a universal morality.* * Balance of power became dominant * INFERENCE: more sensible government * "Depended on reason and ability to assess power relationships" * France! * CLAIM: lost the most by the boom of the Holy Roman Empire * Near-death of HRE would allow France to expand eastwards * Cardinal de Richelieu * "Father of the modern state system" * Proposed and practiced Raison d'état for France * Counter-reformation * HRE trying to revive Catholic universality + stamp out protestantism * Lead to Thirty Years' War => 1618 * Danish and Swedish armies cut into Germany * French army joined in too * Devastated central Europe + lost Germany a third of its population * And then... our good friend Richelieu instituted Raison d'état * France was surrounded by HRE * All others loyal to HRE * Hence, the Cardinal disregarded the fact that he is the Cardinal, and instituted this idea => State > Religion * Sided with the Protestants

CLAIM:

> Had the Habsburg emperors played according to the same rules or understood the

- * HRE Emperor Ferdinand II
 - * Practiced the opposite of *raison d'état*, which means religion + morality > state
 - * Refused to treaty with the Muslim Turks/Protestant Swedes
 - * Less concerned with the Empire's welfare than that of the will of god
 - * "The state existed to serve religion ... for Ferdinand"
 - * Richelieu is secular as minister, while salvation is only a personal objective => c
 - * To Richelieu, "the state has no immorality" => acting on the state means must act n
 - * CLAIM: HRE would have expanded more if they agreed to work with the protestants who
 - * Edict of reinstatement
 - * Demanded land taken by protestants since 1555 be returned
- * Richelieu subsidized the Protestant German fight against HRE
 - * Unique and novel secular support (especially because Richelieu himself is a Catholi
 - * In the French national interest => prevented HRE encirclement of France
- * Raison d'état extension and failure
 - * Too much power without morals is no good
 - * Louis XIV over exploited the rest of Europe
 - * In the end, this was detrimental to France
 - * When most states start being fully rational and not at all moral, this becomes less fun

- * Nemesis of Raison d'etat is overextension
 - * If no one else is expanding, a country will keep taking advantage of others
 - * Which does not make you a lot of friends

> Under Raison d'etat, "The stronger would seek to dominate, and the weaker would resist by forming

- * CLAIM: Frederick the Great's decision to invade Silesia was pure strategy move
 - * Conquest made Prussia a "_bona-fide_ Great Power"
 - * Prussia joined by France, Spain, etc. in war of 1740-1748
 - * In 1756-1763, switched sides
 - * CLAIM: pure result of calculations of benefit
- * Nonsecular wars less violent than holy wars because CLAIM: they did not involve emotion
- * England mediated
 - * Policy based on throwing itself into the weaker side
 - * King William III engineered this
 - * _Raison d'etat_ did not require expansion, for "national interest to be in the preservation of the
- * Glorious revolution kicked James II off the throne, chose William of Orange of the Netherlands as
- * Used the fact that if France occupied Belgium, it would surely eat up the Netherlands, to cause Eng
 - * So, William fought Louis XIV
 - * Formed Grand Alliance - Sweden Spain Savoy, Austria, Netherlands, and England all against F
 - * Constantly fought, and left France to be strong but not dominant
 - * Textbook Balance of Power!
 - * The fighting as a classic example of _Raison d'etat_: ideologically, England and France are on

CLAIM:

> In this manner, Great Britain became the balancer of the European equilibrium, first almost by

Kissinger's Take Home Messages

And I quote:

""

- * Power is difficult to access
- * Equilibrium best achieved if they are in common interest
- * Balance of power inhibits capacity to overthrow order
- * Agreement on shared values inhibits desire to overthrow order
- * Power without legitimacy tempts dangerous strength tests
- * Legitimacy without power tempts empty power tests

""

Kissinger sees himself as American Richlieu.

End result of Raison d'etat

1. Others form a coalition against the ruthless nation => balance of power is eventually achieved
2. Unipolar dominance of a world system/world hegemony => too dominant to fight back against

McNeill

- Consolidation for political power (310-311)
 1. Administrative centralization: italian city-state strategies to govern countries
 2. Seizing Church power and property during the Reformation: Catholics trade away political power to re-affirm their religious
 3. Development of military technology becomes too expensive to do rurally to larger factories in a city: standing army cannot be tracked in a local level

The renaissance brings two things: either harness renaissance energy to do innovation or harness reformation energy to unify Europe — if someone has the ability to have warfare.

1.2 | **The People**

1. Cardinal Richelieu
2. Ferdinand II
3. Frederick the Great
4. Reformation
5. Counter-Reformation
6. 30 Years War
7. 7 Years War
8. William III of Orange
9. Louis XIV (Sun King)
10. Napoleon
11. William Pitt
12. Congress of Vienna
13. War of Austrian Succession
14. War of Spanish Succession