

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

1.1.1 | The Holy Roman Empire

[KBHIST201HolyRomanEmpire1500s](#)

1.1.2 | System of Raison De 'Etat

As a mean to fend off an every-growing HRE threatening France, Cardinal Richelieu came up with a system named [KBHIST201RaisonDeEtat](#) that promises to be a better system of government.

- Edict of reinstatution
 - 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 Catholic)
- In the French national interest => prevented HRE encirclement of France
- Raison d'etat extention 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 starts being fully rational and not at all moral, this becomes less fun
- Nemesis of Raison d' etat is overextention
- 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 coalitions to augment their individual strengths”

- 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 European balance”

- Glorious revolution kicked James II off the throne, chose William of Orange of the Netherlands as replacement
- Used the fact that if France occupied Belgium, it would surely eat up the Netherlands, to cause England to fight in the war
- So, William fought Louis XIV
- Formed Grand Alliance — Sweden Spain Savoy, Austria, Netherlands, and England all against France
- Constantly fought, and left France to be strong but not dominant
- Textbook Balance of Power!
- The fighting as a classic example of *Raison d'état*: ideologically, England and France are on the same side. However, it is not in England's best interest to join them

CLAIM:

In this manner, Great Britain became the balancer of the European equilibrium, first almost by default, later by conscious strategy. Without Great Britain's tenacious commitment to that role, France would almost surely have achieved hegemony over Europe in the eighteenth or nineteenth century, and Germany would have done the same in the modern period.

Kissinger's Take Home Messages

And I quote:

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- 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

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Kissinger sees himself as American Richlieu.

End result of Raison d'état

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 rural 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