

Source: [KBhHIST201HolyRomanEmpire1500s] [KBhHIST201Kissinger]

## 1 | 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. — [KBhHIST201Kissinger]

A method of “sensible government” that promises to set aside personal ideological differences for the betterment of the country as a whole.

This makes politics non-secular, which means... Nonsecular wars less violent than holy wars because CLAIM [KBhHIST201Kissinger]: they did not involve emotion

### 1.1 | Exhibit A: France!

[KBhHIST201FrenchRichelieuAndRaisonDeEtat]

### 1.2 | Exhibit B: Frederick the Great

CLAIM @ [KBhHIST201Kissinger]: Frederick the Great's decision to invade Silesia was pure strategy move

1. Conquest made Prussia a “*bona-fide* Great Power”
2. Prussia joined by France, Spain, etc. in war of 1740-1748
3. In 1756-1763, switched sides

CLAIM @ [KBhHIST201Kissinger]: the side-switching was a pure result of calculations of benefit

### 1.3 | Failure and Overextension

CLAIM @ [KBhHIST201Kissinger] — too much power without morality is no good, for instance

#### 1.3.1 | Exhibit B: Still France!

- **Louis XIV**, under the guidance of [KBhHIST201FrenchRichelieuAndRaisonDeEtat], gone trigger happy on the expansion
- Ultimately, this is detrimental
  - When most states starts being fully rational and not at all moral, this becomes less fun
  - 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'état, “The stronger would seek to dominate, and the weaker would resist by forming coalitions to augment their individual strengths”