

Source: [KBHistoryMasterIndex](#)

1 | Unit 2 Essay

1.1 | General Information

Due Date	Topic	Important Documents
Nov 9th, a Monday	French rev politiking	Henry the Kissinger, Mason, Roberts

1.2 | Prompt

In the end, did the European balance of power succeed in its goal to, as Kissinger puts it, limit conflict and produce the “best possible outcome” from flawed human nature? Or did it magnify conflict and increase the likelihood of global war?

Quotable Quotes * Kissinger * “If the circumstances were reversed, we could equally be pro-German and anti-French.” A1 => decisions purely based on political interest A1 * “William was perfectly willing to negotiate with Louis XIV when he felt the balance of power could best be served by doing so.” A2 => when interest is served, working with adversary is possible A2 * “Agreeing on the importance of the balance of power did not, however, still British disputes about the best strategy to implement the policy. ... The Whigs argued that GB should engage only when balance threatened, and only long enough to remove threat; Tories argued that GB’s duty was to *shape* the balance of power.” A3 => Brits wanted to preserve balance of power either by actively controlling for it or waiting for balance A3 * CLAIM: “Of course, in the end a balance of power always comes about de facto when several states interact.” A4 => balance of power whether ye wanted or not A4 * “Power is too difficult to assess, and the willingness to vindicate it too various, to permit treating it as a reliable guide to international order. ... The balance of power inhibits the capacity to overthrow the international order” A5 => power in itself can’t be used to gauge international order, but bop inhibits capacity to overthrow intl order A5 * “Every king consoled himself with the thought that strengthening his own rule was the greatest possible contribution to the general peace, and left it to the ubiquitous invisible hand to justify his exertions - without limiting his ambitions.” A6 => every king believes that acting in his self interest strengthened general peace A6 * “But Louis XN gained no peace. of mind from security; he saw in it an opportunity for conquest. In his overzealous pursuit of raison d’etat, LouisXN alarmed the rest of Europe and brought together an anti-French coalition which, in the end, thwarted his design.” A7 => Overzealous expansion of Raison may lead to downfall A7 * “Thereby, France lost the advantage of having adversaries constrained by moral considerations ... Once all states played by the same rules, gains became much more difficult to achieve” A8 => too many countries Reasoning may lead to countries unrestrained by morality A8 * Roberts * “In the next four centuries, Christianity was often to have disastrous effects. Confident in the possession of the true religion, Europeans were impatient and contemptuous of the values and achievements of the peoples and civilizations they disturbed.” A9 => Being contemptuous of the values of other societies bring disasters A9 * “Greed quickly led to the abuse of power, to domination and exploitation by force. In the end this led to great crimes - though they were often committed unconsciously.” A10=> greed lead to unconcious crimes A10 * “Europeans could usually exact what they wanted in the end because of a technical superiority which exaggerated the power of their tiny numbers and for a few centuries turned the balance against the great historic agglomerations of population and civilization.” A11 => Europe’s technical superiority turned the balance against historical civilizations A11 * “The obscuring of the Company’s primary commercial role was not good for business. It also gave its employees even greater opportunities to feather their own nests. ... the British government hoped as fervently as the Company to avoid being dragged any further into the role of imperial power in India.” A12 => Its advantageous to do business instead of doing brute territorialism A12 * “The huge and growing Caribbean market for slaves and imported European goods was added to that already offered by a

Spanish empire increasingly unable to defend its economic monopoly. This fixed the role of the West Indies in the relationships of the European powers for the next century. ... They were long a prey to disorder" A13 => HUN? Spain's cat-and-mouse game with defending its monopoly fixed the country's stance in the Indies A13 * "Gradually, the great powers fought out their disputes until they arrived at acceptable agreements, but this was to take a long time." A14 => No agreement? Fight! Eventually there will be one. A14 * "All the colonial powers had, by the eighteenth century, been able to extract some economic profit from their colonies" A15 => all the colonial powers had, by the eighteenth century, been able to extract some economic profit from their colonies A15 * "Europeans did not just conquer; they exterminated local cultures and peoples and replaced them with their own" A16 => Europeans conquered with a goal of assimilation A16 * "Older cultures were to be cut off from populating the new worlds or setting their mark on them" A17 * "The French were Great Britain's most dangerous potential competitors, but their government was always likely to be distracted by its European continental commitments." A18 * "The British lacked missionary zeal ... they had no immediate urge to interfere with the native custom or institution" A19 * "Before its outbreak, there had in fact been no remission of fighting in India, even while France and Great Britain were officially at peace after 1748." A20 * "The possession of a station at Calcutta placed them at the door to that part of India which was potentially the richest prize - Bengal and the lower Ganges valley." A21 * Mason * "A long struggle between Parliament and the Stuart kings in England? and essentially replaced the absolute monarchy with a constitutional monarchy" A22 * "'Sovereign power resides in my person alone It is from me alone that my policies take their existence and their authority'" A23 * "European monarchies had consciously pursued a policy of the balance of power, a system of shifting international alliances that prevented any one country from becoming too powerful" A24 * "Wars were fought not so much for ideology or nationalism but to maintain the balance of power ... The victor did not want to crush the vanquished" A25 * "Napoleon formed mass armies and led them into other countries to spread the ideas of the Revolution and to enhance his own power" A26 * "The French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars had unleashed forces that would shake the foundations of European society." A27 * "Napoleon had changed the nature of warfare in Europe by conscripting huge armies and infusing them with a commitment to fight for France and for 'liberty, equality, and fraternity,' the slogan of the Revolution." A28

1.3 | Idea Snippets Gathering

- => European's colonization had strategic advantage A17
- => Competition in colonies often set aside for mainland competition A18
- => The Britons did not want to assimilate in the Indies A19
- => Before the 7 years war, Britain and France still fought even nominally at peace A20
- => Britain's acquisition of Calcutta train station was beneficial A21
- => England's Abs. Mon. replaced with constitutional monarchy A22
- => old France got power from the King alone A23
- => Europeans intentionally set up government to prevent one from being too powerful A24
- => wars are fought for BOP A25
- => Napoleon tried to spread ideas of the revolution A26
- => French Rev shook Europe A27
- => Napoleon changed wars into a war of ideology A28
- Balance of power only encourages fighting when provoked
- Entropy, so people provoke
- But ultimately it's more stable than old world empires

- It encourages fighting, but that's unavoidable
 - Competing resources
 - Competing land
 - Competing trade

1.4 | Claim Synthesis (Babingtonization)

1.4.1 | Development phase – How and So-What

- CLAIM
 - How THING THAT ATTACKS INTEGRITY OF CLAIM
 - EVIDENCE and SPECIFICITY
 - So what (local), THING THAT ATTACKS THE RELEVANCE OF CLAIM TOWARDS THE BROADER PICTURE
- CLAIM
 - Repeat...

1.4.2 | Testing phase – Why and So-What

- CLAIM
 - Why DOES THE CLAIM ANSWER THE PROMPT?
 - So what (global), THING THAT ATTACKS THE BROADER IMPACT OF THE CLAIM
- CLAIM
 - Repeat...

1.5 | Defluffifying

CHOSEN THESIS CLAIM

- Point a
- Point b
- Point c

So what? SO WHAT

Now, defluffify by re-writing the three points + so what in as little words as possible.

RESTATED CLAIM

1.6 | Outline

- Claim 1: *claim*
 - How
 - HOW IS CLAIM TRUE?
 - Evidence -> HOW IS YOUR REASONING TRUE?
 - So What
 - WHY DO I CARE?

- Claim 2: *claim*
 - How
 - HOW IS CLAIM TRUE?
 - Evidence -> HOW IS YOUR REASONING TRUE?
 - So What
 - WHY DO I CARE?
 - Claim 3: *claim*
 - How
 - HOW IS CLAIM TRUE?
 - Evidence -> HOW IS YOUR REASONING TRUE?
 - So What
 - WHY DO I CARE?
-

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