

= War of the Bavarian Succession =

A Saxon ? Prussian alliance fought the War of the Bavarian Succession (July 1778 ? 21 May 1779) against the Austrian Habsburg Monarchy to prevent the Habsburgs from acquiring the Electorate of Bavaria . Although the war consisted of only a few minor skirmishes , thousands of soldiers died from disease and starvation , earning the conflict the name Kartoffelkrieg (Potato War) in Prussia and Saxony ; in Habsburg Austria , it was sometimes called the Zwetschgenrummel (Plum Fuss) .

On 30 December 1777 , Maximilian Joseph , the last of the junior line of Wittelsbach , died of smallpox , leaving no children . Charles IV Theodore , a scion of a senior branch of the House of Wittelsbach , held the closest claim of kinship , but he also had no legitimate children to succeed him . His cousin , Charles II August , Duke of Zweibrücken , therefore had a legitimate legal claim as Charles Theodore 's heir presumptive . Across Bavaria 's southern border , Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II coveted the Bavarian territory and had married Maximilian Joseph 's sister Maria Josepha in 1765 to strengthen any claim he could extend . His agreement with the heir , Charles Theodore , to partition the territory neglected any claims of the heir presumptive , Charles August .

Acquiring territory in the German @-@ speaking states was an essential part of Joseph 's policy to expand his family 's influence in Central Europe . For Frederick the Great , Joseph 's claim threatened the Prussian ascendancy in German politics , but he questioned whether he should preserve the status quo through war or through diplomacy . Empress Maria Theresa , who co @-@ ruled with Joseph , considered any conflict over the Bavarian electorate not worth bloodshed , and neither Maria Theresa nor Frederick saw any point in pursuing hostilities . Joseph would not drop his claim despite his mother 's contrary insistence . Frederick August III , Elector of Saxony , wanted to preserve the territorial integrity of the Duchy for his brother @-@ in @-@ law , Charles August , and had no interest in seeing the Habsburgs acquire additional territory on his southern and western borders . Despite his dislike of Prussia , which had been Saxony 's enemy in two previous wars , Charles August sought the support of Frederick , who was happy to challenge the Habsburgs . France became involved to maintain the balance of power . Finally , Catherine the Great 's threat to intervene on the side of Prussia with fifty thousand Russian troops forced Joseph to reconsider his position . With Catherine 's assistance , he and Frederick negotiated a solution to the problem of the Bavarian succession with the Treaty of Teschen , signed on 13 May 1779 .

For some historians , the War of the Bavarian Succession was the last of the old @-@ style Cabinet Wars (Kabinettskriege) of the Ancien Régime in which troops maneuvered while diplomats traveled between capitals to resolve their monarchs ' complaints . The subsequent French Revolutionary Wars and Napoleonic Wars differed in scope , strategy , organization and tactics .

= = Background = =

In 1713 , Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI established a line of succession that gave precedence to his own daughters over the daughters of his brother . To protect the Habsburg inheritance , he coerced , cajoled , and persuaded the crowned heads of Europe to accept the Pragmatic Sanction . In this agreement , they acknowledged any of his legitimate daughters as the rightful Queen of Bohemia , Hungary and Croatia , and Archduchess of Austria ? a break from the tradition of male succession .

Holy Roman Emperors had been elected from the House of Habsburg for most of the previous three centuries . Charles VI arranged a marriage of his eldest daughter , Maria Theresa , to Francis of Lorraine . Francis relinquished the Duchy of Lorraine near France in exchange for the Grand Duchy of Tuscany near Austria to make himself a more appealing candidate for eventual election as Emperor . On paper , many heads of state and , most importantly , the rulers of the German states of the Holy Roman Empire , accepted the Pragmatic Sanction and the idea of Francis as the next Emperor . Two key exceptions , the Duchy of Bavaria and Saxony , held important electoral votes and could impede or even block Francis 's election . When Charles died in 1740 , Maria Theresa had to fight for her family 's entitlements in Bohemia , Hungary and Croatia , and her husband faced competition in his election as the Holy Roman Emperor .

Charles , Prince Elector and Duke of Bavaria , claimed the German territories of the Habsburg dynasty as a son @-@ in @-@ law of Joseph I , and furthermore presented himself as Charles VI 's legitimate Imperial successor . If women were going to inherit , he claimed , then he should be first in line : his wife , Maria Amalia , was the daughter of Joseph I. Both Charles VI and his predecessor Joseph I had died without sons . Charles of Bavaria suggested that the legitimate succession pass to Joseph 's female children , rather than to the daughters of the younger brother , Charles VI . For different reasons , Prussia , France , Spain and the Polish @-@ Saxon monarchy supported Charles of Bavaria 's claim to the Habsburg territory and the Imperial title and reneged on the Pragmatic Sanction .

Charles of Bavaria needed military assistance to take the Imperial title by force , which he secured the treaty of Nymphenburg (July 1741) . During the subsequent War of the Austrian Succession , he successfully captured Prague , where he was crowned King of Bohemia . He invaded Upper Austria , planning to capture Vienna , but diplomatic exigencies complicated his plans . His French allies redirected their troops into Bohemia , where Frederick the Great , himself newly king of Prussia , had taken advantage of the chaos in Austria and Bavaria to annex Silesia .

Charles 's military options disappeared with the French . Adopting a new plan , he subverted the Imperial election . He sold the County of Glatz to Prussia for a reduced price in exchange for Frederick 's electoral vote . Charles 's brother , Klemens August of Bavaria , archbishop and prince @-@ elector of the Electorate of Cologne , voted for him in the Imperial election and personally crowned him on 12 February 1742 in the traditional ceremony in Frankfurt am Main . The next day , Charles 's Bavarian capital of Munich capitulated to the Austrians to avoid being plundered by Maria Theresa 's troops . In the following weeks , her army overran most of Charles 's territories , occupied Bavaria , and barred him from his ancestral lands and from Bohemia .

Charles VII spent most of his three @-@ year reign as Emperor residing in Frankfurt while Maria Theresa battled Prussia for her patrimony in Bohemia and Hungary . Frederick could not secure Bohemia for Charles , but he did manage to push the Austrians out of Bavaria . For the last three months of his short reign , the gout @-@ ridden Charles lived in Munich , where he died in January 1745 . His son , Maximilian III Joseph (known as Max Joseph) inherited his father 's Electoral dignities but not his Imperial ambition . With the Peace of Füssen (22 April 1745) , Max Joseph promised to vote for Francis of Lorraine , Maria Theresa 's husband , in the pending Imperial election . He also acknowledged the Pragmatic Sanction . In return , he obtained the restitution of his family 's Electoral position and territories . For his subjects , his negotiations ended five years of warfare and brought a generation of peace and relative prosperity that began with his father 's death in 1745 and ended with his own in 1777 .

= = Contenders = =

As the Duke of Bavaria , Max Joseph was the prince of one of the largest states in the German @-@ speaking portion of the Holy Roman Empire . As a prince @-@ elector , he stood in the highest rank of the Empire , with broad legal , economic , and judicial rights . As an elector , he was one of the men who selected the Holy Roman Emperor from a group of candidates . He was the son of one Holy Roman Emperor (Charles VII) , and the grandson of another (Joseph I) . When he died of smallpox on 30 December 1777 , he left no children to succeed him and several ambitious men prepared to carve his patrimony into pieces .

= = = Heir = = =

The Sulzbach branch of the Wittelsbach family inherited the Duchy of Bavaria . In this line , the 55 @-@ year @-@ old Charles IV Theodore , the Duke of Berg @-@ Jülich , held the first claim . Unfortunately for Charles Theodore , he was already the Elector Palatine . By the terms of the 1648 Peace of Westphalia , he had to cede the Palatine electorate to his own heir before he could claim the Bavarian electorate . He was not eager to do so , even though Bavaria was larger and more important . He preferred living in the Palatinate , with its salubrious climate and compatible social

scene . He patronized the arts , and had developed in Mannheim , his capital city , an array of theaters and museums at tremendous cost to his subjects . He hosted Voltaire at one of his many palaces . During the visit , he had enticed Voltaire 's secretary , the Florentine noble Cosimo Alessandro Collini (1727 ? 1806) , into his own employment , considered a coup in some of the Enlightenment circles . Thomas Carlyle referred to Charles Theodore as a " poor idle creature , of purely egoistical , ornamental , dilettante nature ; sunk in theatricals , [and] bastard children " . The French foreign minister Vergennes , who knew him , described Charles Theodore 's foibles more forcefully :

Although by nature intelligent , he [Charles Theodore] has never succeeded in ruling by himself ; he has always been governed by his ministers or by his father @-@ confessor or (for a time) by the electress [his wife] . This conduct has increased his natural weakness and apathy to such a degree that for a long time he has had no opinions save those inspired in him by his entourage . The void which this indolence has left in his soul is filled with the amusements of the hunt and of music and by secret liaisons , for which His Electoral Majesty has at all times had a particular penchant .

The Electress had provided him with a son , who had immediately died , but Charles Theodore 's " particular penchant " for secret liaisons , most of whom were French actresses that he had raised to the status of countess , had produced several natural children . By the time of Max Joseph 's death , he had legitimated seven of the males of his various alliances , and was considering the legitimation of two more . With this host of male offspring , although Charles Theodore certainly wished to acquire more territory , he needed it to be territory that he could bequeath through his testament , rather than territory encumbered by a legal entailment that could only pass to a legitimate child .

= = = Deal @-@ maker = = =

Joseph , Archduke of Austria , King of the Romans , and co @-@ ruler with his mother , Empress Maria Theresa , coveted Bavaria . He felt the War of the Austrian Succession had shown that the House of Habsburg @-@ Lorraine needed a wider sphere of influence in the German @-@ speaking parts of the Holy Roman Empire . Without this , the family could not count on the election of their chosen male candidate as emperor , nor could the family count on an uncontested succession to the Habsburg territories of Bohemia , Hungary and Croatia . For most of Joseph 's adult life , he sought to strengthen his family 's influence in German @-@ speaking lands . For him , this meant the acquisition of German lands (generally better @-@ developed economically) , not lands in the eastern region of the Habsburg empire , even such strategic territories as Bukovina .

Joseph married Max Joseph 's sister , Maria Josepha , in 1765 , hoping he could claim the Bavarian electorate for his offspring . After two years of unhappy marriage , Maria Josepha died without issue . When Max Joseph died ten years later , Joseph could only present a weak legal claim to Lower Bavaria through a dubious and ancient grant made by the Emperor Sigismund to the House of Habsburg in 1425 . Knowing its poor legal grounds , Joseph negotiated a secret agreement with Charles Theodore shortly after Max Joseph 's death . In this agreement (3 January 1778) , Charles Theodore ceded Lower Bavaria to Austria in exchange for uncontested succession to the remainder of the duchy . Charles Theodore also hoped to acquire from Joseph some unencumbered parts of the Austrian Netherlands and parts of Anterior Austria that he could bequeath to his bastards , but this was not written into the agreement and Joseph was not a particularly generous man . Furthermore , the agreement entirely ignored the interests of Charles Theodore 's own heir presumptive , Charles II August , of the House of Palatinate @-@ Zweibrücken @-@ Birkenfeld . Charles August was the presumptive heir of Charles Theodore 's domains and titles . He had a clear and direct interest in the disposition of the Bavarian duchy , especially in its territorial integrity .

= = = Heir presumptive = = =

Unbeknownst to either Charles Theodore or Joseph , a widow (historians are uncertain which widow) opened secret negotiations with Prussia to secure the eventual succession of Charles II August (Charles August) . Some historians maintain the active negotiator was Max Joseph 's

widow , Maria Anna Sophia of Saxony . Others assert it was Max Joseph 's sister , Maria Antonia of Bavaria , who was also Charles August 's mother @-@ in @-@ law and the mother of the reigning Elector of Saxony . Ernest Henderson even maintained she was the " only manly one among the many Wittelsbach parties " involved in the issue .

Charles August was no great admirer of Joseph 's . As a younger man , he had sought the hand of Joseph 's sister , Archduchess Maria Amalia . She had been quite content to take him , but Joseph and their mother insisted she marry instead the better @-@ connected Duke of Parma . After this disappointment , Charles II August married Maria Amalia of Saxony in 1774 ; she was the daughter of the Elector Christian (d . 1765) and his wife Maria Antonia , Max Joseph 's sister . In 1769 , the reigning Saxon elector , Frederick Augustus III , had married Charles August 's sister . Charles August , sometimes called duc de Deux @-@ Ponts (a French translation of Zweibrücken , or two bridges) , was a French client and could theoretically draw on French support for his claim . However , he had especially good relations with the Saxon Electors : both his mother- and brother @-@ in @-@ law wanted to ensure that Maria Amalia 's husband received his rightful inheritance .

= = Diplomacy = =

= = = Interested parties = = =

Count Karl @-@ Wilhelm Finck von Finckenstein , Frederick the Great 's prime minister , believed that any Austrian acquisition in Bavaria would shift the balance of power in the Holy Roman Empire , diminishing Prussia 's influence . Prussia 's recent gains had been hard @-@ won : thirty years earlier , Frederick had engaged in protracted wars in Silesia and Bohemia , resulting in Prussia 's annexation of most of Silesia , and now , with the economy and society modernizing under his direction , Prussia was emerging as a world power . In the Silesian Wars and the Seven Years ' War , Frederick had earned a new , if grudging , respect for his kingdom 's military and diplomatic prowess from the European powers of France , Russia , Britain and Austria . To protect Prussia 's status and territory , Finck and Frederick constructed an alliance with the Electorate of Saxony , ostensibly to defend the rights of Charles II August , Duke of Zweibrücken .

Although equally interested in maintaining its influence among the German states , France had a double problem . As a supporter of the rebellious British colonies in North America , she wished to avoid a continental engagement ; she could do more damage to the British in North America than in Europe . The Diplomatic Revolution in 1756 had gone against two hundred years of French foreign policy of opposition to the House of Habsburg , arguably bringing France massive territorial gains in repeated wars with Habsburg Austria and Spain . A reversal of this policy in 1756 tied French foreign policy in Europe to Vienna which , although it could give France additional influence and leverage , could also cripple the country 's diplomatic maneuvers with the other power players : Britain , Russia , and Prussia . Despite this restructuring , there existed in the French Court at Versailles , and in France generally , a strong anti @-@ Austrian sentiment . The personal union (the diplomatic term for marriage) of Louis , then the Dauphin , and the Austrian Archduchess Marie Antoinette , was considered both a political and matrimonial mésalliance in the eyes of many Frenchmen . It flew in the face of 200 years of French foreign policy , in which the central axiom " had been hostility to the House of Habsburg . " The French foreign minister , the Comte de Vergennes , maintained deep @-@ seated hostility to the Austrians that antedated the alliance of 1756 . He had not approved of the shift in France 's traditional bonds and considered the Austrians untrustworthy . Consequently , he managed to extricate France from immediate military obligations to Austria by 1778 .

= = = Tensions rise = = =

On 3 January 1778 , a few days after Max Joseph 's death , the ducal equerry proclaimed the succession of Charles Theodore . Dragoons rode through the streets of Munich , some banging

drums and some blowing trumpets , and others shouting , " Long Live our Elector Charles Theodore . " According to the 3 January agreement between Joseph and Charles Theodore , fifteen thousand Austrian troops occupied Mindelheim , ultimately more territory than had been granted to Joseph . Charles Theodore , who had dreamed of rebuilding the Burgundian empire , realized that Joseph was not seriously planning to exchange Bavaria , or even a portion of it , for the entirety of the Austrian Netherlands . At best , he might acquire a few portions of it , perhaps Hainaut or Guelders , Luxembourg , Limburg , or various dispersed possessions in Anterior Austria , most of which lay in southwestern Germany , but Joseph would never release any sizable portion of territory , and certainly not any territory of strategic military or commercial value .

While Charles Theodore 's dream of a Burgundian renaissance receded , Joseph continued on his course to annex part of Bavaria . The widow ? Max Joseph 's widow or the mother @-@ in @-@ law or both ? petitioned Prussia on behalf of Charles II August . Frederick 's envoys to the heir presumptive convinced this slighted prince to lodge protests with the Imperial Diet in Regensburg . Joseph 's troops remained in portions of Bavaria , even establishing an Austrian administration at Straubing , precipitating a diplomatic crisis . Austrian occupation of Bavaria was unacceptable to Charles August 's champion , Frederick . Prussian troops mobilized near Prussia 's border with Bohemia , reminiscent of the invasion in 1740 that so endangered Maria Theresa 's succession to the Habsburg hereditary lands . Meanwhile , the French wriggled out of their diplomatic obligations to Austria , telling Joseph that there would be no military support from Paris for a war against Prussia . Britain , Prussia 's strongest ally , was already mired in a war in North America , but Prussia 's military had recovered from the Seven Years ' War and Frederick did not require any help . Prussia 's other ally , Saxony , aligned by two marriages with Charles August , was strategically prepared for war against Austria and ready to contribute twenty thousand troops . Watching from St. Petersburg , Catherine II was willing to mop up the spoils of war for the Russian Empire but did not want to get involved in another costly European conflict .

For four months , negotiators shuttled between Vienna and Berlin , Dresden and Regensburg , and Zweibrücken , Munich and Mannheim . By early spring 1778 , Austria and Prussia faced each other with armies several times the size of their forces during the Seven Years ' War , and their confrontation had the potential to explode into another European @-@ wide war .

= = Action = =

When it became clear that other monarchs were not going to acquiesce to a de facto partition of Bavaria , Joseph and his foreign minister , Anton von Kaunitz , scoured the Habsburg realm for troops and concentrated six hundred guns and a 180 @,@ 000 ? 190 @,@ 000 @-@ man Austrian army in Bohemia , Moravia , and Austrian Silesia . This amounted to most of Austria 's two hundred thousand effectives , leaving much of the Habsburg border regions with the Ottoman Empire under @-@ guarded . On 6 April 1778 , Frederick of Prussia established his army of eighty thousand men on the Prussian border with Bohemia , near Neisse , Schweidnitz , and the County of Glatz , which Frederick had acquired from the Wittelsbach contender in 1741 in exchange for his electoral support of Charles VII . At Glatz , Frederick completed his preparations for invasion : he gathered supplies , arranged a line of march , brought up his artillery and drilled his soldiers . His younger brother , Prince Henry , formed a second army of seventy @-@ five to a hundred thousand men to the north and west , in Saxony . In April , Frederick and Joseph officially joined their armies in the field , and diplomatic negotiations ended .

In early July 1778 , the Prussian general Johann Jakob von Wunsch (1717 ? 1788) crossed into Bohemia near the fortified town of Náchod with several hundred men . The local garrison , commanded by Friedrich Joseph , Freiherr (Baron) von Nauendorf , then a rittmeister (captain of cavalry) , included only fifty hussars . Despite the poor numerical odds , Nauendorf sallied out to engage Wunsch 's men . When his small force reached Wunsch 's , he greeted the Prussians as friends ; by the time the Prussians were close enough to realize the allegiance of the hussars , Nauendorf and his small band had acquired the upper hand . Wunsch withdrew ; the next day , Nauendorf was promoted to major . In a letter to her son , the Empress Maria Theresa wrote : "

They say you were so pleased with Nauendorf , a rookie from Carlstadt or Hungary , who killed seven men , that you gave him twelve ducats . "

= = = Invasion = = =

A few days after Wunsch 's encounter with Nauendorf , Frederick entered Bohemia . His eighty thousands troops occupied Náchod but advanced no further . The Habsburg army stood on the heights of the Elbe river , nominally under Joseph but with Count Franz Moritz von Lacy in practical command . Lacy had served under Marshal Daun during the Seven Years ' War and knew his military business . He established the Austrian army on the most defensible position available : centered at Jarom?? , a triple line of redoubts extended 15 kilometers (9 @. @ 3 mi) southwest along the river to Königgrätz . The Austrians also augmented this defensive line with their six hundred artillery .

While the main Habsburg army faced Frederick at the Elbe , a smaller army under the command of Baron Ernst Gideon von Laudon guarded the passes from Saxony and Lusatia into Bohemia . Laudon was another battle @-@ hardened and cagey commander with extensive field experience , but even he could not cover the long frontier completely . Shortly after Frederick crossed into Bohemia , Prince Henry , a brilliant strategist in his own right , maneuvered around Laudon 's troops and entered Bohemia at Hainspach . To avoid being flanked , Laudon withdrew across the Iser River , but by mid @-@ August , the main Austrian army was in danger of being outflanked by Henry on its left wing . At its center and right , it faced a well @-@ disciplined army commanded by Frederick , arguably the best tactical general of the age and feared for his victories against France and Austria in the previous war .

While his main army was entrenched on the heights above the Elbe , Joseph encouraged raids against the Prussian troops . On 7 August 1778 , with two squadrons of his regiment , the intrepid " rookie " , now Major , Nauendorf , led a raid against a Prussian convoy at Bieberdorf in the County of Glatz . The surprised convoy surrendered and Nauendorf captured its officers , 110 men , 476 horses , 240 wagons of flour , and thirteen transport wagons . This kind of action characterized the entire war . There were no major battles ; the war consisted of a series of raids and counter @-@ raids during which the opposing sides lived off the country @-@ side and tried to deny each other access to supplies and fodder . Soldiers later said they spent more time foraging for food than they did fighting .

The armies remained in their encampments for the campaign season while men and horses ate all the provisions and forage for miles . Prince Henry wrote to his brother , suggesting they complete their operations by 22 August , at which time he estimated he would have exhausted local supplies of food for his men and fodder for his horses . Frederick agreed . He laid plans to cross the Elbe and approach the Austrian force from the rear , but the more he examined the conditions of Joseph 's entrenchments , the more he realized the campaign was already lost . Even if he and Henry executed simultaneous attacks on the Königgrätz heights , such a plan exposed Henry to a flanking attack from Laudon . A coordinated frontal and rear assault was also unlikely to succeed . Even if it did , the Prussian losses would be unacceptable and would demolish his army 's capacity to resist other invaders . From Frederick 's perspective , the Russians and the Swedes were always ready to take advantage of any perceived Prussian weakness , and the French also could not be trusted to keep their distance . For Frederick , it was a risk not worth taking . Despite this realization , the four armies ? two Austrian , two Prussian ? remained in place until September , eating as much of the country 's resources as they could .

From their advantageous height by Königgrätz , the Austrians frequently bombarded the Prussian army encamped below them . On the same day that Frederick 's doctors bled him , an Austrian cannonade grew so strong that Frederick rode out to observe the damage . During the ride , his vein opened . A company medic bound his wound , an incident later depicted by the painter Bernhard Rode . In his admiring history of Frederick the Great , the English historian Thomas Carlyle (1795 ? 1881) relayed the story of Frederick and a Croatian marksman . As Frederick was reconnoitering , Carlyle maintained , the King encountered the Croat taking aim at him . Reportedly , he wagged his

finger at the man , as if to say , " Do not do that . " The Croat thought better of shooting the King , and disappeared into the woods ; some reports maintain he actually knelt before the king and kissed his hand .

Nauendorf continued his raids , the soldiers foraged for food and dug up the local potato crop , and Joseph and Frederick glared at one another by Königgrätz . Maria Theresa had sent Kaunitz on a secret mission to Berlin to offer a truce . In a second trip , she offered a settlement , and finally wrote to Catherine in Russia to ask for assistance . When Joseph discovered his mother 's maneuvering behind his back , he furiously offered to resign . His mother enlisted the assistance she needed . Catherine offered to mediate the dispute ; if her assistance was unacceptable , she was willing to send fifty thousand troops to augment the Prussian force , despite the fact that she disliked Frederick and her alliance with him was strictly defensive . Frederick withdrew portions of his force in mid @-@ September . In October , Joseph withdrew most of his army to the Bohemian border and Frederick withdrew his remaining troops into Prussia . Two small forces of hussars and dragoons remained in Bohemia to provide a winter cordon ; these forces allowed Joseph and Frederick to keep an eye on each other while their diplomats negotiated at Teschen .

= = = Winter actions = = =

Appointed to be commander of the Austrian winter cordon , Dagobert Sigmund von Wurmser ordered a small assault column under the command of Colonel Wilhelm Klebeck to attack the village of Dittersbach . Klebeck led a column of Croats into the village . During the action , four hundred Prussians were killed , another four hundred made prisoner , and eight colors were captured . Following his successes against the Prussians in 1778 , Joseph awarded Wurmser the Knight 's Cross of the Military Order of Maria Theresa on 21 October 1778 .

In another raid , on 1 January 1779 , Colonel Franz Levenehr led 3 @, @ 200 men (four battalions , six squadrons , and 16 artillery) into Zuckmantel , a village in Silesia on the Prussia border , 7 kilometers (4 mi) south of Ziegenhals . There , he ran against a 10 @, @ 000 ? man Prussian force commanded by General von Wunsch ; the Austrians decisively defeated the Prussians , with a loss of 20 men (wounded) against the Prussian losses of 800 . Two weeks later , Wurmser advanced into the County of Glatz in five columns , two of which , commanded by Major General Franz Joseph , Count Kinsky , surrounded Habelschwerdt on 17 ? 18 January . While one column secured the approach , the other , under the leadership of Colonel Pallavicini , stormed the village and captured the Prince of Hessen @-@ Philippsthal , 37 officers , plus 700 ? 1 @, @ 000 men , three cannon and seven colors ; in this action , the Prussians lost 400 men dead or wounded . Wurmser himself led the third column in an assault on the so @-@ called Swedish blockhouse at Oberschwedeldorf . It and the village of Habelschwerdt were set on fire by howitzers . Major General Ludwig , Baron of Terzi (1730 ? 1800) , who was covering with the remaining two columns , threw back the enemy support and took three hundred Prussian prisoners . Meanwhile , Wurmser maintained his position at the nearby villages of Rückerts and Reinerz . His forward patrols reached the outskirts of Glatz and patrolled much of the Silesian border with Prussia near Schweidnitz . Halberschwerdt and Oberschedeldorf were both destroyed .

On 3 March 1779 , Nauendorf again raided Berbersdorf with a large force of infantry and hussars and captured the entire Prussian garrison . Joseph awarded him the Knight 's Cross of the Military Order of Maria Theresa (19 May 1779) .

= = Impact = =

In the Treaty of Teschen (May 1779) , Maria Theresa returned Lower Bavaria to Charles Theodore , but kept the so @-@ called Innviertel , a 2 @, @ 200 @-@ square @-@ kilometer (850 sq mi) strip of land in the drainage basin of the Inn River . She and Joseph were surprised to find that the small territory had 120 @, @ 000 inhabitants . Saxony received a financial reward of six million gulden from the principal combatants for its role in the intervention .

The War of the Bavarian Succession was the last war for both Frederick and Maria Theresa ,

whose reigns began and ended with wars against one another . Although they deployed armies three to four times the size of the armies of the Seven Years ' War , neither monarch used the entirety of the military force each had at his or her disposal , making this war @-@ without @-@ battles remarkable . Despite the restraint of the monarchs , some early nineteenth @-@ century casualty estimates suggest that tens of thousands died of starvation and hunger @-@ related disease . Carlyle 's more moderate estimate lies at about ten thousand Prussian and probably another ten thousand Austrian dead . Michael Hochedlinger assesses combined casualties at approximately thirty thousand ; Robert Kann gives no estimate of casualties but suggests the primary causes of death were cholera and dysentery . Gaston Bodart , whose 1915 work is still considered the authority on Austrian military losses , is specific : five Austrian generals (he does not name them) , over twelve thousand soldiers , and 74 officers died of disease . In minor actions and skirmishes , nine officers and 265 men were killed and four officers and 123 men were wounded , but not fatally . Sixty @-@ two officers and 2 @,@ 802 men were taken prisoner , and 137 men were missing . Over three thousand Imperial soldiers deserted . Finally , twenty @-@ six officers and 372 men were discharged with disabilities . Bodart also gives Prussian losses : one general killed (he does not say which) , 87 officers and 3 @,@ 364 men killed , wounded or captured . Overall , he assumes losses of ten percent of the fighting force . Little has been discovered of civilian casualties , although certainly the civilians also suffered from starvation and disease . There were other damages : for example , Habelschwerdt and one of its hamlets were destroyed by fire .

Despite its short duration , the war itself cost Prussia thirty @-@ three million florins . For the Austrians , the cost was higher : sixty @-@ five million florins , for a state with an annual revenue of fifty million . Joseph himself described war as " a horrible thing ... the ruin of many innocent people . "

= = = Change in warfare = = =

This was the last European war of the old style , in which armies maneuvered sedately at a distance while diplomats hustled between capitals to resolve their Majesties ' differences . Given the length of time ? six months ? the cost in life and treasure was high . In light of the scale of warfare experienced in Europe less than a generation later in the French Revolutionary Wars and Napoleonic Wars , though , this six @-@ month engagement seems mild . Yet while historians often dismissed it as the last of the archaic mode of Ancien Régime warfare , elements of the war foreshadowed conflicts to come : the sheer sizes of the armies deployed reflected emerging abilities and willingness to conscript , train , equip and field larger armies than had been done in previous generations .

The war also reflected a new height in military spending , especially by the Habsburgs . After the Seven Years ' War , the size of the Habsburg military shrank , from 201 @,@ 311 men in arms in 1761 to 163 @,@ 613 in 1775 . In preparing for a second summer 's campaign , Joseph 's army grew from 195 @,@ 108 effectives in the summer of 1778 to 308 @,@ 555 men in arms in Spring 1779 . Habsburg military strength never dropped below two hundred thousand effectives between 1779 and 1792 , when Austria entered the War of the First Coalition . Several times it surged above three hundred thousand men in arms , responding to needs on the Ottoman border or the revolt in the Austrian Netherlands . The military also underwent a massive organizational overhaul .

In the vernacular , the Austrians called the war Zwetschgenrummel (" Plum Fuss ") , and for the Prussians and Saxons , it was Kartoffelkrieg (" Potato War ") . In the historiography of European warfare , historians almost always describe the War of the Bavarian Succession " in dismissive or derisive terms [as] the apotheosis (or perhaps caricature) of old regime warfare , " despite its grand name . Some historians have maintained that the focus on the consumption of the produce of the land gave the war its popular name . Others suggest that the two armies lobbed potatoes instead of cannonballs or mortars . A third theory maintains that the war acquired its popular name because it took place during the potato harvest .

= = = Resurgence of the problem = = =

The underlying problem was not solved : Joseph 's foreign policy dictated the expansion of Habsburg influence over German @-@ speaking territories , and only this , he believed , would counter Prussia 's growing strength in Imperial affairs . In 1785 , Joseph again sought to make a territorial deal with Charles Theodore , again offering to trade portions of Bavarian territory for portions of the Austrian Netherlands . This time it would be a straight trade : territory for territory , not a partition . Although the Austrian Netherlands was a wealthy territory , it was a thorn in Joseph 's side , opposing his administrative and bureaucratic reforms and devouring military and administrative resources he desperately needed elsewhere in his realm . Despite its problems , Joseph could not afford to give up the Netherlands entirely , so his efforts to negotiate a partial territorial exchange guaranteed him some of the financial benefits of both his Netherlands possessions and the Bavarian territories .

Even if Joseph had to give up the Austrian Netherlands , it meant " the barter of an indefensible strategic position and ... an economic liability for a great territorial and political gain , adjacent to the monarchy . " Again , Charles II August , Duke of Zweibrücken , resented the possible loss of his Bavarian expectancy , and again , Frederick of Prussia offered aid . This time , no war developed , not even a " Potato War " . Instead , Frederick founded the Fürstenbund , or the Union of Princes , comprising the influential princes of the northern German states , and these individuals jointly pressured Joseph to relinquish his ambitious plans . Rather than increasing Austria 's influence in German affairs , Joseph 's actions increased Prussian influence , making Prussia seem like a protector state against greedy Habsburg imperialism (an ironic contrast to the earlier stage of the Austro @-@ Prussian rivalry , in which Frederick seized German @-@ speaking lands with military force and without formal declaration of war , causing most of the German states to join Austria) . In 1799 , the duchy passed to Maximilian IV Joseph , brother of Charles August , whose only child had died in 1784 .

= = Long @-@ term effect : the intensification of German dualism = =

Joseph understood the problems facing his multi @-@ ethnic patrimony and the ambivalent position the Austrians held in the Holy Roman Empire . Although the Habsburgs and their successor house of Habsburg @-@ Lorraine had , with two exceptions , held the position of Emperor since the early 15th century , the basis of 18th @-@ century Habsburg power lay not in the Holy Roman Empire itself , but in Habsburg territories in Eastern Europe (where the family had vast domains) , the Italian peninsula , and the Lowlands . For Joseph or his successors to wield influence in the German @-@ speaking states , they needed to acquire additional German @-@ speaking territories . Acquisition of Central European territories with German @-@ speaking subjects would strengthen the Austrian position in the Holy Roman Empire . As far as Joseph was concerned , only this could shift the center of the Habsburg empire into German @-@ speaking Central Europe . This agenda made dispensable both the Austrian Netherlands ? Habsburg territories which lay furthest west ? and Galicia , furthest east . It also made the recovery of German @-@ speaking Silesia and acquisition of new territories in Bavaria essential .

By the late 1770s , Joseph also faced important diplomatic obstacles in consolidating Habsburg influence in Central Europe . When the British had been Austria 's allies , Austria could count on British support in its wars , but Britain was now allied with Prussia . In the Diplomatic Revolution , the French replaced the British as Austria 's ally , but they were fickle , as Joseph discovered when Vergennes extricated Versailles from its obligations . Russia , which also had been an important Austrian ally for most of the Seven Years ' War , sought opportunities for expansion at the expense of its weak neighbors . In 1778 , that meant Poland and the Ottoman Empire , but Joseph fully understood the danger of appearing weak in Russia 's eyes : Habsburg lands could be carved off easily by the cagey Catherine 's diplomatic knife . Still , Frederick of Prussia was the most definite enemy , as he had been throughout the reigns of Theresa and Franz before him , when the Prussian state 's emergence as a player on the European stage had occurred at Habsburg expense , first with the loss of Silesia , and later in the 1750s and 1760s . Joseph sought to unify the different portions

of his realm , not the German states as a whole , and to establish Habsburg hegemony in German @-@ speaking central Europe beginning with the partition of Bavaria .

The broad geographic outlines of European states changed rapidly in the last fifty years of the century , with partitions of Poland and territorial exchanges through conquest and diplomacy . Rulers sought to centralize their control over their domains and create well @-@ defined borders within which their writ was law . For Joseph , the acquisition of Bavaria , or at least parts of it , would link Habsburg territories in Bohemia with those in the Tyrol and partially compensate Austria for its loss of Silesia . The Bavarian succession crisis provided Joseph with a viable opportunity to consolidate his influence in the Central European states , to bolster his financially strapped government with much @-@ needed revenue , and to strengthen his army with German @-@ speaking conscripts . Supremacy in the German states was worth a war , but for Frederick , the preservation of Charles August 's inheritance was not . He had had sufficient war in the first years of his reign , and in its last twenty years , he sought to preserve the status quo , not to enter into risky adventures that might upset it . If he had to withdraw from engagement with Joseph 's army , such a sacrifice was a temporary measure . Warfare was only one means of diplomacy , and he could employ others in this contest with Austria . The Austro @-@ Prussian dualism that dominated the next century 's unification movement rumbled ominously in the War of the Bavarian Succession .