

# Kaunitz And Enlightened Absolutism 1753 1780

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author of the diplomatic revolution of 1756 and brilliant foreign minister of the austrian empire wenzel anton kaunitz state chancellor of the habsburg monarchy 1753 1792 emerges from this study as the key figure in the development of enlightened absolutism and the guiding spirit behind the modernization of the state

one of the prominent themes of the political history of the 16th and 17th centuries is the waxing influence officials in the exercise of state power particularly in international relations as it became impossible for monarchs to stay on top of the increasingly complex demands of ruling encompassing a variety of cultural and institutional settings these essays examine how state secretaries prime ministers and favourites managed diplomatic personnel and the information flows they generated they explore how these officials balanced domestic matters with external concerns and service to the monarch and state with personal ambition by opening various perspectives on policy making at the level just below the monarch this volume offers up rich opportunities for comparative history and a new take on the diplomatic history of the period

early modern central europe was the continent s most decentralized region politically and its most diverse ethnically and culturally with the onset of the reformation it also

became europe s most religiously divided territory and potentially its most explosive in terms of confessional conflict and war focusing on the holy roman empire and the polish lithuanian commonwealth this volume examines the tremendous challenge of managing confessional diversity in central europe between 1500 and 1800 addressing issues of tolerance intolerance and ecumenism each chapter explores a facet of the complex dynamic between the state and the region s catholic protestant orthodox utraquist and jewish communities the development of religious toleration one of the most debated questions of the early modern period is examined here afresh with careful consideration of the factors and conditions that led to both confessional concord and religious violence

a captivating history of diplomacy and an urgent reminder of why we need to revive its lost arts to survive in a dangerous era of great power competition from the beginning of time human societies have found themselves confronted by enemies too numerous or ferocious to defeat solely by force of arms in these dramatic moments wise leaders have turned to diplomacy to rearrange the gameboard in their favor and stymie seemingly unstoppable foes in great power diplomacy american historian and diplomat a wess mitchell recounts the forgotten story of how history s most legendary empires have used diplomacy as a tool of grand strategy to outwit outmaneuver and outlast militarily superior opponents through fifteen centuries of history great power diplomacy recreates the perilous junctures colorful personalities and intricate statecraft that led to some of history s most stunning diplomatic achievements and greatest disasters the protagonists include giants like richelieu metternich bismarck and kissinger but also a lesser known cast of scoundrels eunuchs drunkards and fools at every turn fortune favored those great powers with the foresight and dexterity to build winning alliances splinter enemy coalitions and when necessary make peace with their bitterest foes diplomacy of this kind has become a lost art in recent years as western elites embraced the illusion that globalization and the spread of democracy would create a borderless world where nations would live in harmony and war would be abolished from the human story but as great power diplomacy reveals we will need to rediscover the secrets of skillful statecraft as the world enters an unstable new era in which continent sized great powers compete for territory resources and prestige by recalling diplomacy s rich past we can equip ourselves for a more dangerous future

this volume of essays on austrian fiction compiled at a time when austria is forming stronger links within the european union illustrates a transition from traditional preoccupations with character differences between austrian and german literature to wider concerns of politics and gender fictional treatments of such issues as male homosexuality problems in feminism the representation of women in male authored texts and anti war protest are examined both in well known novels and in little known works by underrated authors many of the authors discussed have received insufficient recognition because they do not fall within a familiar canon of german literature the specialised research involved in compiling this material is accessible through a series of book reviews included at the end of the volume which range in subject area from the life of an eighteenth century soldier in the habsburg service to the continuing discussion on austrian identity

drawing on original correspondence this book sheds new light on the influential role played by five habsburg princesses during the reforming reign of joseph ii it also provides a vivid picture of aristocratic life in eighteenth century europe

this volume on european nobility includes coverage of the following serfdom and service nobility the swedish nobility 1600 1772 the rise and fall of the danish nobility 1600 1800 the prussian junkers 1600 1786 and the continuity of aristocratic power

the albertina in vienna which houses one of the most significant collections of graphic art in the world is rightfully famous for the unsurpassed quality of its pieces the collection comprises some 65 000 drawings almost one million prints and countless other works on paper ranging from the late gothic period to the present day the eventful history of the graphische sammlung albertina founded by duke albert of saxe teschen spans more than two hundred years and passed into the public domain in 1919 book jacket title summary field provided by blackwell north america inc all rights reserved

covers the events as europe transformed during the period from the renaissance to the enlightenment

this is the second volume of berenger s history of the habsburg empire the work explores the complex relationships of the ethnic groups within the empire particularly the czechs and the hungarians and shows how the dynasty survived and gained strength before world war i

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