THE RISE OF PRUSSIA

BACKGROUND/SETTING
• HRE after 1648
• 300 autonomous and sovereign Germanys
• population 20 million to 13 million to 20 million
• Voltaire said:

BRANDENBURG-PRUSSIA
• elector: after 1415 Hohenzollern family
• Brandenburg lands:
  • Berlin
• 1618 Duchy of east Prussia & Pomerania
• 1718 dominates south Baltic Sea lands

FREDERICK WILLIAM THE GREAT ELECTOR
• 1620-1688
• Great Elector
• vulnerable lands led to emphasis on military
  • strong military = balance of power player
• foundation for absolutism:
  • diplomacy not war
  • Junkers:

FREDERICK I
• 1657-1713
• first king “in” Prussia from 1710
• how he gained title of King “in” Prussia:

FREDERICK WILLIAM II
• 1712-1766, king in 1740
• background:
  • enlightened despot/reforms:
  • first servant of the state:
    • national code of law
  • torture
  • Junkers and serfs:
  • Religion
  • moved into Silesia, results:
  • military genius during Seven Years War from 1756-1763
    • “the Great”
  • Partition of Poland 1772
  • Furstenbund
  • Prussia as a World Power

FREDERICK WILLIAM I
• 1688-1740
• The Soldier King
• King from 1713
• Army:
  • Military:
  • 4th largest army
  • New industries
  • love of army:
    • discipline/techniques
    • Junkers:
    • Potsdam Giants
      • “Army that possesses a state”
  • Economy