

Kaunitz And Enlightened Absolutism 1753 178

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each book in this series is designed to make available to students important new work on key historical problems and periods that they encounter each volume devoted to a central topic or theme contains specially commissioned essays from scholars in the relevant field these provide an assessment of a particular aspect pointing out areas of development and controversy and indicating where conclusions can be drawn or where further work is necessary while an editorial introduction reviews the problem or period as a whole in this text the contributors assess reform and reformers in late 18th century europe covering such topics as catherine the great the danish reformers the habsburg monarchy and events in spain and italy

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

brief historical survey of governmental economic and cultural reforms initiated by so called enlightened monarchs of europe in the second half of the eighteenth century

efforts to ascertain the influence of enlightenment thought on state action especially government reform in the long eighteenth century have long provoked stimulating scholarly quarrels generations of historians have grappled with the elusive intersections of enlightenment and absolutism of political ideas and government policy in order to complement expand and rejuvenate the debate which has so far concentrated largely on northern central and eastern europe this volume brings together historians of southern europe broadly defined and its ultramarine empires each chapter has been explicitly commissioned to engage with a common set of historiographical issues in order to reappraise specific aspects of enlightened absolutism and enlightened reform as paradigms for the study of southern europe and its atlantic empires in so doing it engages creatively with pressing issues in the current historical literature and suggests new directions for future research no single historian working alone could write a history that did justice to the complex issues involved in studying the connection between

enlightenment ideas and policy making in spanish america brazil france italy portugal and spain for this reason this well conceived balanced volume drawing on the expertise of a small carefully chosen cohort offers an exciting investigation of this historical debate

the 18th century was a unique period of global and fundamental change britain conquered india and much of america the american revolution produced the usa and russia expanded vastly in the field of ideas the scientific revolution was consolidated and followed by the enlightenment nationalism flourished populations surged and the commercial and industrial revolutions with western technology eclipsed the east few centuries have inspired such a galaxy of historians and their groundbreaking work has been drawn upon by derek beales in his collection of articles and special lectures he covers the whole european kaleidoscope but focuses especially on joseph ii and the hapburg monarchy asserting that enlightened despotism was the emodiment of the century s revolution in ideas politics government and administration

conventionally absolutism in early modern europe has suggested unfettered autocracy and despotism the erosion of rights the centralisation of decision making the loss of liberty everything in a word that was un british but characteristic of ancien regime france recently historians have questioned such comfortably simplistic views this lively investigation of absolutism in action continent wide but centred on a detailed comparison of france and england dissolves the traditional picture to reveal a much more complex reality and in so doing illuminates the varied ways in which early modern europe was governed

reconstructs the structures that marked the history of germany from the thirty years war to the end of the seven years war

this book provides a history of prussian state patriotism from the seven years war 1756 1763 until the battle of jena 1806 it argues that prussian patriotism was not merely a prelude to german nationalism or a personality cult of frederick the great rather it was an inclusive and non ethnic movement promoting ideals of citizenship merit and empowerment appealing to patriotism became a central method of promoting reform in a state governed by an absolute monarchy covering a turning point in early modern european

intellectual history this book provides a historical perspective for modern discussions on the relationship between patriotism and nationalism

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 and international matters and state and personal ambitions

is there a common ground on which a european citizenship can be constructed this volume looks at four foundations of citizenship in europe the legacy of national identities current designs and projects for social and political citizenship in europe a transitional public space as the basis of an active european citizenship in europe and a transitional collective identity as a symbolic boundary marker for european citizenship such options raise the theoretical question of how to conceive citizenship in a transnationalizing world since the idea of european citizenship cannot escape the problem of defining who is a european citizen and who is not the theoretical problem is tackled by defining the collective bonds of european citizens beyond primordial or traditional bonds that have dominated european history

benjamin constant distinguished two kinds of government unlawful government based on violence and legitimate government based on the general will in europe monarchy was for over a thousand years considered the natural form of legitimate government the sources of its legitimacy were the dynastic principle religion and the ability to protect against foreign aggression at the end of the eighteenth century the revolutions in america and france called into question the traditional legitimacy of monarchy but volker sellin shows that in response to this challenge monarchy opened up new sources of legitimacy by concluding alliances with constitutionalism nationalism and social reform in some cases the age of revolution brought on a new type of leader basing his claim to power on charisma

absolutism in central europe is about the form of european monarchy known as absolutism how it was defined by contemporaries how it emerged and developed and how it has been interpreted by historians political and social scientists this book investigates how scholars from a variety of disciplines have defined and explained political development across what was formerly known as the age of absolutism it

assesses whether the term still has utility as a tool of analysis and it explores the wider ramifications of the process of state formation from the experience of central europe from the early seventeenth century to the start of the nineteenth

this volume provides a new interpretation of the social and cultural context that shaped german political reforms from the mid eighteenth to the mid nineteenth century focusing on electoral saxony the analysis demonstrates how the commercial city of leipzig shaped the saxon enlightenment and then had a powerful influence on reforming the territorial state the study presents extensive archival research to develop a careful account of leipzig s social and political history and then argues persuasively that the city played a catalytic role in the introduction of a saxon constitutional monarchy after 1830 the volume emphasizes the role of pre modern urban political and legal norms in shaping the first liberal reforms in nineteenth century germany

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