wegen (1678) he had to acknowledge his failure in his main purpose, for the Dutch did not lose a foot of territory, but he was permitted, in recognition of his military successes, to incorporate the Franche Comté, a detached eastern possession of the king of Spain, with France.

Louis takes Strasburg.

The second war, too, although it had roused a European alliance against Louis, had brought him its prize of a new province. Louis was now at the zenith of his glory. The adulation of his court became more and more slavish, until the flattered monarch imagined that he could do everything with impunity. His imperious temper is well exhibited by an event of the year 1681. In a period of complete peace he fell upon the city of Strasburg, the last stronghold of the Empire in Alsace, and incorporated it with France.

The bigotry which had been inculcated in the king from his youth, grew confirmed as he entered middle life, and now involved him in a monstrous action. Originally frivolous and pleasure-loving, he had, as the doors of young manhood closed upon him, fallen under the influence of a devout Catholic lady, Madame de Maintenon, the governess of some of his children. To Madame de Maintenon the eradication of heresy was a noble work, and Louis, taking the cue from her, began gradually to persecute the Protestants. At first, innocently enough, rewards were offered to voluntary converts. Then the government proceeded to take more drastic measures; wherever Huguenots refused, on summons, to become Catholics, rough dragoons were quartered on them until the wild soldiery had produced pliancy. These barbarities became known as *dragonnades*. Finally, in 1685, two years after Louis had by formal marriage with Madame de Maintenon, who thus became his second wife, thoroughly committed himself to her ideas, he revoked the Edict of Nantes, by virtue of which the Huguenots had enjoyed a partial freedom of worship for almost one hundred

The Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, 1685.

years. Therewith the Protestant faith was proscribed within the boundaries of France. The blow which this insane measure struck the prosperity of the country was more injurious than a disastrous war. Thousands of Huguenots —the lowest estimate speaks of fifty thousand families—fled across the border and carried their industry, their capital,[1] and their civilization to the rivals and enemies of France—chiefly to Holland, America, and Prussia.

The occupation of Strasburg and the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes were events belonging to an interval of peace. But Louis was already planning a new war. When his preparations became known, the emperor, the Dutch, and Spain concluded, at the instigation of William of Orange, a new alliance. Happily, before the war had well begun, a lucky chance won England for the allies. In 1688 James II., who, like his brother, Charles II., was inclined to live on friendly terms with Louis, was overthrown by the "Glorious Revolution," and William of Orange became king of England. As the temper of the English people had at the same time become thoroughly anti-French, William had no difficulty in persuading them to join Europe against the French monarch. Thus in the new war—called the War of the Palatinate, from the double fact that Louis claimed the Palatinate and that the war began with a terrible harrying by fire and sword of that poor Rhenish land—Louis was absolutely without a friend.

England joins Europe against Louis.

This third war (1688–97) is, for the general student, thoroughly unmemorable. Battles were fought on land and on sea, in the Channel, in the Netherlands, and along the Rhine, and, generally speaking, the French proved their old

The War of the Palatinate, 1688–97.

[1] The industry and the capital of the Huguenots are not mere phrases. The Huguenots, who belonged largely to the middle classes, were the hardest workers of the time, largely through the direct influence of Calvin. Calvin interpreted the commandment, "Six days shalt thou labor," literally, and abandoned the dozens of holidays which obliged Catholic workmen to be idle a good part of the year.

superiority; but they were not strong enough to reap any benefit from their successes against the rest of Europe, and in 1697 all the combatants from mere exhaustion were glad to sign, on the basis of mutual restitutions, the Peace of Ryswick.

The War of the Palatinate was the first war by which Louis had gained nothing. That and the circumstance that England had now definitely joined the ranks of his enemies, should have served him as a warning that the tide had turned. And perhaps he would not have been so unmindful of the hostility of Europe if there had not opened for him at this time a peculiarly tempting prospect. The king of Spain, Charles II., had no direct heir, and at his death, which might occur at any time, the vast Spanish dominion —Spain and her colonies, Naples and Milan, the Spanish Netherlands—would fall no one knew to whom. The Austrian branch of Hapsburg put forth a claim, but Louis fancied that his children had a better title still in right of his first wife, who was the oldest sister of the Spanish king. The matter was so involved legally that it is impossible to say to this day where the better right lay.

The Spanish inheritance.

Louis was now old enough to have grown cautious, and wisely proposed to his chief adversary, William III., to come to some arrangement with him over the Spanish inheritance by which war might be averted. Accordingly, the two leading powers of Europe pledged themselves to a plan of partition as the most plausible settlement of the impending difficulties. But when, on the death of Charles II., November, 1700, it was found that the Spanish king had made a will in favor of Philip, the duke of Anjou, one of Louis's younger grandsons, Louis, intoxicated by the prospect, forgot his obligations and threw the Partition Treaty to the winds. He sent young Philip to Madrid to assume the rule of the undivided dominion of Spain. The House of

Louis signs and rejects the Partition Treaty.

Bourbon now ruled the whole European west. "There are no longer any Pyrenees," were Louis's exultant words.

It was some time before Europe recovered from the shock of its surprise over this bold step and nerved itself to a resistance. The hoodwinked and angered William was indefatigable in arousing the Dutch and English, and at last, in 1701, succeeded in creating the so-called Grand Alliance, composed of the emperor, England, the Dutch, and the leading German princes. Before the war had fairly begun, however, William, the stubborn, life-long enemy of Louis, had died (March, 1702). In the war which was just then breaking out and is called the War of the Spanish Succession (1702–14), it is not merely fanciful to discover his spirit pervading the camps and marching with the hosts of the allies.

The Grand Alliance.

In the new war the position of Louis was more favorable than it had been in the preceding struggle. He commanded the resources not only of France but also of Spain; his soldiers carried themselves with the assurance of troops who had never been beaten; and his armies had the advantage of being under his single direction. The allies, on the other hand, were necessarily divided in council and interest. What advantages they had lay in these two circumstances, which in the end proved decisive: they possessed greater resources of money and men, and they developed superior commanders. The brilliant French generals, Condé and Turenne, were now dead, and their successors, with the exception of Vauban, the inventor of the modern system of fortification, and the intrepid Villars, were all, like Louis himself, without a spark of fire and originality. In the highest commands, where France was weak, England and Austria on the other hand proved themselves particularly strong. They developed in the duke of Marlborough and in Eugene, prince of Savoy, two eminent commanders.

The combatants compared.

The War of the Spanish Succession is a world struggle.

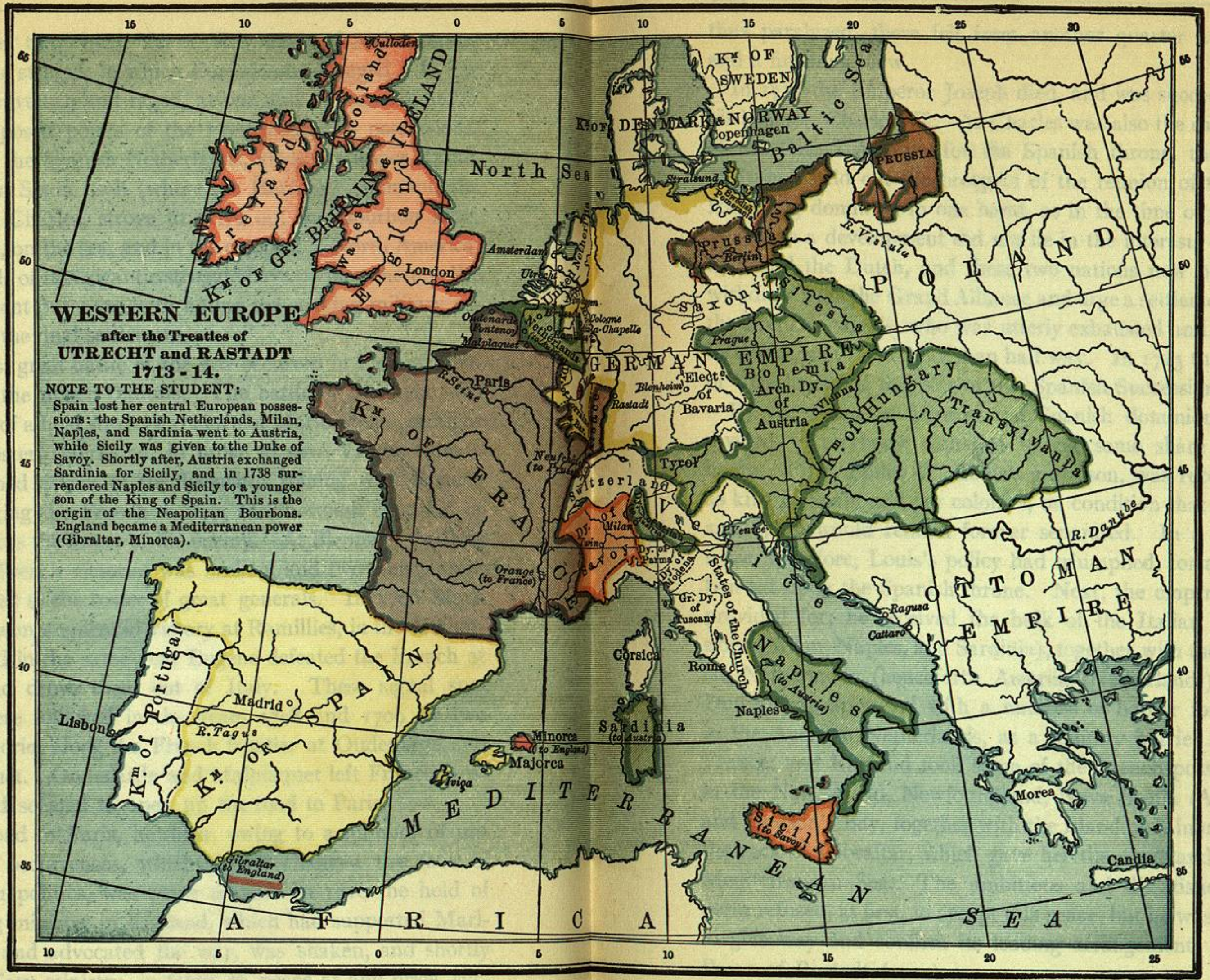
Not even the Thirty Years' War assumed such proportions as the struggle in which Europe now engaged. It was literally universal, and raged, at one and the same time, at all the exposed points of the French-Spanish possessions, that is, in the Spanish Netherlands, along the upper Rhine, in Italy, in Spain itself (where the Hapsburg claimant, the Archduke Charles, strove to drive out the Bourbon king, Philip V.), on the sea, and in the colonies of North America. The details of this gigantic struggle have no place here. We must content ourselves with noting the striking military actions and the final settlement.

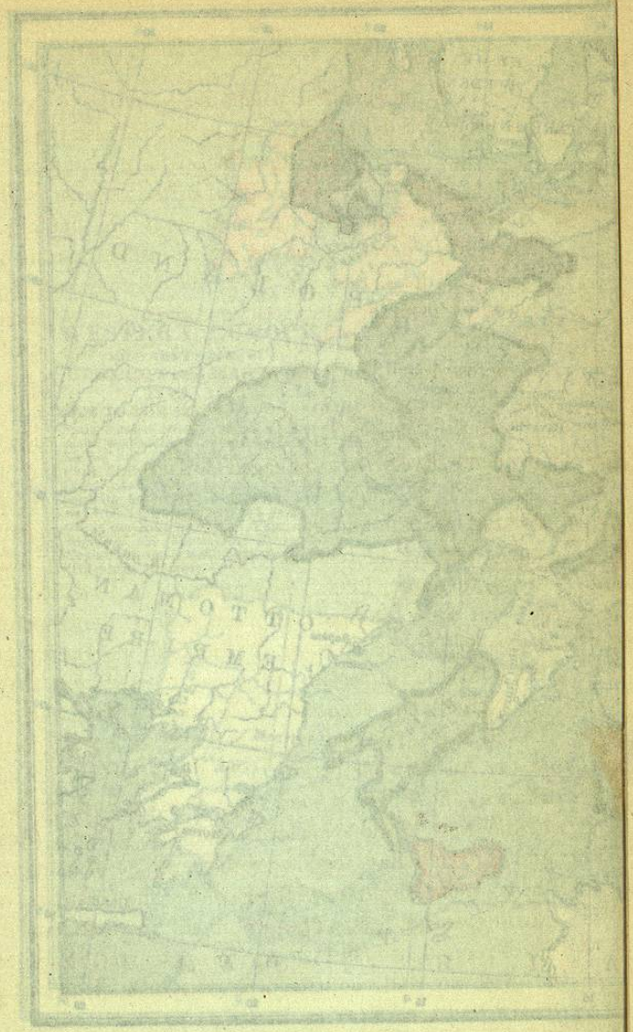
The victories of Eugene and Marlborough.

The first great battle of the war occurred in 1704 at Blenheim, on the upper Danube. The battle of Blenheim was the result of a bold strategical move of Marlborough, straight across western Germany, in order to save Vienna from a well-planned attack of the French. Joining with Eugene and bringing the French to bay, Marlborough captured or cut to pieces the forces of the enemy. At Blenheim the long chain of French victories was broken, and two new names were added to the roster of great generals. In 1706 Marlborough won a splendid victory at Ramillies, in the Netherlands, and in the same year Eugene defeated the French at Turin and drove them out of Italy. These signal successes were followed in the years 1708 and 1709 by two great victories along the French frontier at Oudenarde and Malplaquet. Oudenarde and Malplaquet left France prostrate, and seemed to open up the road to Paris.

A Tory ministry succeeds the Whigs.

The road to Paris, however, owing to a number of unexpected occurrences, which utterly changed the face of European politics, was never taken. In 1710 the hold of the Whig ministry in England, which had supported Marlborough and advocated the war, was shaken, and shortly after a Tory ministry, in favor of peace at any price, succeeded. While Marlborough's actions in the field were


WESTERN EUROPE
after the Treaties of
UTRECHT and RASTADT
1713-14.
NOTE TO THE STUDENT:
Spain lost her central European possessions: the Spanish Netherlands, Milan, Naples, and Sardinia went to Austria, while Sicily was given to the Duke of Savoy. Shortly after, Austria exchanged Sardinia for Sicily, and in 1738 surrendered Naples and Sicily to a younger son of the King of Spain. This is the origin of the Neapolitan Bourbons. England became a Mediterranean power (Gibraltar, Minorca).
Kᴹ OF Gᵀ BRITAIN
Ireland
Scotland
England
Wales
London
Culloden
North Sea
Kᴹ OF SWEDEN
Kᴹ OF DENMARK & NORWAY
Copenhagen
Baltic Sea
PRUSSIA
Prussia
Berlin
Stralsund
R. Vistula
POLAND
Amsterdam
Utrecht
Oudenarde
Fontenoy
Malplaquet
Cologne
Aix-la-Chapelle
Paris
R. Seine
Kᴹ OF FRANCE
Orange (to France)
GERMAN EMPIRE
Saxony
Silesia
Prague
Bohemia
Blenheim
Rastadt
Electᵗᵉ of Bavaria
Arch. Dy. of Austria
Vienna
Kᴹ of Hungary
Transylvania
Tyrol
Switzerland
Milan
Savoy
Venice
Parma
Gᵀ. Dy. of Tuscany
States of the Church
Rome
Naples (to Austria)
Naples
Ragusa
Cattaro
R. Danube
OTTOMAN EMPIRE
Morea
Candia
Corsica
Sardinia (to Austria)
Sicily (to Savoy)
Minorca (to England)
Majorca
Iviça
Kᴹ of Portugal
Lisbon
Madrid
R. Tagus
Kᴹ OF SPAIN
Gibraltar (to England)
MEDITERRANEAN SEA
AFRICA



thus paralyzed, there fell from another quarter a second and a finishing blow.

The death of Emperor Joseph.

In 1711 the Emperor Joseph died, and was succeeded by his brother, Charles VI. As Charles was also the candidate of the Grand Alliance for the Spanish throne, the death of Joseph held out the prospect of the reunion of the vast Hapsburg dominion in one hand, as in the time of Charles V. Such a development did not lie in the interests of England and the Dutch, and these two nations now began to withdraw from the Grand Alliance and urge a settlement with the French. Louis, who was utterly exhausted and broken by defeat, met them more than half way. In 1713 the Peace of Utrecht ended the War of the Spanish Succession.

The Peace of Utrecht, 1713.

By the Peace of Utrecht the Spanish dominions were divided. Everybody managed to get some share in the booty. First, Philip V., Louis's grandson, was recognized as king of Spain and her colonies, on condition that France and Spain would remain forever separated. In a limited sense, therefore, Louis's policy had triumphed, for a Bourbon sat upon the Spanish throne. Next, the emperor was provided for; he received the bulk of the Italian possessions (Milan, Naples, and Sardinia), together with the Spanish Netherlands (henceforth Austrian Netherlands). The Dutch were appeased with a number of border fortresses in the Austrian Netherlands, as a military barrier against France; and England took some of the French possessions in the New World, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia (Acadia), and Hudson's Bay, together with the island of Minorca and the rock of Gibraltar, which gave her the command of the Mediterranean Sea. The ambitious and dissatisfied emperor refused, at first, to accept this peace, but he was forced to give way and confirm its leading arrangements by the Peace of Rastadt (1714).

Louis's death.

Shortly after the Treaties of Utrecht and Rastadt, Louis

XIV. died (September, 1715). The material prosperity of his early years had vanished, and in their place his failing eyes fell upon a famished peasantry and a government breaking down under its burden of debt. The disastrous end was the answer of fate to his foolish ambition. "I have made too many wars," the dying king admitted; "do not imitate me in that respect," he said, turning to his little heir. But to his contemporaries he remained to the day of his passing the *grand monarque;* and that title is a good summary of him as he appears in history, for it conveys the impression of a splendor which is not without the suspicion of hollowness.

The dominance of French civilization.

The brilliancy which Louis's long reign lent France cast a spell upon the rest of the world. Louis's court became the model court of Europe, and the so-called good society, the world over, adopted, for more than a century, the French tongue, French manners, French fashions, and French art. That such mere imitation could bring other nations no solid cultural advantages goes without saying, but it is necessary to recognize that French civilization under Louis must have possessed an irresistible charm to have excited such universal admiration.

The bloom of French literature.

Under Louis French literature unfolded a wealth of blossoms. It is the period of French classicism, a period, that is, of self-restraint and voluntary subjection to rules. Literature, always a perfect mirror of society, naturally assumed the majestic tone which ruled at Versailles, and prided itself on outward glitter and formal finish. But beneath this more or less artificial note sound, in the case at least of the leaders, the sincerity and conviction which are the constant characteristics of true art. France, modern France, France of the coming centuries, may point proudly to her tragic poets, Corneille (d. 1684) and Racine (d. 1699), and may always turn for refreshment and entertainment to the comedies of her inimitable Molière (d. 1673).

CHAPTER XIII

THE RISE OF RUSSIA AND THE DECLINE OF SWEDEN

REFERENCES: WAKEMAN, Ascendancy of France, pp. 165–72, 180–83, 289–308; HASSALL, The Balance of Power, Chapters V., XI., XIII.; RAMBAUD, History of Russia, Vol. II., Chapters I.–IV.; MORFILL, Russia; WALISZEWSKI, Peter the Great; NISBET BAIN, Charles XII.

SOURCE READINGS: ROBINSON, Readings, Chapter XXXII., Sections 1, 2, 3.

The Russians Slav and Christian.

THE Russians, the leading branch of the Slav family, took possession, in the period of the great migrations, of the wide plains of eastern Europe where they still reside. In the tenth century they became converted to Christianity by Greek missionaries, with the result that they have ever since been passionately attached to the Greek Orthodox Church, which held in the east the same commanding position occupied by the Roman Church in the west. They had not advanced far upon the road of civilization when a great calamity overtook them, for in the thirteenth century they were conquered by Asiatic Mongols or Tartars, whose yoke they did not entirely cast off until the beginning of the Modern Period. Under Ivan III. (1462–1505) and Ivan IV. (1547–84) the power of the monarch was greatly increased until he became almost absolute, and assumed, in witness of his position, the proud title of Cæsar or Czar. On the death of Ivan IV., called the Terrible, Russia was plunged into a sea of domestic troubles, out of which she was rescued in 1613 by the election to the sovereignty of