The Thirty Years War, 1618–48
David Parrott
in The Practice of Strategy: From Alexander the Great to the Present

The Thirty Years War, one of the most destructive episodes in European history, devastated central Europe in general and Germany in particular. Waged between 1618 and 1648, it was a series of conflicts that merged together rather than a single war. David Parrott argues that the Thirty Years War reflected different, albeit interconnected, sets of aims and security concerns: the struggle over the political form of the Holy Roman Empire, focused upon the reach and influence of the Austrian Habsburg monarchy; the conflict between the Spanish Habsburg monarchy and the breakaway United Provinces; and the hostility between the French monarchy and the Habsburg Imperial system. Other concerns, especially mounting religious tensions, gravitated around these political issues, leading to the successive involvement of additional states. While some warring parties periodically sought compromise within the framework of the Holy Roman Empire, military victories led to political opportunism that prolonged the war.

Fear of the Thirty Years War
David Lederer
in Facing Fear: The History of an Emotion in Global Perspective

This chapter explores the relationship between fears and crises by focusing on the Thirty Years War. It considers how the war evoked a universal fear response and highlights expressions of preexisting apocalyptic fears in the material context of a long-term crisis. It also
examines universal and traditional elements in contemporary portrayals of fear aroused by the specific events of the war. During the Thirty Years War, the body politic often appeared twisted, contorted, or monstrous in form, suggesting a fearful condition affecting society as a whole. In other words, the body functioned as a repository of fear during the conflict. The chapter argues that the linchpin of the relationship between crises and fear during the Thirty Years War was their literal embodiment by contemporary political culture and a peculiar understanding of history.

Hugo Grotius and International Relations
Hedley Bull, Benedict Kingsbury, and Adam Roberts (eds)

Published in print: 1992 Published Online: November 2003
Item type: book

Hugo Grotius (1583–1645), ‘the miracle of Holland’, was famous as a child prodigy, theologian, historian, poet, jurist, Dutch political figure, escaped political prisoner, and finally as Sweden's ambassador to France. He is especially known for his major books on international law and practice, Mare Liberum (1609) and De Jure Belli ac Pacis (1625). This book critically reappraises his contributions both to international law (called ‘the law of nations’ in his day) and to international relations. His contributions are examined in relation to his predecessors and in the context of the wars and controversies of his time. This book also assesses the strengths and weaknesses of what is often called a ‘Grotian tradition’ of thought about international law and relations—one which accepts the sovereignty of states, but at the same time stresses the existence of shared values and the necessity of rules. This collection illuminates enduring problems of international relations: the nature of international society and its institutions, the equality of states, the role of natural law, the lawfulness of war (jus ad bellum), the means of pursuing war (jus in bello), collective security, military intervention, the rights of the individual, and the law of the sea. While first and foremost a study in the field of international relations, this is also a significant contribution to the history and theory of international law; and to the history of the early seventeenth century, when the Dutch Republic, and the European states system generally, were emerging in their modern forms, and when the Thirty Years War impressed on Grotius and others the need for restraint in war.
The relations and interactions between the Jews and the rest of the European society witnessed several changes during the outbreak of the Thirty Years War, which lasted from 1618 to 1648. This lengthy conflicted furthered the reintegration of the Jews, especially in central Europe, after the 1570s as the ‘Court Jews’. Earlier on, the Jews were still not allowed to enter a large number of different territories of the Empire, except Hesse and the Bohemian crown, and, as such, the expansion of the Jewish community and its activities were evidently at an early stage. One of the noteworthy features of this phase entailed how the Emperor shared a special relationship with the Jews in Germany. This chapter explains the developments in Jewish expansion throughout the Thirty Years War.

Man's Wars
Barbara Donagan

This chapter focuses on English views about war. Despite its absence from English soil, war was present in English minds through stories about political and military operations, and the horrors and atrocities committed in the continental war. English knowledge of the continental war formed expectations as to the nature of war and contributed to the anxiety and nervousness of civilians as war approached home. Sensational news from Germany may have conditioned the English public to a heightened response to reports of cruelty, sexual outrage, and broken taboos, and contributed to the violence of the reaction to the Irish rebellion of 1641, which in turn cast a long shadow over the civil war years.
One of the largest states in Europe and the greatest of the Protestant powers, Denmark, in the 16th and 17th centuries was at the height of its influence. Embracing Norway, Iceland, portions of southern Sweden, and northern Germany, the Danish monarchy dominated the vital Baltic trade. However, its geopolitical importance far exceeded its modest resources. This book examines the short and perhaps unlikely career of Denmark as the major power of northern Europe, exploring its rise to the forefront of European affairs and its subsequent decline in fortunes following its disastrous involvement in the Thirty Years' War. The book focuses on key issues, from the dynamic role of the Oldenburg monarchy in bringing about Denmark's 'European integration', to the impact of the Protestant Reformation on Danish culture. The multi-national character of the Danish monarchy is explored in-depth, in particular how the Oldenburg kings of Denmark sought to establish their authority over their sizable — and oftentimes contentious — Norwegian, Icelandic, and German minorities. Denmark's participation in international politics and commerce is also investigated, along with the power struggle between Denmark and its rival Sweden over Baltic dominion, and the Danes' unique approach to internal governance.

Military and naval expeditions of the 1620s
Roger B. Manning
in An Apprenticeship in Arms: The Origins of the British Army 1585-1702

The Jacobean Peace — which followed James VI and I’s accession to the English throne and the end of the Anglo-Spanish war — was characterized by the official pursuit of diplomacy rather than war in order to resolve the religious and dynastic conflicts of Europe, and led to a neglect of the arts of war and the decay of the military forces of the crown. James’s policy of peace sought marital alliances with the leading Protestant and Catholic powers. His son-in-law Frederick V, elector palatine’s unwise acceptance of the Bohemian crown precipitated the Thirty Years War and provoked the Hapsburg invasion of the Rhenish
Palatinate. James’s Puritan subjects were dismayed at the king’s slow response in defending the Protestant cause and his family’s honour, and the military and naval expeditions to the Palatinate, Cadiz, and the Isle of Rhé demonstrated the military ineffectiveness of the governments of James I and his son and heir Charles I, as well as the incompetence of the royal favourite and chief minister, the duke of Buckingham.

Was the Thirty Years War a ‘Total War’?
Peter H. Wilson

in Civilians and War in Europe, 1618–1815

This chapter examines the Thirty Years War by focusing on three aspects identified in the ‘classic’ definition of ‘total war’: total mobilisation, the complete destruction of the enemy’s resistance and way of life, and the erosion of boundaries between soldiers and civilians. It considers how the war was perceived by those involved and later generations. The chapter argues that the concept of total war can be defined through perceptions and not in material or demographic terms, and is therefore relative to each conflict's context rather than its position along any linear progress of destruction. The Thirty Years War was considered far more destructive than the world wars and remembered as Germany's greatest national catastrophe, although this chapter shows that it does not satisfy the three standard criteria for a total war.

Mercenaries and gentlemen
Roger B. Manning

in An Apprenticeship in Arms: The Origins of the British Army 1585-1702

Because of lingering prejudices against soldiers of fortune at the beginning of the British and Irish civil wars, Scottish and English aristocrats believed that they possessed the best claim to military command because of their superior social rank and the military exploits of their ancestors, despite evidence of the military experience and competence of the British and Irish veterans of the mainland European wars. The concept that military hierarchies were necessary for order and
discipline still had not etched itself upon the English military mentality at home. It was thought that the king’s honour required that armies be commanded by men of noble birth, and this emphasis upon social hierarchy made some sense as long as noblemen could recruit their tenants or kinsmen to fill their regiments; the actual command of such units in the field could be entrusted to experienced professionals. This arrangement worked well in Scotland, parts of Ireland, and in Wales and northern England, but was a notable failure throughout the remainder of England where rents rather than loyalty had become the nexus between lord and smallholder. The Parliamentary New Model Army gained an advantage when the grandees, such as the third earl of Essex and the earl of Manchester, who belonged to the peace party which advocated limited war aims, were purged in favour of generals and officers who gained promotion by merit and seniority, and aimed at total victory.

The Church of England and the Palatinate, 1566–1642
Anthony Milton

in The Reception of Continental Reformation in Britain
Published in print: 2010 Published Online: January 2012
Publisher: British Academy
Item type: chapter

This chapter explores a long-neglected relationship, which has escaped scholarly notice in part because of the assumption that reformation remained fixed after the sixteenth century. Historians previously focused on fragmentation within the Lutheran tradition following the death of Luther in 1546. Yet the conversion of the Elector Palatine Frederick III to the reformed faith in 1561 has more recently drawn attention for inaugurating a second reformation in central Europe along with the confessional conflicts that contributed to the outbreak of the Thirty Years’ War. The discussion follows the peculiar role of the Palatinate in constructing the Church of England’s reformed identity from the late sixteenth to the early seventeenth centuries. The unique circumstances of reform initiated by the Prince, for instance, could be used by both conformist and puritan divines.

Parallels and Analogies
Patrick Milton, Michael Axworthy, and Brendan Simms

in Towards A Westphalia for the Middle East
Published in print: 2019 Published Online: June 2019
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780190947897.003.0005
This chapter shifts towards the explicitly applicatory part of the book. The parallels and analogies between the Thirty Years War and the contemporary Middle East are systematically expounded. The similarities include structural parallels (such as the complexity and multiple typologies of conflict; contested sovereignty leading to civil war; sequences of escalation with proxy wars escalating to direct military intervention; overarching great power rivalry and realpolitik; state-building wars and the absence of declarations of war), the role of religion and sectarian animosity, the role of monarchy and dynasty, refugees, communications technology, and general atmospheric parallels.

The Paradoxes of State Building
Florian Schui

in Rebellious Prussians: Urban Political Culture under Frederick the Great and his Successors

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: May 2013
Publisher: Oxford University Press

This chapter explores how the process of state building in Prussia changed the life of urban dwellers and how this resulted in the development of urban civil society. The Prussian state became more powerful and better structured in many areas after the Thirty Years's War. However, it is often overlooked that this process also resulted in the increasing withdrawal from certain areas. Most importantly the state left matters of religion and of commerce and industry increasingly to be governed by the initiatives of private individuals. As a result of the process of state building urban dwellers thus acquired a greater degree of autonomy and individual freedom.

Introduction
Erica Charters, Eve Rosenhaft, and Hannah Smith

in Civilians and War in Europe, 1618–1815

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: June 2013
Publisher: Liverpool University Press

This book explores the impact of war on civilians as ‘victims’ of armed conflict, focusing on the Thirty Years War as well as the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars that took place between 1618 and
1815. The book also focuses on civilians as active agents in situations of conflict and their role in a ‘war effort’. In particular, it examines the status of the conflict of 1792 to 1815 as ‘total war’ and deconstructs modern assumptions about total war. The book considers the relationship between civilians and soldiers, and challenges accepted notions about the chronology and development of early modern and modern warfare. It also explains how contemporary military conflicts influenced Hugo Grotius's arguments for restraint in warfare, looks at insurgents and counter-insurgents who wreaked havoc in Europe, and analyses the ambiguities and varieties of civilian–military relations during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars.

The Onset of the Manorial System in Prussia

S.A. Eddie

in Freedom's Price: Serfdom, Subjection, and Reform in Prussia, 1648-1848

Published in print: 2013 Published Online: January 2014
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199662753.003.0004
Item type: chapter

The origins of the manorial system lay in the devastations of the Thirty Years' War, when a ‘Second Serfdom’ imposed both additional personal restrictions and less secure tenure on the peasantry. But the benefits of subject status suggest that the expansion of conditional Laß tenure was no simple ‘erosion’. Rather, it matched the peasants’ lack of capital with the lords’ need to secure a labour force in a population dearth. Peasants accepting such tenure literally became more ‘dependent’ on noble capital, which could only safely be invested if peasants accepted restrictions on their freedom. Whereas the literature assumes that more secure tenure was always preferable, in the depression until around 1730, more secure tenure could hardly be given away. In such conditions, personal freedom was worth less than economic security.

Introduction

Gregory Hanlon

in The Hero of Italy: Odoardo Farnese, Duke of Parma, his Soldiers, and his Subjects in the Thirty Years' War

Published in print: 2014 Published Online: April 2014
Publisher: Oxford University Press DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199687244.003.0001
Item type: chapter
This introduction addresses the diffidence Italian scholars have shown towards military history throughout the Twentieth Century, because it was held to betray an unhealthy militarism. As a result, the great wars of the Seventeenth Century have long suffered neglect despite their central place in Italy's political, economic and social history. Talented Italian scholars are just now beginning to explore this field, although they still shy away from a narrative of military operations themselves. This book embraces one salient episode from the 1630s, the eager participation of the duke of Parma in the French alliance, because it sheds light on many aspects of the wars: the composition of the armies, the configuration of the alliances and the tensions underlying them, the mechanics of military operations, the weight on the taxpayers and the impact of war on both combatants and civilians. It draws upon a wide variety of local sources, but also French, Spanish and Italian archives as well.

The Age of Battle, 1618–1815
in Castles, Battles, & Bombs: How Economics Explains Military History
Published in print: 2008 Published Online: March 2013
DOI: 10.7208/chicago/9780226071657.003.0004
Item type: chapter

In the Middle Ages, battles between substantial armies were comparatively rare. By the seventeenth century, war had become the prerogative of great dynasties that maneuvered and fought against each other with substantial and costly armies. “Great” battles were common enough between 1618 and 1815 that these years of the Age of Enlightenment can also legitimately be called the Age of Battle. This chapter reviews the economic concept of expected marginal costs and benefits as it applies to the decision to offer, or decline, battle. It also focuses on military commanders from the beginning of the Thirty Years' War (1618) to the beginning of the French Revolution (1789), including Frederick the Great and Napoleon Bonaparte, calculating expected costs incurred and benefits gained from the next contemplated battle. The chapter suggests how five of the principles of economics used in this book may be applied to the Age of Battle (opportunity cost, substitution, diminishing marginal returns, asymmetric information, hidden actions).

From Religious Peace to the Thirty Years War
Patrick Milton, Michael Axworthy, and Brendan Simms
in Towards A Westphalia for the Middle East
Published in print: 2019 Published Online: June 2019
DOI: 10.1093/oso/9780190947897.003.0003
This chapter delves into the European historical background in depth, while highlighting the relevant parallels to the Middle East. It addresses the causes of the outbreak of the Thirty Years War and the origins of the war’s incremental escalation. It will outline the interventions by Denmark and Sweden (1625 and 1630) into the war, as well as the French intervention against Spain and the Holy Roman Emperor in 1635, after which the war became irreversibly internationalised.

**Civilians, the French Army and Military Justice during the Reign of Louis XIV, circa 1640-1715**

Markus Meumann

in Civilians and War in Europe, 1618–1815

Published in print: 2012 Published Online: June 2013


Item type: chapter

Military justice is central to the relationship between civilians and warfare. This is because the military's judicial apparatus is designed not only to prosecute those who violate military discipline but also to protect the civilian population from assaults by soldiers and any violations of the laws of war. During the period spanning the second half of the seventeenth century until the death of Louis XIV, king of France, in 1715, the nature of military-civilian relations was influenced by warfare. Civilians in early modern Europe were most often affected by war due to military logistics, army provisioning, and associated consequences such as billeting and contributions. This chapter examines the impact of French military justice on civilians under Louis XIV, and how the state administered and maintained the military discipline needed to protect civilian populations from abuses by the army. In particular, it describes military discipline, and the conduct of the French army towards civilians during the Thirty Years War and the Franco-Spanish War.

**From Přemyslids to Habsburgs**

in Rabbis and Revolution: The Jews of Moravia in the Age of Emancipation

Published in print: 2010 Published Online: June 2013


Item type: chapter

This chapter discusses the transformation and disruption of religious, communal, and demographic patterns experienced by Moravian
Jewry during the Age of Emancipation. It examines the origins and
development of the Moravian Jewry from the Přemyslid dynasty until
the Habsburg dynasty. Because of the tremendous population growth
of Jews after the Thirty Years War, the Bohemian and Moravian estates
took steps to reduce the Jewish population. These include the so-
called separation and confinement of the Jews, implemented under the
influence of the Catholic Church; the Familiants Laws; and the edicts
of the expulsion of Bohemian and Moravian Jewry by Maria Theresa.
The reign of Joseph II ushered in a new era for the Jews of the Habsburg
monarchy. He issued the Edicts of Tolerance as a means of transforming
the Jews into productive citizens and integrating them into society,
breaking down the social barriers that separated them from the Christian
population.

Fear and Its Opposites in the History of Emotions
Max Weiss

in Facing Fear: The History of an Emotion in Global Perspective

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DOI: 10.23943/princeton/9780691153599.003.0001

This book examines the “problem” of fear in its intellectual, social,
and political incarnations. It situates fear in world-historical terms,
thus breaking new ground in the historical and cultural analysis of
emotions. Each contributor is specifically concerned with a discrete
historical moment, thereby emphasizing the variability and contingency
of fears past, present, and future. Examples of such moments are
the experience of fear among eighteenth-century rebels, priests, and
colonial administrators in Peru; the universal fear response evoked by
the Thirty Years War; and the technologically mediated experiences of
anxiety and fear collectively felt by cinemagoers in Weimar Germany.
This introduction discusses some of the lineaments of the history and
philosophy of emotion as it pertains to the problem of fear, highlighting
counterpoints or analogues to fear such as comfort, assurance, and hope.