

Empires In Arms™
The Napoleonic Wars of 1805 ~ 1815

19.0 National Objectives

The following commentaries are excerpted from the National Objectives Charts developed under the USAF Academy version of Empires in Arms and its "National Aspirations" rules developed for each nation. Their intent was to direct players toward the historical goals of Europe's major powers in the early 19th century with an eye towards their national interests at the time. These sets of aspirations had victory point values assigned and gave the students a "frame of reference" as to how to approach playing the individual powers in the game.

AUSTRIA: In the early 19th century, the House of Habsburg inherited a wide range of interests and responsibilities in Europe which placed it for the most part on the defensive, attempting to restore both its position and Europe's balance of power (dual objectives which the Habsburgs tended to view as identical). Having enjoyed a traditional titular supremacy in Germany as Holy Roman Emperors, the dynasty's chief objective was to restore and maintain its influence in Germany, at least over the southern Catholic German states. Although Emperor Francis II was forced to accept the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire in 1805 (becoming Emperor Francis I of Austria instead), Austria emerged from the Congress of Vienna with her titular leadership of Germany restored in a new Confederation. In northern Italy likewise, Austria's chief aim was to re-establish her pre-1797 dominance and regain control of Lombardy, Venetia, and Tuscany; although Austria was forced to accept the loss of Italy for the duration of the Napoleonic empire, the Treaty of Vienna restored her position in Italy and Austria remained the predominant power in the Italian peninsula until 1861. Finally, having absorbed large numbers of Poles within its borders in the late 18th century, Austria was firmly opposed to a reborn Poland and feared both Napoleon's and Tsar Alexander's patronage of Polish national aspirations.

FRANCE: The primary aim of France's rulers since the reign of Louis XIV had been to expand France's borders to its "natural frontier" on the Rhine; by the time Napoleon came to power in 1799, this goal had already been achieved by the Republic, which annexed Flanders, the Palatinate, and other petty German states after 1792. After 1805, however, Napoleon's soaring ambition created a much greater design, which was nothing less than the reorganization of central and western Europe in a kind of federation under Napoleon's presidency and consisting of the French Empire itself and lesser vassal states along its German and Italian eastern marches. In Germany, the ancient Holy Roman Empire was abolished and in its place Napoleon created a new Confederation of the Rhine under his leadership and patronage. The lesser German states were reorganized, northern Germany being consolidated into a new kingdom of Westphalia under his brother Jerome, while the most important southern German state, Bavaria, was greatly expanded in territory and linked to Napoleon personally through a marriage between his stepson Prince Eugene, Viceroy of Italy, and the daughter of the newly titled king of Bavaria. Northern Italy was likewise reorganized, Piedmont, Genoa and Tuscany being annexed directly to France, while Lombardy, Romagna and eventually Venetia were made into the kingdom of Italy, with Napoleon as its sovereign and Eugene as his personal representative. At the height of his empire, Napoleon has largely achieved his aims; however, Bonaparte was aware of the need to give his dynasty legitimacy and therefore permanency through an alliance with one of Europe's historical ruling families, which he achieved by divorcing Josephine and marrying Marie Louise of Austria in 1810. By that year, apart from Britain's undaunted and determined defiance, Russia's increasingly lukewarm adherence to the Tilsit alliance, and a growing tendency for Europe's populations to resist (annoyingly adopting the French cult of Nationalism in the process), Napoleon had achieved all his goals. And within another five years Britain's dogged enmity, Russia's disenchantment, and the hatred of the Spanish and German populations lost him everything.

GREAT BRITAIN: Britain entered the war against France with two objectives: to secure the Low Countries and to restore the European balance of power, because both these objectives were necessary for Britain's military and economic security; otherwise, successive British governments were concerned to limit Britain's involvement on the Continent as much as possible. Certain exceptions to this policy were acknowledged however: the claims on British resources of the king's German principality of Hanover could not be ignored entirely in Whitehall's calculations, no matter how much some British politicians might have wished to do so. Moreover, after the loss of the American colonies, the Baltic became Britain's chief source of naval supplies, and as a result Britain became very sensitive to the extension of other powers' influence in that region, treating successive Leagues of Armed Neutrality as virtual

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declarations of war. In southern Europe and the Mediterranean, Portugal was a traditional British ally and an important trade partner, Sicily, Gibraltar, Malta and Corfu were crucial bases for the maintenance of British naval power, and (particularly after Bonaparte's expedition in 1798) Egypt's importance for the defense of India was well understood in London.

PRUSSIA: Prussia in the 18th and early 19th centuries had two chief concerns, both of which were essentially defensive in nature. First, while the Partitions of Poland had significantly increased Prussia's territory, it had also incorporated a large Polish minority within the kingdom's borders; the Poles had drawn inspiration from the French Revolution and had fought for their own independence as recently as 1796. A revived Polish state would inevitably make the Polish population within Prussia restive and difficult to govern, and therefore Prussia was opposed to any attempt to resurrect Polish statehood. More importantly, however, Prussia's rulers since Frederick the Great were aware that Prussia's future depended on the fate of the rest of Germany; Prussia was bound to oppose the hegemony of another Power over the lesser German states whether French or Austrian, and to work toward the supremacy of Prussia in Germany. More immediately, Prussia had ambitions for the annexation or domination of Hanover (which it briefly occupied in 1805-6), Saxony (half of which it gained finally at Vienna), and the Hessian landgraviates (which traditionally were Prussian client-states).

RUSSIA: Like almost everything else about the country, Russia's foreign policy in the early 19th century had been shaped by two irresistible forces: geography, and Peter the Great. The rivalry with Sweden for control of the Baltic, begun with Peter's war against Charles XI of Sweden, continued into the 19th century (Finland finally being annexed in 1809) and intersected Romanoff dynastic interests on the southern shores of the Baltic where, through their Oldenburg cousins, the Romanoffs had claims to territories in southern Denmark and northern Germany. Russia's drive south into the Ottoman Empire also dated from Peter's reign, and more recently Catherine the Great had dreamed of establishing a revived Byzantine Empire under a Russian prince; the Straits would remain a fixed idea of Russian statesmen to the eve of the First World War and beyond. Tsar Paul I had added a quixotic variation in the form of a drive toward the central Mediterranean; in 1799 Paul was elected Grand Master of the Knights of Malta and launched plans to occupy Corfu and Corsica as well as Malta. Alexander I inherited Corfu from his father, but Alexander was drawn instead toward the cause of protection for the Holy Places in Palestine (a cause which happened also to be a convenient club against the Ottomans, and which was later the pretext for Russia's declaration of war in 1854). Finally, Alexander, under the influence perhaps of his friend the Polish Prince Adam Czartoryski, made acquisition of Poland his principle aim from at least the Treaty of Kalisch (1813) until the Congress of Vienna gave it to him in 1815.

SPAIN: In the early 18th century, Queen Elizabeth Farnese had persistently tried to secure an Italian principality for her son Don Carlos. Spanish troops occupied both Sicily and Sardinia in 1717-20, exchanging them in 1720 for a treaty giving Tuscany, Parma and Piacenza to Don Carlos. In 1734, the Treaty of Vienna gave the kingdom of the Two Sicilies to Don Carlos, while a Habsburg prince inherited Tuscany. Finally, the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle gave the Spanish Bourbons a foothold in Lombardy in the form of the Duchy of Parma. Into the late 18th century, the Spanish Bourbons continued to regard their Neapolitan cousins as a protectorate and the rest of the Habsburg inheritance in northern Italy as rightfully theirs; at the Congress of Vienna the Spanish did their best to press the claims of the Infante Don Luis to both Tuscany and Parma. Apart from Italy, the annexation of Portugal was a recurring dream: Carlos III had tried but failed to conquer the country in 1762, and in 1808 Spanish troops took part in the invasion of Portugal on the understanding that part of the country would become a principality for the Spanish prime minister Godoy. The loss of Gibraltar, taken by Britain in the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, was a humiliation Spain sought constantly to erase; Spain had made an enormous effort to take it during the War of American Independence. Expansion along the North African coast was an objective Spain had pursued intermittently since the 15th century; two enclaves on the Moroccan coast at Ceuta and Melilla provided springboards for the expansion of Spanish influence into the Riff.

TURKEY: Faced with provincial rebellions, paralyzing official corruption, and disloyal intrigue among the Empire's governing elite, the Ottoman Empire in the early 19th century was too weak to pursue an aggressive foreign policy. The Sublime Porte dreamed of recovering territories lost to Austria and Russia and of restoring the Sultan's power in Egypt and North Africa, but in practice it could barely maintain its authority in the lands it still held.

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NATIONAL OBJECTIVES CHART:

Country	France	Great Britain	Spain	Prussia	Turkey	Russia	Austria
Portugal		+1 / -1*	+1 / -1*				
Flanders	+1 / -1*	+2 / -3*					
Palatinate	-1*						
Switzerland							+1
Morocco			+2 / -1*				
Algeria			+1 / -1*				
Baden							+1
Wurttemberg							+1
Holland	+1	+2 / -1*		+1			
Berg				+1			
Hesse				+2			
Julich				+1			
Hanover		+1		+2			
Mecklenburg				+1			
Bavaria	+1						+1
Saxony				+2			+1
Piedmont	-1*						
Lombardy	-1*		+1				+1
Venetia	+1						+1
Romagna	+1		+1				+1
Tuscany	+1		+1				+1
Papacy			+1 / -1*				
Naples	+1		+1				+1
Sicily		+1	+1				
Denmark	+2	+1		+1		+1 / -1*	
Finland						+1 / -1*	
Sweden		+1 / -2*				+2 / -1*	
Egypt	+2	+1 / -1*			+2 / -1*		
Palestine					+1	+1	
Syria					+1 / -1*		
Corsica			+1		+1		
Malta		+1 / -1*	+1		+1	+1	
Gibraltar		+1 / -1*	+1				
Wurzburg				+1			
Thuringia				+1			
Poland	+1			-2*		+2 / -1*	-1*
Dalmatia	+1						
Hamburg				+1			
Corfu		+1				+1	
Rhodes					+1	+1	
Ottoman Empire					+2		
Conf of the Rhine	+2 / -1*			+2 / -2*			+2 / -1*
Home Province(s)	-2*	-3*	-1*	-1*	-1*	-1*	-1*
Exiled Leader(s)	-1*	-1*	-1*	-1*	-1*	-1*	-1*

* If controlled by any other Major Power

IMPLEMENTATION OF “NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS” RULES: Based on the National Objectives Chart above, each AI-controlled Major Power is positively affected for certain minor countries that support their historical goals. These National Objectives modifications are then added to the applicable values found in the Minor Country Chart (15.2) to increase the chances for a Declaration of War by the AI upon a neutral minor country. Also, based on the above, each AI-controlled Major Power is negatively affected by certain minor countries controlled by any other Major Power:

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France: Flanders, Palatinate, Piedmont, Lombardy, and Confederation of the Rhine.

Great Britain: Portugal, Flanders, Holland, Sweden, Egypt, Malta, and Gibraltar.

Spain: Portugal, Morocco, Algeria, and Papacy.

Prussia: Poland and Confederation of the Rhine.

Turkey: Egypt and Syria.

Russia: Denmark, Finland, Sweden, and Poland.

Austria: Poland and Confederation of the Rhine.

Additionally, each AI-controlled Major Power is negatively affected by each lost home nation province controlled by any other Major Power and each exiled leader removed from the game by any other Major Power as a surrender condition. These National Objectives modifications are then deducted from the applicable values found in the Natural Alliance Table (15.4). For example, Great Britain and Russia have a “-1” value by default. Competition over Sweden would increase friction between these two Major Powers, increasing the chances for a Declaration of War and decreasing the chances for an alliance, etc.

Human players are of course free to play the individual powers in the game in any manner that they want to, but the AI-controlled computer opponents will be influenced toward their historical goals. The individual National Objectives modifications are fairly subtle and should still allow for some ahistorical behaviors by the AI, but the cumulative effect of several modifications will likely result in more historical behaviors consistent with the Major Power's historical national interests.