

**Overview of Unit 3: Eastern Europe and The Struggle for
Wealth and Empire: 1648-1763**
(Chapter 5 and Parts of Chapters 7 and 8)

The struggle for power, strength, and wealth is a very complicated reality. There are many ironies and paradoxes to consider:

1. strength <-> weakness
2. helpful <-> harmful
3. internal <-> external
4. success <-> failure
5. change (revision) <-> stability (status quo)

All of this is seen in how nations compete with each other and how various forces within individual nations compete with each other. As nations rise and fall in terms of power, the overall map and dynamic of Europe *changes*. Yet, when nations do get to a relative position of strength and power, they do everything they can to *maintain* it and lock it in.

The struggle for wealth and power is very dynamic and very fluid. Thus, it is very complicated. Unit 3 will look at Poland, The Holy Roman Empire, Austria, Prussia, and Russia to see how these concepts actually played out in reality. Internal economic and social factors, along with international war and conflict, will also be analyzed.

Overall, this is a very significant transitional period in European history, and the clash between new, modern concepts against the old, entrenched ideas, will be part of the foundation of the issues that ultimately result in the French Revolution.