

My dissertation aims to present Britain's relations with the Habsburg Monarchy between 1733 and 1740.

The thesis is divided into 9 chronological and thematic chapters, presenting the countries' bilateral political, economic, and religious relations. The first chapter is devoted to the internal situation of Great Britain and the Habsburg Monarchy. This part of the dissertation describes how the British legal system structured and limited the powers and responsibilities of the central figures. Included in this chapter is also a discussion of the legal and political structures of the Habsburg Monarchy.

The next chapter discusses the relations between Great Britain and the states under Habsburg rule during the War of the Polish Succession (1733-1736). This section analyses the decision-making processes behind Britain's decision not to join the conflict, and details the Habsburg monarchy's efforts to gain British support. A large part of this chapter is devoted to the peace negotiations.

Economic relations are the subject of the next chapter. The Ostend Company, which still wielded influence over mutual relations between the two states is, discussed here, as are the negotiations for the conclusion of a trade treaty in the last years of Charles VI's life.

The next part of the thesis focuses on the relationship between Great Britain and Austrian Netherlands. This part of the work makes up its own distinct section due to the specificity of the contacts between Brussels and London. They were primarily economic in nature and were important to Great Britain. A large part of this portion is concerned with the efforts of British diplomats to secure support for their compatriots in their conflicts with the local administration. These issues occupied much more space in the correspondence sent from Brussels than from Vienna.

The next chapter is devoted to the case of the Stuarts in relations between Great Britain and the Habsburg monarchy. British efforts to marginalize the role of Stuart Pretenders were an important consideration in Albion's diplomacy and could not be absent from its relations with Vienna.

British diplomatic support for 'ordinary' British and Protestant subjects under Habsburg rule is central to the sixth section of the thesis, which also examines British religious policies during this period.

Matters relating to Habsburg and Hanoverian marriage policy are presented in the next chapter. Issues relating to Maria Theresa's marriage and to the descendants of George II are discussed.

The eighth part of the dissertation again focuses on political issues. It outlines the attitude of the British towards the ongoing war between Austria and Turkey – Great Britain did not seek to become involved in this conflict, nor was it asked to do so, but the issue nonetheless figures prominently in correspondence sent from Vienna. How this war was perceived in Great Britain is also outlined in this chapter.

The last section outlines British efforts to enlist the support of the Habsburgs in their war with Spain that broke out in 1739, and traces the mutual relationship's course through the final months of Charles VI's life.

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