

a 'turning movement' instead of an outflanking one by sending a portion of his army right round his enemy's flank to attack in his rear.

Three years after the death of Frederick the Great in 1786 the French Revolution broke out. His nephew, who succeeded him as Frederick William II, was the first to take up arms against revolutionary France, in alliance with the Emperor Leopold II, the brother of the ill-fated Queen Marie Antoinette. A Prussian army, under the Duke of Brunswick, invaded France and captured the fortresses of Longwy and Verdun, but retired after the celebrated cannonade of Valmy, a long-range artillery duel with the French which led to nothing. But Prussia's action, though she posed as the champion of outraged royalty, was entirely selfish, and on finding that France was no easy prey to be partitioned like Poland, she withdrew from the contest after three years, much to the vexation of her allies.

In 1793 the Second Partition of Poland gave to Prussia the district of Posen, on her eastern frontier, along with Danzig and Thorn, and two years later, by the Third Partition, she obtained the whole of the Warsaw region. This partly accounts for Frederick William's withdrawal from the struggle with France, for the task of trying to assimilate his new Polish subjects was quite sufficient to occupy him. It is noteworthy that Prussia still regarded the east as the only possible direction in which she could expand. By the Treaty of Basel (1795) she even relinquished to France some parts of her western possessions, as the Rhine became the French boundary.

For the next eleven years (1795-1806) Prussia maintained her neutrality, despite the various coalitions made against France and the attempts of the allies to