

wanted was to add Silesia to Prussia, and he was entirely successful.

In 1756 another great war, known as the Seven Years' War, broke out between Frederick and Maria Theresa. France this time joined Austria, and England in consequence sided with Prussia. Frederick's chief battles were fought at Rossbach, Leuthen, Minden, Kunersdorf, and Torgau. The war ended in 1763 with the Treaty of Hubertsburg, and Silesia became permanently Prussian.

Nine years later took place the First Partition of Poland. This was accomplished without bloodshed—a peculiarly cynical transaction—by a treaty between Prussia, Russia, and Austria. Galicia fell to Austria's share, and Frederick acquired West Prussia (without Danzig, however), which joined up the disconnected parts of his dominions.

Of Frederick the Great's personal characteristics—his passion for all things French, his friendship with Voltaire, and his devotion to music—we cannot here speak, but something must be said of his military reforms, for he was first and foremost a soldier.

His army was only half composed of Prussians; the remainder were drawn from other states. As in the days of Frederick William I it relied largely for its efficiency on the formal drill inculcated by 'the Old Dessauer', combined with steady fire tactics. Frederick at first had a preference for the *arme blanche*, but gradually became converted to the doctrine that 'battles are won by fire superiority'.

In tactics, Frederick's favourite mode of attack was the 'Oblique Order', by which was meant a rapid concentration of his forces on one wing, immediately after deployment, so as to roll up the enemy's line by taking it in the flank. Occasionally he employed