

military service. . . Aged men, with the rank of majors, colonels, and generals, mouldered in the offices of country towns, and murmured at the very mention of a war, which would deprive them of half their salaries. . . . The higher officers were, on an average, nearly double the age of French officers of corresponding rank (Fyffe).

The only young officers were the nobles, who, it is said, arrogantly sharpened their swords on the doorstep of the French Embassy before proceeding to meet Napoleon.

The result of the meeting was completely disastrous for Prussia. Napoleon and Davoust utterly routed her armies in the twin battles of Jena and Auerstädt (near Weimar). All the chief fortresses of Prussia thereupon surrendered to Napoleon, and Davoust occupied Berlin. Napoleon himself visited the tomb of Frederick the Great at Potsdam, and removed from it Frederick's sword and Order of the Black Eagle, which he sent back to Paris. His treatment of Prussia was harsher and more cruel than that of any other of his conquests, and it has been suggested that this was due to his jealousy of the memory of Frederick the Great. 'The bitter thoroughness of the war of 1870', says Dr. J. E. Morris, 'was the result of the rout of Jena-Auerstädt.'

By the year 1807 the Kingdom of Prussia was reduced to the four provinces of Brandenburg, Silesia, and the two Prussias, a total area of about 62,000 square miles, with a population of under 5,000,000. (Prussia's area to-day is nearly 135,000 square miles, and her population 40,000,000.) Her Polish possessions were taken from her and given to the King of Saxony, who became Grand Duke of Warsaw. Her army was limited to 42,000 men, and was to be at the service of Napoleon. An impossible fine was levied upon her, and in default