

THE SEVEN YEARS WAR IN EUROPE 1756–1763

FRANZ A. J. SZABO

In this groundbreaking new work, based on a thorough re-reading of primary sources and new research of the Austrian State Archives, Franz A. J. Szabo presents a scholarly but eminently readable and stimulating reassessment of the continental war – the first in nearly a century.

Professor Szabo challenges the well-established myth that the Seven Years War was won through the military skill and tenacity of the King of Prussia, often styled 'Frederick the Great'. Instead he argues that Prussia did not win but merely survived the Seven Years War, and did so despite and not because of the actions and decisions of its king. The Seven Years War was not the 'cabinet war' that history has written it to be but a war that drove all participants to near collapse and, in doing so, changed the face of Europe.

With balanced attention to all the major participants and to all conflict zones on the European continent, this volume describes the strategies and tactics of the military leaders on all sides, analyses all the major battles of the war and illuminates the diplomatic, political and financial aspects of the conflict. By providing a clear analysis of English, French and Prussian, as well as Austrian, Russian and Swedish policies and actions, the book offers a new perspective on the war as a whole.

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Cover image: *Überfall auf das preußische Lager bei Hochkirch am 14 Oktober 1758* (detail) by Hyacinth de la Pagna, 1761. Reproduced courtesy of the Kunsthistorische Museum, Wien.

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