



Electorate of Hanover

Status: Minor nation.

Description: Medium-sized state in northern central Germany.

Prince-Elector: King George III of the United Kingdom (left).

Delegate: Count Ernst zu Münster (right).

Background

Before the Napoleonic Wars, Hanover was a fairly normal German state whose royal family had just so happened to inherit the British throne in 1714. Although this personal union gave the two countries a shared foreign policy, their governments remained distinct, and Hanover had no interest in British ideals of constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy. Regardless, the two countries remained deeply intertwined.

Hanover was invaded by France in 1803, and spent the rest of the Napoleonic Wars under French occupation. Its territory was divided between France itself, and the Kingdom of Westphalia (a French client state ruled by Napoleon's brother Jerome). Meanwhile, exiled Hanoverian soldiers joined the British Army, and fought France in the Peninsular Campaign. After Napoleon's retreat from Russia, these soldiers joined the allies in Germany, liberating Hanover in November 1813.

Objectives

Hanover's first objective was to get itself a new title – 'Elector' was an office of the Holy Roman Empire, which no longer existed¹. Hanover was also concerned with its own territorial expansion, and the future defence of Germany, either by re-forming the Holy Roman Empire or through another system of mutual defence.

¹ The H.R.E. was dissolved in 1806, but King George refused to recognise this until the time of the Congress.