



Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin

Status: Minor nation.

Description: Small state in North Germany.

Monarch: His Serene Highness Duke Frederick Francis I (left).

Delegate: Baron Leopold von Plessen (right).

Background

Mecklenburg-Schwerin was the larger of two neighbouring duchies ruled by the House of Mecklenburg, the other being Mecklenburg-Strelitz (sandwiched between Mecklenburg-Schwerin and Prussia). These 'sister duchies' followed near-identical paths through the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars: both were members of the Holy Roman Empire, invaded by France in 1806, forced into the Confederation of the Rhine in 1808, and switched sides to the allies in 1813.

The only territorial change affecting either duchy was Schwerin's 1803 annexation of Swedish Wismar, a small coastal town within its borders. Consequently, Mecklenburg's priorities at the Congress were less to do with territory and more to do with the future of Germany in the aftermath of the Holy Roman Empire.

Objectives

The collapse of the Holy Roman Empire left the Mecklenburg duchies, along with the other small German states, weak and vulnerable. Mecklenburg's goal was, firstly, to **avoid being gobbled up** by the land-hungry Prussians, and secondly, to push for the **reformation of the Holy Roman Empire** or a similar replacement which would protect the interests of the small German states.