



Grand Duchy of Tuscany

Status: Minor nation.

Description: Central Italian state on the west coast.

Monarch: His Imperial Highness Grand Duke Ferdinand III (left).

Delegate: Neri Corsini, Minister of the Interior (right).

Background

When the house of Medici died out in 1737, Tuscany was inherited by the house of Habsburg – the same house who ruled Austria and the Holy Roman Empire. This made Tuscany a close ally of Austria (their monarchs were literally brothers) meaning that when the War of the First Coalition broke out, Tuscany sided with Austria, and like many other Italian states, was invaded and dismantled by Napoleon.

Under Napoleonic rule, Tuscany was rebranded into the ‘Kingdom of Etruria¹’ and awarded to the house of Bourbon-Parma² as ‘compensation’ for losing the Duchy of Parma (which was annexed by France). Bourbon rule lasted less than a decade, as Etruria was formally annexed to France in 1807, and remained so until Napoleon’s downfall.

Objectives

Tuscany’s goals included **restoring its pre-war borders**, and **reclaiming art** which had been stolen by France. As a Habsburg power, Tuscany supported the expansion of Austrian influence in Italy, and the **proliferation of Habsburg monarchies** at the expense of the House of Bourbon.

¹ Etruria was the old Roman name for the land of the Etruscans, which is also where ‘Tuscany’ comes from.

² The house of Bourbon-Parma was a branch of the House of Bourbon (royal family of Spain & France) which had ruled the Duchy of Parma since 1748.