

FIRST PAPER ASSIGNMENT

Please write a paper of 1250-2000 words (5-8 typed doublespaced pages, with normal margins and typeface) that answers one of the following two questions.

If you want to write on another topic, say so and we will consider it.

1. Imagine that you are transported in a time machine back to the year 1730 and are then made director of the Lebon Peace Fund, a large philanthropic foundation located somewhere in Europe. The Lebon Peace Fund was created by Derfla Lebon, a peace-loving tycoon who made a fortune in the arquebus trade and wants to make amends for the violence she caused. She created the Peace Fund to conceive and execute projects that would prevent wars. What projects would you pursue? Specifically, what projects might prevent the outbreak of the Seven Years' War in 26 years? Since you come from the future you know how that war broke out so you should be able to come up with effective antidotes.

A "project" can be most anything: sponsoring a book, starting a department in a university, funding a political party or faction, developing an industry, organizing a peace movement, plotting an assassination, you name it. Lebon puts no limits on the way you spend her money: she just wants results.

Please describe your project(s) in a memo to Ms. Lebon that summarizes what you propose to do and explains your reasoning.

Ground rules: you can bring things from the future with you in your time machine, but only as much stuff as you can carry in one trip. Your machine is pretty small--about the size of a VW Beetle--so you can't bring much.

The point of the exercise is to identify causes of the Seven Years' War that would have been manipulable and to discuss practical ways to manipulate them.

2. Same as Question #1, except you are transported back to 1830 and your mission is to Lebon's money to prevent the Crimean War which is coming along in 24 years.

Your papers are due on **class #13**, at class time (11:00 a.m.). You can bring them to class or deliver them to your TA's mailbox. Lateness will be penalized. You are not expected to do outside reading.

You may confer with each other as you gather your thoughts. Several heads are better than one. However, we will be bored if you all reach the same conclusions.

You should get a draft or outline of your paper to your TA a few days before the due date deadline to get feedback.

Make sure your paper includes a **clear summary introduction**, of perhaps a paragraph. This paragraph should **clearly state your question** and should **summarize your answer**.

Please footnote statements of fact, using an abbreviated footnote style if you wish. Footnotes do **not** count toward the length-limit on your paper so use them freely.

Also, please familiarize yourself with the rules of citing sources (attached to the 17.423 course syllabus) and make sure you follow them. Failure to cite sources properly is plagiarism.