

FIRST PAPER ASSIGNMENT

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 Lebon 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, developing an industry, organizing a political movement, creating a government institution, organizing an assassination, starting a religion, 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 of 2000-2200 words (about eight doublespaced pages, with normal typeface and margins) to Ms. Lebon that summarizes what you propose to do and explains your reasoning.

Ground rules: You can't blow your cover and reveal that you come from the future or people may freak out and do you in. So you cannot propose things that rely on future technology ("Please invent nuclear weapons and give them to Britain and France.") Instead you must propose projects that people could execute with technologies of the time or with plausible improvements on those technologies.

**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.**

Your papers are due on **Friday, March 18**, 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 week before the due date--by Friday, March 11--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.

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

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