

POLITICAL AND MILITARY ALLIANCES AND TREATIES

FROM 1295 TO 1560 – THE AULD ALLIANCE (SCOTLAND - FRANCE).

The Auld Alliance "Old Alliance" was the alliance between the kingdoms of Scotland and France. The Scots word auld, meaning old, has become a partly affectionate term for the periodic alliance between the two countries before the Union of Crowns, when the Scottish monarch James VI acceded to the throne of England (as James I). The alliance played a significant role in the relations between Scotland, France and England from its beginning in 1295 to the 1560 Treaty of Edinburgh. The alliance was renewed by all the French and Scottish monarchs of that period except Louis XI. By the late 14th century, the renewal occurred regardless of whether either kingdom was involved in a conflict with England.

The alliance dates from the treaty signed by John Balliol and Philip IV of France in 1295 against Edward I of England. The terms of the treaty stipulated that if either country was attacked by England, the other country would invade English territory, as happened at the Battle of Flodden, 1513. The alliance played an important role in conflicts between both countries and England, such as the Wars of Scottish Independence, the Hundred Years' War, the War of the League of Cambrai and the Rough Wooing.

The dynastic turmoil caused by the death of Scotland's seven-year-old queen, Margaret, left Edward I of England with an irresistible opportunity to assert his authority over Scotland. By 1295 it was clear that Edward was on a course for total subjugation of Scotland. In response the Council of Twelve who had taken over the government of Scotland temporarily, sought alliances wherever they could be found. With France and England close to war following Philippe IV's declaration of England's possession of Gascony forfeit in 1293, alliance with France was a clear course to take. In October 1295, a Scottish embassy to Philippe agreed to the Treaty of Paris.

As with all subsequent renewals of what became the Auld Alliance, the treaty slightly favoured France more than Scotland. The French were required to do no more than continue their struggle against the English in Gascony. However, the cost of any outright war between Scotland and England was to be borne entirely by the Scots. Nevertheless, Scotland, as remote and impoverished as it was, was now aligned to a major European power. Even if more symbolic than actual, the benefits of the alliance mattered greatly to Scotland.

In the short term however, the treaty proved to have no protection against Edward, whose swift and devastating invasion of Scotland in 1296 all but eradicated its independence. Furthermore, the cessation of hostilities between England and France in 1299, followed by the treaty of "perpetual peace and friendship," allowed Edward to devote all of his attention and forces to attack the Scots. Scotland, in the end, owed its eventual survival to the military acumen and inspiration of Robert the Bruce and the mistakes of Edward II, rather than its Auld Alliance with France.

In 1326, Robert the Bruce renewed the alliance, with the Treaty of Corbeil. The motive for this renewal was precautionary more than anything: neither realm seemed to have much to fear from England at the time. This, however, rapidly changed after 1330 when Edward III set out to complete his conquest of Scotland and to reassert his power in France. For the first time the Franco-Scottish alliance had been given a sense of emergency.

In 1346, Edward overwhelmed French forces at the Battle of Crécy. Two months later, David II of Scotland was captured at the Battle of Neville's Cross, in a botched invasion of Northern England. His 11-year absence as Edward's prisoner only increased the internal turmoil and power struggles of Scotland. David II was forced to reach a deal with Edward III to gain his freedom. Even after his release in 1357, David spent most of his remaining reign attempting to further English interests in Scotland.

The alliance was renewed between the two kingdoms in 1371, with the embassy of the Bishop of Glasgow and the Lord of Galloway to France. The treaty was signed by Charles V at the Château de Vincennes on 30 June, and at Edinburgh Castle by Robert II on 28 October. The accession of pro-French Robert II led to the immediate renewal of the alliance; however, the benefits to Scotland were mixed. Plans were drawn up in 1385 for a Franco-Scottish invasion of England. This included the dispatch of a small French force to Scotland for the first time. These plans never came to any form of action after the French invasion failed to materialise. The deteriorating relations between France and Scotland were summed up by the French Chronicler Jean Froissart who "wished the King of France would make a truce with the English for two or three years and then march to Scotland and utterly destroy it".

Yet it was necessity that had driven the two kingdoms together and the need to resist aggressive new Lancastrian Kings of England that kept the alliance together in the 15th century. In 1418, with France on the

brink of surrendering to the forces of Henry V, the Dauphin, Charles VII, called on his Scottish allies for help. Between 1419 and 1424 as many as 15,000 Scottish troops went to France.

French and Scottish forces together won against the English at the Battle of Baugé in 1421. As it marked the turning point of the Hundred Years War, the significance of this battle was great. However, their victory was a short-lived one: at Verneuil in 1424, the Scots army was defeated. Despite this defeat, the Scots had given France a valuable breathing space, effectively saving the country from English domination.

In addition, in 1429 Scots came to the aid of Joan of Arc in her famous relief of Orléans. Scottish soldiers also served in the Garde Écossaise, the loyal bodyguard of the French monarchy. Many Scottish mercenaries chose to settle in France. Some were granted lands and titles in France. In the 15th and 16th centuries, they became naturalised French subjects.

Through the rest of the 15th century the alliance was formally renewed four times. The eventual victory of France in the Hundred Years War combined with the turmoil in England following the War of the Roses meant that the English threat was greatly reduced, thus rendering the alliance almost obsolete. But it didn't stop the Auld Alliance from taking part in the war, and from it, they gained the advantage of taking many strongholds and a few possessions such as Jersey and Berwick-On-Tweed from England, in exchange of helping to support the Lancastrian causes against the Yorkists during the war, and, despite the Yorkists winning and managing to regain the possessions given to them, they were still supportive to England's rebels against Yorkist rule, even supporting the last Lancastrian, Henry VII in the Battle of Bosworth in 1485. As the 16th Century began, the marriage of Henry VII's daughters Margaret Tudor to James IV of Scotland and Mary Tudor to Louis XII of France, as a sign of peace from England, appeared to have finally ended the Franco-Scottish alliance.

It underwent a dramatic revival in 1512 when it was formally reviewed (as it was again in 1517 and 1548). Both soon petered out but Scotland still suffered badly following the death of James IV and most of his nobles at Flodden in 1513. Periodic Anglo-French and Anglo-Scottish conflict throughout the 15th century continued, but the certainties that had driven the Auld Alliance were disappearing. As Protestantism gained ground in Scotland opinion grew there that favoured closer links with England than with France.

In 1558 the alliance between the two kingdoms was finally revived with the marriage of Mary, Queen of Scots to the future Francis II of France, but only until 1560. Yet with her exile in 1568 to England, Scotland was transformed by its new king James VI, who was heir to the English throne as well as Scotland's. His desire to form close links with England meant that the alliance had outlived its usefulness. In the 1560s, after more than 250 years, formal treaties between Scotland and France were officially ended by the Treaty of Edinburgh. With the Scottish Reformation, Scotland was declared Protestant, and allied itself with Protestant England instead. During the Reformation, the Protestant Lords of the Congregation had rejected the Auld Alliance and brokered English military support with their treaty of Berwick against the French Regent Mary of Guise.

Two hundred Scottish soldiers were sent to Normandy in 1562 to aid the French Huguenots in their struggle against royal authority during the French Wars of Religion. The Garde Écossaise, however, continued until 1830 when Charles X of France abdicated.

1524 – 1526 FRANCO – POLISH ALLIANCE

A **Franco-Polish alliance** was formed in 1524 between the king of France Francis I and the king of Poland Sigismund I. Francis I was looking for allies in Central Europe to create a balance against the power of Habsburg Emperor Charles V. Queen Bona Sforza, the Italian wife of Sigismund, was instrumental in promoting the alliance, with the objective of recovering sovereignty of Milan. Sigismund himself was motivated by such an alliance because Charles V was getting closer to Russia, thus threatening Poland on two fronts.

The negotiations were handled by Antonio Rincon in 1524, who was then followed by Jerome Laski. Through the agreement, the son of Francis, Henry, Duke of Orléans, was to marry a daughter of Sigismund I, and Sigismund's eldest son was to marry a daughter of Francis I. According to the same agreement, Sigismund was supposed to support Francis' efforts at re-conquering Milan to which Sigismund had some right through his earlier marriage with Bona Sforza. The alliance was effectively signed in 1524.

The agreement fell through, however, when Francis I was vanquished by Charles V at the Battle of Pavia in 1525. When Francis again looked for Central European allies after 1526, he would look at Hungary instead and finally formed a Franco-Hungarian alliance with King Zapolya in 1528.

1528 – 1552 FRANCO – HUNGARIAN ALLIANCE

A **Franco-Hungarian alliance** was formed in October 1528 between Francis I of France and John Zápolya, king of Hungary. France had already been looking for allies in Central Europe. His ambassador, Antonio Rincon, was employed on several missions to Poland and Hungary between 1522 and 1525. At that time, following the 1522 Battle of Bicocca, Francis was attempting to ally with King Sigismund I the Old of Poland.

In 1524, a Franco-Polish alliance was signed between Francis and Sigismund, but the agreement fell through when Francis was vanquished by Charles V at the Battle of Pavia in 1525.

From 1526, Francis I again started to look for allies in Central Europe, this time turning his attention to Hungary. In 1528, John Zápolya was in a very vulnerable position, since he had been defeated by Ferdinand of Austria, his rival claimant to the throne of Hungary, at the Battle of Tokay in August 1527. In addition to the French alliance, Zapolya also chose to become a vassal to the Ottoman Empire in February 1528, through the negotiations of Jerome Laski. Rincon went to Istanbul to bring the document. That triggered the development of relations between France and the Ottoman Empire.

The treaty was signed in France at Fontainebleau and Paris on 23 and 28 October 1528. It was then ratified by Zapolya at Buda on 1 September 1529. Through the treaty Francis promised to help Zapolya financially and through other means. In exchange, Zapolya agreed to continue the fight against Ferdinand of Austria and to provide Hungarian troops to Francis in Italy.

In the Little War in Hungary, France fought side by side with Zápolya and Suleiman the Magnificent against the Habsburg. A French artillery unit was dispatched to the war in Hungary in 1543–1544 and attached to the Ottoman Army.

1536 FRANCO – OTTOMAN ALLIANCE

The **Franco-Ottoman alliance**, also **Franco-Turkish alliance**, was an alliance established in 1536 between the king of [France Francis I](#) and the Turkish sultan of the [Ottoman Empire Suleiman the Magnificent](#). The alliance has been called "the first non-ideological diplomatic alliance of its kind between a Christian and non-Christian empire".

It caused a scandal in the Christian world, and was designated as "the impious alliance", or "the sacrilegious union of the [Lily](#) and the [Crescent](#)"; nevertheless, it endured since it served the interests of both parties.

The strategic and sometimes tactical alliance was one of the most important foreign alliances of France and lasted for more than two and a half centuries, until the Napoleonic Campaign in Egypt, an Ottoman territory, in 1798–1801. The Franco-Ottoman alliance was also an important chapter of Franco-Asian relations.

Following the Turkish conquest of Constantinople in 1453 by Mehmet II and the unification of swaths of the Middle East under Selim I, Suleiman, the son of Selim, managed to expand Ottoman rule to Serbia in 1522. The Habsburg Empire thus entered in direct conflict with the Ottomans.

Some early contacts seem to have taken place between the Ottomans and the French. Philippe de Commines reports that Bayezid II sent an embassy to Louis XI in 1483, while Djem, his brother and rival pretender to the Ottoman throne was being detained in France at Bourgneuf by Pierre d'Aubusson. Louis XI refused to see the envoys, but a large amount of money and Christian relics were offered by the envoy so that Djem could remain in custody in France. Djem was transferred to the custody of Pope Innocent VIII in 1489.

France had signed a first treaty or *Capitulation* with the Mamluk Sultanate of Egypt in 1500, during the rules of Louis XII and Sultan Bayezid II, in which the Sultan of Egypt had made concessions to the French and the Catalans, and which would be later extended by Suleiman.

France had already been looking for allies in Central Europe. The ambassador of France Antonio Rincon was employed by Francis I on several missions to Poland and Hungary between 1522 and 1525. At that time, following the 1522 Battle of Bicoque, Francis I was attempting to ally with king Sigismund I the Old of Poland. Finally, in 1524, a Franco-Polish alliance was signed between Francis I and the king of Poland Sigismund I.

A momentous intensification of the search for allies in Central Europe occurred when the French ruler Francis I was defeated at the Battle of Pavia on February 24, 1525, by the troops of Emperor Charles V. After several months in prison, Francis I was forced to sign the humiliating Treaty of Madrid, through which he had to relinquish the Duchy of Burgundy and the Charolais to the Empire, renounce his Italian ambitions, and return his belongings and honours to the traitor Constable de Bourbon. This situation forced Francis I to find an ally against the powerful Habsburg Emperor, in the person of Suleiman the Magnificent.

The alliance was an opportunity for both rulers to fight against the rule of the Habsburg. The objective for Francis I was clearly to find an ally in the struggle against the House of Habsburg, although this policy of

alliance was in reversal of that of his predecessors. The pretext used by Francis I to seal an alliance with a Muslim power was the protection of the Christians in Ottoman lands, through agreements called "Capitulations of the Ottoman Empire".

King Francis was imprisoned in Madrid when the first efforts at establishing an alliance were made. A first French mission to Suleiman seems to have been sent right after the Battle of Pavia by the mother of Francis I, Louise de Savoie, but the mission was lost on its way in Bosnia. In December 1525 a second mission was sent, led by John Frangipani, which managed to reach Constantinople, the Ottoman capital, with secret letters asking for the deliverance of king Francis I and an attack on the Habsburg. Frangipani returned with an answer from Suleiman, on 6 February 1526:

"I who am the Sultan of Sultans, the sovereign of sovereigns, the dispenser of crowns to the monarchs on the face of the earth, the shadow of the God on Earth, the Sultan and sovereign lord of the Mediterranean Sea and of the Black Sea, of Rumelia and of Anatolia, of Karamania, of the land of Romans, of Dhulkadria, of Diyarbakir, of Kurdistan, of Azerbaijan, of Persia, of Damascus, of Aleppo, of Cairo, of Mecca, of Medina, of Jerusalem, of all Arabia, of Yemen and of many other lands which my noble fore-fathers and my glorious ancestors (may God light up their tombs!) conquered by the force of their arms and which my August Majesty has made subject to my flamboyant sword and my victorious blade, I, Sultan Suleiman Khan, son of Sultan Selim Khan, son of Sultan Bayezid Khan: To thee who art [Francesco](#), king of the province of France... You have sent to my [Porte](#), refuge of sovereigns, a letter by the hand of your faithful servant Frangipani, and you have furthermore entrusted to him miscellaneous verbal communications. You have informed me that the enemy has overrun your country and that you are at present in prison and a captive, and you have asked aid and succours for your deliverance. All this your saying having been set forth at the foot of my throne, which controls the world. Your situation has gained my imperial understanding in every detail, and I have considered all of it. There is nothing astonishing in emperors being defeated and made captive. Take courage then, and be not dismayed. Our glorious predecessors and our illustrious ancestors (may God light up their tombs!) have never ceased to make war to repel the foe and conquer his lands. We ourselves have followed in their footsteps, and have at all times conquered provinces and citadels of great strength and difficult of approach. Night and day our horse is saddled and our saber is girt. May the God on High promote righteousness! May whatsoever He will be accomplished! For the rest, question your ambassador and be informed. Know that it will be as said. (...)"

— Answer from Suleiman the Magnificent to Francis I of France, February 1526

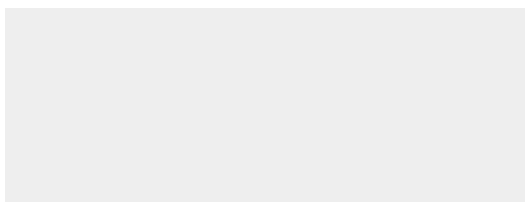
The plea of the French king nicely corresponded to the ambitions of Suleiman in Europe, and gave him an incentive to attack Hungary in 1526, leading to the Battle of Mohács. The Ottomans were also greatly attracted by the prestige of being in alliance with such a country as France, which would give them better legitimacy in their European dominions.

Meanwhile, Charles V was manoeuvring to form a Habsburg-Persian alliance with Persia, so that the Ottoman Empire would be attacked on its rear. Envoys were sent to Shah Tahmasp I in 1525, and again in 1529, pleading for an attack on the Ottoman Empire.

Letter of Suleiman the Magnificent to Francis I of France regarding the protection of Christians in his states. September 1528. Archives Nationales, Paris, France.

With the War of the League of Cognac (1526–1530) going on, Francis I continued to look for allies in Central Europe and formed a Franco-Hungarian alliance in 1528 with the Hungarian king Zapolya, who himself had just become a vassal of the Ottoman Empire that same year.^[16] In 1528 also, Francis used the pretext of the protection of Christians in the Ottoman Empire to again enter into contact with Suleiman, asking for the return of a mosque to a Christian Church. In his 1528 letter to Francis I Suleiman politely refused, but guaranteed the protection of Christians in his states. He also renewed the privileges of French merchants which had been obtained in 1517 in Egypt.

Francis I lost in his European campaigns, and had to sign the *Paix des Dames* in August 1529. He was even forced to supply some galleys to Charles V in his fight against the Ottomans. However, the Ottomans would continue their campaigns in Central Europe, and besiege the Habsburg capital in the 1529 Siege of Vienna, and again in 1532.



Anglo-French Alliance	1657–1660
American Indians	17–18th c.
Anglo-French Alliance	1716–1731
Franco-Spanish alliance	1733–1792
<u>Franco-Prussian alliance</u>	1741–1756
Franco-Austrian Alliance	1756–1792
Franco-Indian alliances	18th c.
Franco-Vietnamese alliance	1777–1820
Franco-American alliance	1778–1794
Franco-Persian alliance	1807–1809
Franco-Prussian alliance	1812
Franco-Russian Alliance	1892–1917
Franco-Polish alliance	1921–1940
Franco-Italian Alliance	1935
Franco-Soviet Treaty	1936–1939
NATO	1949–present
WEU	(1948) 1954–2011

1594 – THE HOLY LEAGUE OF POPE CLEMENT VIII

With the outbreak of the Long War, Clement VIII sent missions to Emperor Rudolf II, Phillip II of Spain, and other princes. At the beginning of 1594, he sent clergyman Aleksandar Komulović of Nona to central and eastern Europe with the purpose to persuade the rulers of Transylvania, Moldavia, Wallachia and Muscovy to join an alliance against the Ottomans. Komulović also tried to enlist the Zaporizhian Cossacks, who were important as frequent raiders of Ottoman territory. Komulović was to appeal to the Serbs about liberation from the Ottomans. Clement VIII subsidized the Habsburgs with 600,000 scudi in 1594-95.

Clement VIII appealed to Spain and Venice in vain. He also hoped that the Swedish king Sigismund II would fight the Ottomans in his role as king of Poland. In 1597, Clement VIII sent a force under his nephew to Hungary. He did it again in 1598. Clement VIII chose not to support the Serb Uprising of 1596–97. Facilitated by the Pope, a treaty of alliance was signed in Prague by Emperor Rudolf II and Sigismund Báthory of Transylvania in 1595. Aron Vodă of Moldavia and Michael the Brave of Wallachia joined the alliance later that year. Clement VIII himself lent the Emperor valuable assistance in men and money.

1631 – TREATY OF BARWALDE (Sweden and France)

The Treaty of Bärwalde of 23 January 1631 was a treaty concluding an alliance between Sweden and France during the Thirty Years' War, shortly after Sweden had invaded Northern Germany then occupied by Ferdinand II, Holy Roman Emperor's forces. The treaty obliged Sweden to maintain an army of 36,000 troops, and France to fund the Swedish army with an annually 400,000 Reichstalers. Sweden, who had already intervened in the Battle of Stralsund (1628), started its campaign in the Holy Roman Empire in 1630. The invasion began when Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden had landed in the Duchy of Pomerania and concluded an alliance with Bogislaw XIV, Duke of Pomerania, the Treaty of Stettin (1630). Yet, Sweden found no other ally except for the Free imperial city of Magdeburg. From the Pomeranian bridgehead, Gustavus Adolphus advanced further south to Brandenburg in early January 1631.

A Franco-Swedish alliance had been prepared since the Truce of Altmark in 1629 and agreed on in the Treaty of Västeråson 5 March 1630. On 23 January 1631, French and Swedish negotiators reached an agreement in Brandenburgian Bärwalde (now Mieszkowice) nr. Pomeranian Greiffenhagen (now Gryfino).

The treaty's stated purpose was to protect "common allies, the safety of the North and Baltic Seas, and freedom of trade" as well as the liberation of the "oppressed nobles of the empire". The treaty was scheduled to apply for five years. Its core provisions were:

- Sweden was to maintain an army of 36,000 troops in Germany: 30,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry.
- France was to pay an annual 400,000 Reichstalers (1,000,000 livres) and an additional 120,000 Reichstalers for 1630.
- France and Sweden were not to conclude peace treaties with third parties without mutual approval.

In addition, the treaty provided religious guarantees, including a guarantee for religious freedom of subdued Catholics. Another provision was that France and Sweden respect the neutrality of Bavaria and the Catholic League under certain premises, yet these premises were not fulfilled by the time the treaty was concluded.

The treaty was signed by ambassador Hercule de Charnacé, "unofficial agent" of Cardinal Richelieu, for France, and, on behalf of Gustavus Adolphus, Gustav Horn and Johan Banér for Sweden.

While the French subsidies to Sweden agreed on in Bärwalde made up for no more than one fiftieth of the French state budget, they amounted to one quarter of the Swedish one.

The treaty served to fund further advances of Sweden into Germany. Further Franco-Swedish strategic alliances, some including third parties, were concluded in the following years:

- 27 October 1632: Treaty of Toulouse between France, Sweden and the Electorate of Cologne.
- 5 September 1633, 26 August 1634, 20 September 1634 and 1 November 1634: Treaties of Frankfurt am Main, Paris, Frankfurt and Paris, respectively, between France, Sweden and the Heilbronn League.
- 20 March 1636: Treaty of Wismar between France and Sweden
- 6 March 1638: Treaty of Hamburg between France and Sweden.
- 30 June 1641: Treaty of Hamburg between France and Sweden.
- 16 April 1643 (amended on 10 July 1643): Treaty of Weissenburg und Dobitschau between France, Sweden and Transylvania
- 30 June 1643: Treaty of Stockholm (1643) between France and Sweden (renewal of Hamburg 1641).

1631 - TREATY OF FONTAINEBLEAU (Bavaria and France)

The Treaty of Fontainebleau (German: *Vertrag von Fontainebleau*) was signed on May 30, 1631 between Maximilian I, Elector of Bavaria, and the Kingdom of France. The accord established a secret alliance between the two Catholic states during the Thirty Years' War. The treaty, which was to be valid for eight years, called for French military assistance in case of an attack on Bavaria. France also confirmed Bavaria's possession of the Upper Palatinate and status as an electorate. For his part, Maximilian promised not to support France's enemies, such as the Imperial forces of the Austrian Habsburgs.

The treaty proved worthless in 1631, as the Protestant King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden (allied with France) attacked Bavaria, which did not receive French aid. France argued that Bavaria had initiated conflict with Sweden, and as such had nullified the treaty. In actuality, French aid to both Sweden and Bavaria would have been counterproductive. Cardinal Richelieu of France had been under the impression that Sweden would respect Bavaria's neutrality during Sweden's war against the Habsburgs. Because the Treaty of Fontainebleau had failed to provide security for Bavaria, Maximilian allied his state with the Imperial party of Vienna.

1654 – ANGLO – SWEDISH ALLIANCE (England and Sweden)

The 1654 Anglo-Swedish alliance was signed by Bulstrode Whitelocke, representing the Commonwealth of England, and Christina, Queen of Sweden, in Uppsala, Sweden in 1654. Its main purpose was to offset the alliance between Denmark and the Netherlands. It was signed on April 28, but antedated April 11 1654.

1655 – THE TREATY OF RINSK (Brandenburg – Prussia)

The treaty of Rinsk, concluded on 2 November (O.S.) / 12 November (N.S.) 1655, was a Ducal-Royal Prussian alliance during the Second Northern War. Frederick William I, Elector of Brandenburg and duke of Prussia, and the nobles of Royal Prussia agreed to allow Brandenburgian garrisons in Royal Prussia to defend it against the imminent Swedish invasion.

The important towns of Danzig (Gdańsk), Thorn (Toruń) and Elbing (Elbląg) did not participate in the treaty and were not garrisoned by Brandenburgian troops, and except for Danzig surrendered to Sweden.

The remainder of Royal Prussia, except for Marienburg (Malbork) was overrun by Sweden and Frederick William I's forces pursued to Königsberg (now Kaliningrad), where he was forced to accept Swedish overlordship in the Treaty of Königsberg in January 1656.

1656 - THE TREATY OF MARIENBURG (Brandenburg – Prussia – Sweden)

The treaty of Marienburg, concluded on 29 June 1656, was a Brandenburg-Prussian – Swedish alliance during the Second Northern War.

In January 1656, Charles X Gustav of Sweden had made Frederick William I, Elector of Brandenburg, his vassal for the Duchy of Prussia. By the time of the treaty of Marienburg, Swedish prospect in the war had diminished, and Charles X Gustav was willing to offer Frederick William I a reward for fighting on his side.

While the latter was to remain a Swedish vassal for Prussia, he was promised hereditary sovereignty in four voivodeships of Greater Poland in return for participating in the Charles X Gustav's Polish campaigns. This alliance proved victorious in the subsequent Battle of Warsaw, but as further campaigns stalled, Frederick William I was to gain full sovereignty in Prussia by the Treaty of Labiau in November 1656.

1657 – THE TREATY OF VIENNA (Austro – Polish)

The Treaty of Vienna, concluded on 27 May 1657, was an Austro-Polish alliance during the Second Northern War. After Habsburg emperor Ferdinand III had agreed to enter the war on the anti-Swedish side and support the Polish king John II Casimir with 4,000 troops in the ineffective Treaty of Vienna (1656), his death in April 1657 made way for a more substantial treaty with his successor Leopold I.

By this treaty, Leopold I promised to aid John II Casimir with 12,000 troops against the Swedish-Brandenburgian alliance. These troops were to be maintained at Polish expense, and crossed the Polish border in June.

1657 – THE ANGLO – FRENCH ALLIANCE

The Treaty of Paris signed in March 1657 allied the English Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell with King Louis XIV of France against King Philip IV of Spain, merging the Anglo-Spanish War (1654–1660) with the larger Franco-Spanish War (1635-1659).

The treaty confirmed the growing rapprochement between France and the English Republican regime. Until the mid-1650s the French had been supporters of the Royalist exiles under Charles II, but the move towards an alliance with Cromwell led Charles to conclude the Treaty of Brussels with Spain in 1656.

Based on the terms of the treaty, the English would join with France in her continuing war against Spain in Flanders. France would contribute an army of 20,000 men, England would contribute both 6,000 troops and the English fleet in a campaign against the Flemish coastal fortresses of Gravelines, Dunkirk and Mardyck.

It was agreed that Gravelines would be ceded to France, Dunkirk and Mardyck to England. Dunkirk, in particular, was on the Commonwealth's mind mainly because of the privateers that were causing damage to the mercantile fleet. For Cromwell and the Commonwealth, the question of possession of Dunkirk thus passed from regional diplomatic possibility to urgent political necessity.

1668 – THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE (England – Sweden – United Provinces)

The Triple Alliance (1668) of England, Sweden, and the United Provinces was formed to halt the expansion of Louis XIV's France in the War of Devolution. The alliance never engaged in combat against France, but it was enough of a threat to force Louis to halt his offensive and sign the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle with Spain.

1686 – THE GRAND ALLIANCE (A European coalition)

The Grand Alliance was a European coalition, consisting (at various times) of Austria, Bavaria, Brandenburg, the Dutch Republic, England, the Holy Roman Empire, Ireland, the Palatinate of the Rhine, Portugal, Savoy, Saxony, Scotland, Spain and Sweden. The organization, which was founded in 1686 as the League of Augsburg, was known as the "Grand Alliance" after England and Scotland joined the League (in 1689). It was originally formed in an attempt to halt Louis XIV of France's expansionist policies.

The League was officially formed by Emperor Leopold I, acting upon the advice of William III of Orange. The primary reason for its creation was to defend the Electorate of the Palatinate from France. This organization fought the War of the Grand Alliance against France from 1688 to 1697.

The Alliance was twice installed between 1689 and 1698. It fought the Nine Years' War against France. After the Treaty of Den Haag was signed on September 7, 1701, it went into a second phase as the Alliance of the War of Spanish Succession. In this war, Bavaria and the Bourbon faction in Spain defected to the French side. The War ended following the Tory political victory in 1710 in Britain which led to the Peace of Utrecht — the peace with France which granted Spain's crown to the French candidate but divided Spain's external territories. In Spain the war continued until it was decided by the Siege of Barcelona, on September 11, 1714.

The Grand Alliance gained cultural and political credibility as an example of a possible European union. It was supported by (most of) the German territories, Britain and the Netherlands, as well as by many French

intellectuals who were disenchanted with the absolutist rule of Louis XIV, as well as the eviction of the Huguenots in 1685 and the union of Catholicism and the French crown at home.

The end of the Grand Alliance was primarily due to a growing dissatisfaction, amongst the British populace, with having to finance the wars abroad. The [Balance of Power](#) doctrine eventually resulted, however, from the wars Britain proved to be able to begin and to end on its own terms. The Grand Alliance (and wars fought by the Alliance) also contributed to a new sense of how wars would be fought in the future.

After the War of the Spanish Succession, and arguably War of the Austrian Succession, the old formulated system of alliance began to crumble. The rise of Prussia, and the rise of British power, un-proportionally upset the balance of power. France, now a second-rate power, began to create her own grand alliance with Spain, Russia, and Austria. As proven in the Seven Years' War and the later American Revolutionary War, Europe started to see Britain as a far greater threat than France. This arguably ended the "old system" of the Grand Alliance.

The death toll of the most important battles and sieges was high, yet none of the three wars fought from 1689-1721 led to a repeat of the atrocities of the Thirty Years' War fought in the early seventeenth century. Instead, the generals of the Grand Alliance became heroes of a Europe "civilized even when at war" - an ideal which would last, with some exceptions, to the early days of the First World War.

1684 – THE HOLY LEAGUE (Papal States)

The Holy League of 1684 was an alliance organized by Pope Innocent XI to oppose the Ottoman Empire in the Great Turkish War. The League's initial members were the Papal States, the Holy Roman Empire under Habsburg Emperor Leopold I, the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth of John III Sobieski, and the Venetian Republic; the Tsardom of Russia joined the League in 1686. The alliance lasted until the Treaty of Karlowitz brought an end to the war in 1699.

Pope Innocent was aided by Capuchin Friar Marco d'Aviano during the formation of the League. The events to the League's creation and the 1683 Battle of Vienna are fictionalized in the film *September Eleven 1683*.