

The Great Northern War & Russia

John Kaye

February 2nd 2021



Sources

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 - Also available as a website:
<https://erenow.net/modern/peterthegreat/>
- Michael Glaeser *“By Defeating My Enemies”* Helion
- *Cambridge History of Scandinavia*
- Wikipedia: *Great Northern War, Charles XII, Battle of Narva, Poltava, Skirmish at Bender, Treaty of Nystad & many, many others*
- New Cambridge Modern History Vol 6: ch. 20, *Charles XII and The Great Northern War*
 - Available at [Internet Archive](#)
- Collins Encyclopedia of Military History

Charles XII of Sweden



- Born: June 1682
- King: April 1697, aged 14
- Left Stockholm: 1700, never returned
- First Battle: invasion of Zealand, August 1700
- Killed at Fredriksten, December 11th, 1718
- “Married to the army”

Charles

Charles XII of Sweden



Charles!

Samuel Johnson:

“...were Socrates and Charles the Twelfth of Sweden both present in any company, and Socrates to say, *'Follow me, and hear a lecture on philosophy;'* and Charles, laying his hand on his sword, to say, *'Follow me, and dethrone the Czar;'* a man would be ashamed to follow Socrates.”

Boswell: “A Life...”

Other Dramatis Personae

- Augustus II, Elector of Saxony, Grand Duke of Lithuania, and later, King of Poland, leader of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth



Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth



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- **Frederick IV of Denmark**



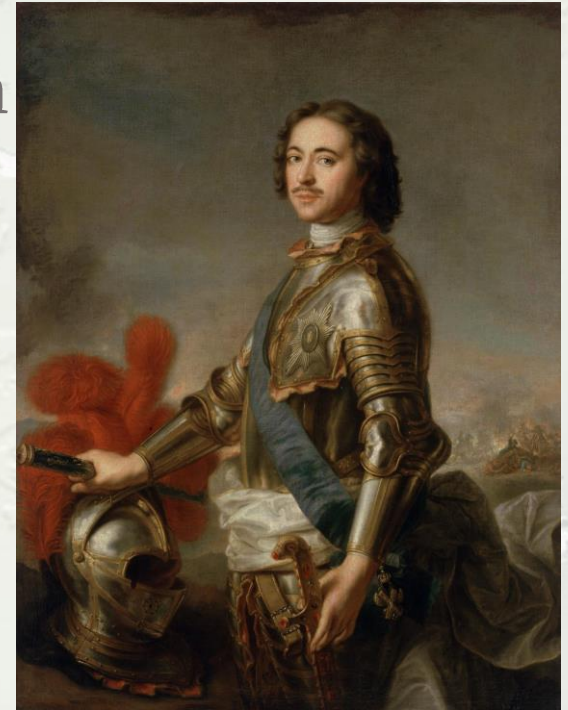
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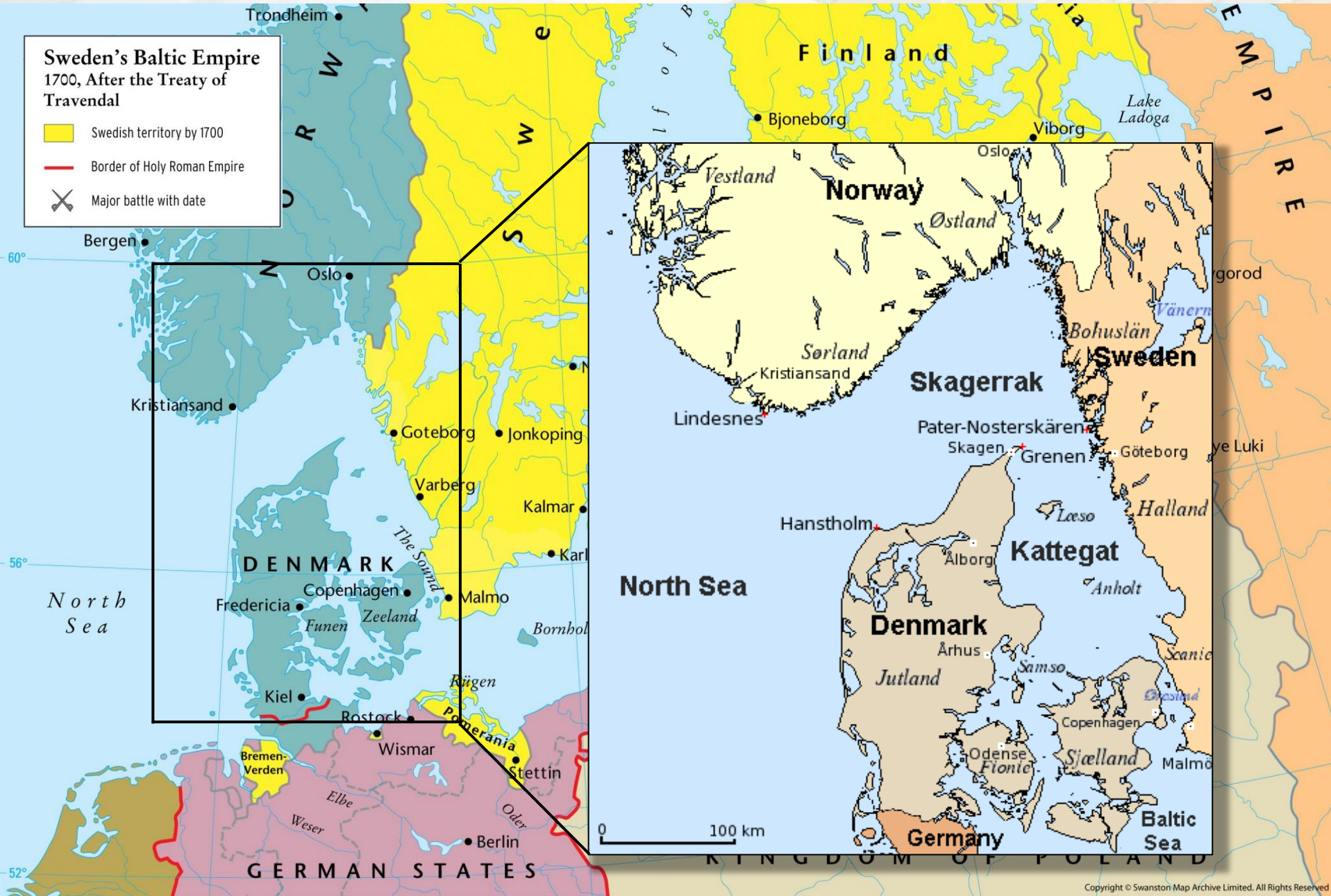
Sweden's Baltic Empire 1700, After the Treaty of Travendal

-  Swedish territory by 1700
-  Border of Holy Roman Empire
-  Major battle with date



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KINGDOM OF SWEDEN



Timeline

Year	Date	Event
1700	18 th August	30 year peace treaty with Ottoman Empire signed
	4 th August	Sweden invades Denmark, landing at Humlebaek
	19 th August	Peter declares war on Sweden
	20 th November	Battle of Narva: Charles XII takes the town

First Battle of Narva, 1700



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1701	9 th March	Peter & Augustus (Poland/Lithuania) agree to unite
	14 th May	Charles XII occupies Warsaw
1702	12 th October	Peter captures Schisselburg on Lake Lagoda
1703	27 th May	St Petersburg founded
1704	July 4th	Russia recaptures Dorpat
1704	9 th August	Russia recaptures Narva: Siege of Narva

Siege of Narva, 1704



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1706	13 th February	Sweden defeats Russia/Saxony at Fraustadt
1708	January	Charles begins invasion of Russia: fierce winter
1708	28 th September	Russia captures Lewenhaupt's supply convoy: Lesnaya

Timeline

Year	Date	Event
1708	4 th July	Battle of Holowczyn: Charles victorious again
1709	28 th June	Battle of Poltava: the 'defeat' of Charles XII

The Road to Poltava

- Swedish army tired and under-supplied
- Winter of 1708, coldest for a generation: thousands of Swedes and Russians freeze to death
- Charles badly injured, unable to lead
- Distrust & dislike between generals Rehnsköld & Lewenhaupt
- Russia a much more formidable military opponent

Poltava



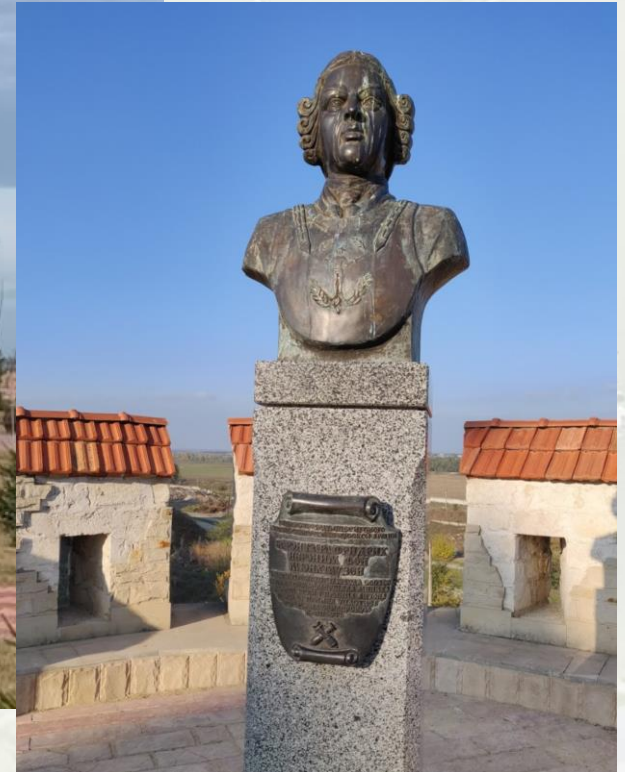
Post Poltava 1709 - 1720

- 10,000 more dead or captured .
- Charles escapes to the Ottoman Empire with help of Cossacks and 1,500 guards.
- Swedish army lost and captured at Perevolochna, 15,000 surrendered. Charles never forgives Lowenhaupt, who is never repatriated from Russia

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1709-13		Plague in Europe; Turkish border closed

Bender



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1710	20 th November	Ottomans declare war on Russia
1711	March - July	Russia invades Moldavia
1711	21 st July	Treaty of Pruth ends Russo-Turkish War
1714	7 th August	Swedish navy humiliated at Hanko/Gangut
1714	11 th November	Charles returns to Swedish territory at Stralsund
1715	13 th December	Charles finally sets foot in Sweden proper





Timeline

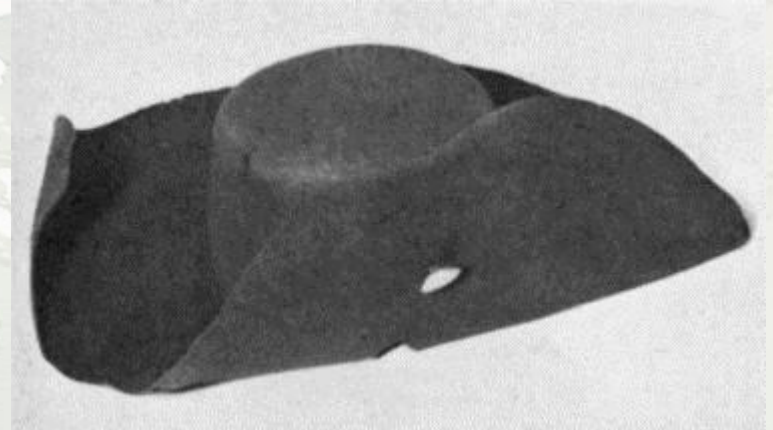
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1717-18		Charles campaigns against Norway
1718	30 th November	Charles killed, succeeded by his sister, initially

The Death of Charles XII

- Subject of much controversy
- Body exhumed on three occasions 1746, 1859, 1917
- Was he just the unlucky recipient of a stray shot (musket or grape) from the Norwegian defenders?
- Or an assassination from his own side? The dream of his personal surgeon “from one who came creeping”.

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Year	Date	Event
1720	29 th February	Ulrika abdicates, succeeded by Frederick I
1720	221 st January	Treaties of Stockholm (Hannover/Prussia & Sweden)
1720	3 rd July	Treaty of Frederiksborg (Denmark/Norway & Sweden)
1721	20 th August	Treaty of Nystad (Russia & Sweden)

Treaty of Nystad 1721

Peter, On hearing of the Treaty, September 14th, 1721:

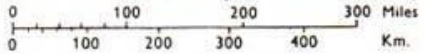
“All scholars in arts usually finish their course in seven years. Our school has lasted three times as long. However, thanks God, it is so well finished that better would have been impossible”

Eugene Schuyler, 1884, *Peter The Great*

Available on Internet Archive

TREATIES OF STOCKHOLM, 1719 AND NYSTAD, 1721

Scale 1:15,000,000 (240 miles = 1 inch)



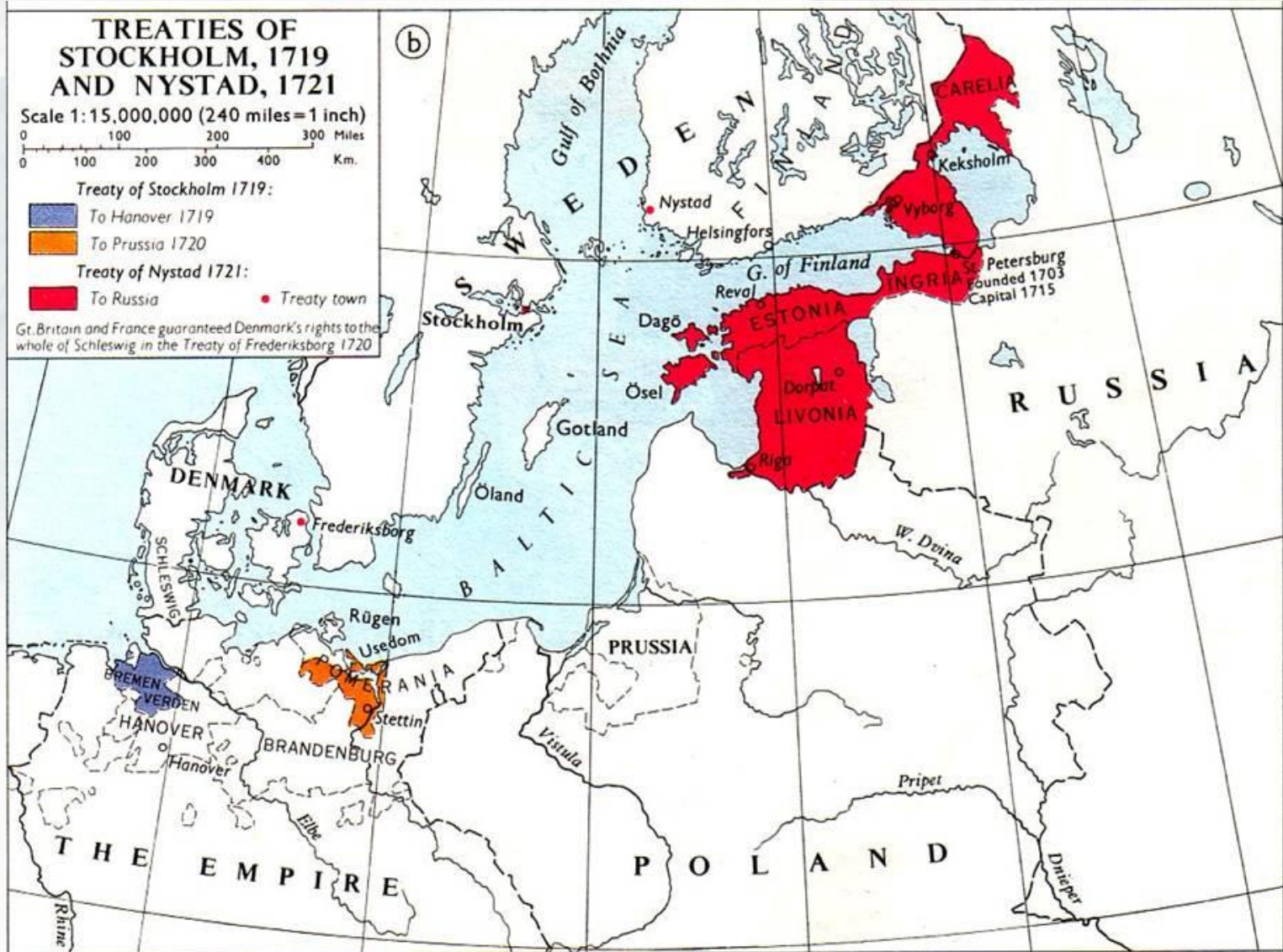
Treaty of Stockholm 1719:

- To Hanover 1719
- To Prussia 1720

Treaty of Nystad 1721:

- To Russia
- Treaty town

Gt. Britain and France guaranteed Denmark's rights to the whole of Schleswig in the Treaty of Frederiksborg 1720



10 East from Greenwich 15 20 25 30 35

Sweden 1721



The end of the Swedish Empire

*The glory of the Age is past and gone,
We to our former nothingness are fated.
King Charles is dead, King Fredrick consecrated,
And Sweden's clock has moved from XII to I.*

Carl Germund Cederhielm

Implications for Russia

- Peter created a proper disciplined army, hardened in battle.
- Russia was able to guarantee full access to the Baltic, with St Petersburg safe.
- Russia was acknowledged as a major player on the European stage. Ambassadors everywhere.