

affairs. It was high time, for Pitt had been stirring up against him a formidable coalition. The old monarchies of Europe had been greatly displeased by Napoleon's annexations in Italy and elsewhere. Francis II. of Austria bitterly resented his constant intrigues with the minor German states, and as emperor had a special grievance against him. For in 1804 Bonaparte had violated the territory of the empire in the most outrageous way. He had sent a regiment of horse across the Rhine and kidnapped at night a Bourbon prince, the Duke of Enghien, whom he then tried and shot on a false accusation of being concerned in an assassination plot. Such a violation of international law and common morality had provoked open protest from Austria and Russia. These two powers were already negotiating for an alliance against France, when Pitt stepped in to offer them enormous subsidies and the active aid of the English fleet. It was hoped that Prussia too would join the coalition; but the ministers of Frederick William III. pursued a mean and double-faced policy, haggling with France and Austria at once, and offering themselves to the highest bidder. They finally helped neither side, but pounced on the electorate of Hanover, with Napoleon's consent, and preserved an ambiguous neutrality.

The French autocrat was not unaware of the Austro-Russian alliance. When he heard of Villeneuve's failure, he dropped for ever his cherished invasion scheme, and, suddenly turning his back on the sea, declared war on his Continental enemies before they were ready for him. The troops from the camp of Boulogne were hurried across France by forced marches, and hurled into Germany, long before the Russians were anywhere near the field of operations. The Austrians alone had to bear the first brunt of the war; their imbecile commander, Mack, allowed them to be surprised before they were concentrated, and was himself captured at Ulm with nearly 40,000 men before the

**Pitt forms a new coalition against France.**

**Ulm and Austerlitz—Austria sues for peace.**