LEQ Unit IV - Prompt #6 - Discuss the rise of Prussia during the Hohenzollern rule and how it changed their position in European affairs. (Typically, a 2-body paragraph essay)

1. Introduction
   1.1. Contextualization - Prussia became a major European power under the Hohenzollern family in the late 1600s and 1700s. The kings of Frederick William the Great Elector, Frederick I, Frederick William I, and Frederick II expanded the government and armed forces, and used its military might to make Prussia into one of the greatest powers in Europe.
   1.2. Thesis - The two stages of the rise of Prussia were the centralization of the government, and its military conquests. The increased government was due to the supremacy of the army, overseen mainly by Frederick William the Great Elector and Frederick William I. The military expansion phase was mainly completed by Frederick II. Prussia would emerge from these two stages of growth as one of the major European powers.
   1.3. Argument - The army was critical to the centralization of Prussian government under the Hohenzollerns, and Frederick II would use this army to elevate Prussia to great power status.

2. Body 1 - The army was the centerpiece of Prussian centralization.
   2.1. Evidence 1 - Frederick William, the Great Elector, collected taxes by military force.
   2.2. Analysis 1 - He used his army to force Brandenburg nobles to pay new taxes, and invested much of the returns back into the army, to create a fighting force loyal to him. This allowed him to impose his goals and will without the complete consent of the nobility. However, as a result, the Junkers were allowed to demand complete obedience over the serfs.
   2.3. Evidence 2 - Frederick William I made the military the state's highest social class.
   2.4. Analysis 2 - As a result, the army swelled to 80,000 men. Laws, customs, and royal attention highlighted the military as a central institution, and the armed forces had immense influence over Prussian society, government, and daily life. The Prussian army was said to possess a nation, whereas other nations possessed an army. The army became a symbol of Prussian power and unity.

3. Body 2 - Frederick II used the Prussian army to vastly change Prussia's spot in European affairs.
   3.1. Evidence 1 - Frederick II invaded Silesia in 1740, breaking the conditions of the Pragmatic Sanction and beginning the War of the Austrian Succession.
   3.2. Analysis 1 - The War of the Austrian Succession set France and Prussia against Austria and Great Britain. Silesia rounded out the rest of the Hohenzollern possessions in Prussia. In being involved in this war, France under Cardinal Fleury sent aid to Prussia. This consolidated Prussia as a new and immensely powerful state in Germany, and Prussia ended up keeping Silesia.
   3.3. Evidence 2 - The Seven Years' War reversed the alliances of the War of the Austrian Succession.
   3.4. Analysis 2 - Frederick II invaded Saxony, attempting to hold off an alliance against Prussia. However, this action ended up triggering an alliance to destroy Prussia. Now Great Britain and Prussia were pitted against France, Russia, Sweden, and Austria. Considerable British aid and the retreat of Russia from the war allowed Prussia to survive without significant changes to its borders.

4. Conclusion - After the centralization of government through the army by Frederick William the Great Elector and Frederick William I, and military expansion under Frederick II, Prussia emerged as one of the preeminent European powers.
   4.1. Synthesis - This rise in power is similar to the rise of the Soviet Union under Stalin during the 20th century. Stalin harnessed the USSR's immense industrial might to great effect, and the USSR emerged from World War II as one of the world's two superpowers. Instead of basing the nation's growth around the army, Stalin instead employed a cult of personality, glorifying his actions and decisions to the nation. This assisted in the application of the USSR's resources of manpower to the war effort and immense post-war growth and development.