The Wars of Religion

# Hapsburg-Valois Wars (c. 1519-1559)

## Treaty of Cateau-Cambrèsis, 1559

### Ended the Habsburg-Valois Wars (last purely dynastic wars of the 16th century)

### These wars had been political in nature (and thus not religious) since both France and the Holy Roman Empire were Catholic.

## France had kept the Holy Roman Empire from gaining hegemony in Germany, while inadvertently helping Lutheranism to spread

### 1. France chose the political issue of a possible strong German state on its eastern border as being more important than the religious unity of Europe.

### This was a major reason for Germany’s inability to move towards unification early on.

## Spain defeated France for control of Sicily, Naples, and Milan while Spanish influence was also strong in the Papal States and Tuscany.

## Politics of Europe shifted toward Spain during its “Golden Age” in the late16th century.

# From 1560 to 1648 wars would be fought seemingly over religious issues, in reality they were extensions of political conflict.

## Spain sought to squash Protestantism in Western Europe and the spread of Islam in the Mediterranean.

## French Catholics sought to squash the Huguenots

## The Holy Roman Empire sought to re-impose Catholicism in Germany

## The Calvinist Netherlands sought break away from Spanish rule

## a civil war occurred in England between Puritans and Anglicans

# Spain’s Catholic Crusade

## Philip II (1556-98): Like his father, Charles V, fanatically sought to re-impose Catholicism in Europe

### Under Philip, Spain became the dominant country in Europe: “Golden Age” of Spain

### Escorial: new royal palace (and monastery and mausoleum) was built in the shape of grill to commemorate the martyrdom of St. Lawrence

## Spain waged a war against the Turks in the Mediterranean

### The Were responding to requests from eastern christians and the pope.

### the turks had been expanding into europe for 2 centuries spreading islam

### Battle of Lepanto (1571): Spain defeated the Turkish navy off the coast of Greece

### Spain’s religious fervor in its battle with the Turks was reminiscent of the earlier Christian Crusades.

### Ended the Ottoman threat in the Mediterranean

## The Dutch Revolt in the Netherlands

### William I (William of Orange) (1533-1584), led 17 provinces against the Spanish rule

### Philip sought to crush the rise of Calvinism in the Netherlands

### United Provinces of the Netherlands formed in 1581 (Dutch Republic)

#### Received aid from England under Elizabeth I

#### Major blow to Philip’s goal of maintaining Catholicism throughout his empire.

#### Spanish Netherlands (modern-day Belgium): the 10 southern provinces remained under Spain’s control

#### The Dutch closing of the Scheldt River resulted in the demise of Antwerp as Europe’s commercial center and the rise of Amsterdam

## Spain vs. England

### Queen Mary Tudor (Philip’s wife) had tried to re impose Catholicism in England

#### When she died, Queen Elizabeth I reversed Mary’s course via the “Elizabethan Settlement”

#### Elizabeth later refused Philip’s request for marriage.

### Elizabeth helped the Protestant Netherlands gain independence from Spain

### Philip sought revenge for England’s support for the Dutch as well as hoping to make England Catholic again.

### He thus planned a monumental invasion of England in 1588

## Spanish Armada, 1588

### Spain’s attempt to invade England ended in disaster

### Much of Spain’s navy lay in ruins due to storm in the English Channel as well of England’s smaller but effective navy.

### Signaled the rise of England as a world naval power

### Although this event is often viewed as the decline of Spain’s “Golden Age”,

### This only sowed the seeds of spains eventual collapse

### Spain still remained powerful until the mid17th century

# IV. French Civil Wars (at least 9 wars occurred in last half of the 16th century)

## After the death of Henry II in 1559 a power struggle between three noble families for the Crown ensued

## Between 4O-5O% of nobles became Calvinists in order to resist the growing power of the french monarch

## Many nobles ostensibly converted for religious reasons but many others sought to gain independence from the crown.

## Resulted in resurgence of feudal disorder

### 3 French kings from 1559 to 1589 were dominated by their mother, Catherine de’ Medici, who fought hard to maintain Catholic control in France

## St. Bartholomew Day Massacre (August, 24, 1572)

### Marriage of Margaret of Valois to Protestant Huguenot Henry of Navarre on this day was intended to reconcile catholics and Huguenots.

### Rioting occurred when the leader of Catholic aristocracy, Henry of Guise, had a leader of the Huguenot party murdered the night before the wedding

### Huguenots broke into the king’s bedchamber and posted protest broadsides on the walls

### Catherine de’ Medici ordered the massacre of Calvinists in response

### 20,000 Huguenots killed by October 3rd

### The massacre initiated the War of the Three Henrys: civil wars between Valois, Guise, and Bourbons (a Huguenot faction)

## Henry IV (Henry of Navarre) (1553-1610): became the first Bourbon king

### One of the most important kings in French history

### His rise to power ended the French Civil Wars and placed France on a gradual course towards absolutism

### Henry was a politique (like Elizabeth I in England)

#### Sought practical political solutions (rather than ideological ones like Philip II): somewhat Machiavellian in nature

#### He converted to Catholicism to gain the loyalty of Paris (He allegedly stated: “Paris is worth a mass”)

#### Privately he remained a Calvinist

### Edict of Nantes, 1598: Henry IV granted a degree of religious toleration to Huguenots

#### Permitted Huguenots the right to worship privately

#### Public worship, however, was not allowed . Huguenots not allowed to worship at all in Paris and other staunchly Catholic cities.

#### they could worship publically on sundays and wednesdays otherwise.

#### Gave Huguenots access to universities, to public office, and the right to maintain some 200 fortified towns in west and southwestern France for self- protection.

#### In reality, the Edict was more like a truce in the religious wars rather than recognition of religious tolerance.

#### Nevertheless, the Edict gave Huguenots more religious protection than perhaps any other religious minority in Europe.

# Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648) — most important war of the 17th century

## Failure of the Peace of Augsburg, 1555

### The 1555 agreement had given German princes the right to choose either Catholicism or Lutheranism as the official religion of their states.

### The truce in Germany lasted for 60 years until factionalism in the Holy Roman Empire precipitated a cataclysmic war

## Four phases of the war:

### Bohemian Phase

#### Defenestration of Prague (1618): triggered war in Bohemia

#### the Holy Roman Emperor placed severe restrictions on Protestantism

#### imperial envoys were thrown out a window and fell 70 feet below

#### The emperor then sought to annihilate the Calvinist nobility in Bohemia

#### Protestant forces were eventually defeated and Protestantism eliminated in Bohemia

### Danish Phase: represented the height of Catholic power during the war

#### Albrecht von Wallenstein (1583-1634): Mercenary general who was paid by the emperor to fight for the HRE

#### Won a number of important battles against Protestant armies

#### Edict of Restitution (1629): The Emperor declared all church territories that had been secularized since 1552 to be automatically restored to Catholic Church

### Swedish Phase: Protestants liberated territory lost in previous (Danish) phase

#### Gustavus Adoiphus (King of Sweden): led an army that pushed Catholic forces back to Bohemia

#### Battle of Breitenfeld, 1631: victory for Gustav’s forces that ended Hapsburg hopes of reuniting Germany under Catholicism

#### Gustav was killed at the battle of lützen in 1632

#### In response, the Holy Roman Emperor reluctantly annulled the Edict of Restitution

#### The Swedish army was defeated in 1634; France now feared a resurgence of imperial unity and power in the HRE.

### French Phase: “International Phase”

#### Cardinal Richelieu of France allied with the Protestant forces to defeat the HRE (as had occurred in the earlier Hapsburci-Valois Wars).

#### Richelieu’s policies reflect Catholic France’s paramount diplomatic concerns as political, not religious

#### Had the Habsburgs won in Germany, France would have been confronted with a more powerful German state on its eastern border.

### Treaty of Westphalia (1648): ended the Catholic Reformation in Germany

#### Renewal of Peace of Aucjsburg (but added Calvinism as a politically accepted faith)

#### In effect, it ended the Catholic Reformation in Germany

#### Guaranteed that Germany would remain divided politically and religiously for centuries

#### The Netherlands and Switzerland gained their independence from Spanish rule

#### 300+ German states became sovereign

#### The pope was denied the right to intervene in HRE affairs.

#### France, Sweden, and Brandenburg (future Prussia) received various territories and gained international stature.

#### The two Hapsburg branches were weakened:

##### Spanish Hapsburgs saw their empire decline dramatically thereafter

##### Austrian Hapsburgs lost much influence outside the german states

## Results of 30 Years’ War

## German states were physically devastated

### (as much as 1/3 of the population in certain areas perished)

## Germany was further divided by the decline of the Holy Roman Empire

## Ended the wars of religion

## Beginning of the rise of France as the dominant European power;

## accelerated the continued rise of Britain & the Netherlands

## Balance of power diplomacy emerged in Europe