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 RomanEmpire were Catholic.

## France had kept the Holy Roman Empire from gaininghegemony in Germany, while inadvertently helpingLutheranism to spread

### 1. France chose the political issue of a possible strongGerman state on its eastern border as being moreimportant than the religious unity of Europe.

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

## Spain defeated France for control of Sicily, Naples, andMilan while Spanish influence was also strong in thePapal 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 Europeand the spread of Islam in the Mediterranean.

## French Catholics sought to squash the Huguenots

## The Holy Roman Empire sought to re-impose Catholicismin Germany

## The Calvinist Netherlands sought break away fromSpanish rule

## a civil war occurred in England between Puritans andAnglicans

# 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 inEurope: “Golden Age” of Spain

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

## Spain waged a war against the Turks in theMediterranean

### 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 theTurkish navy off the coast of Greece

### Spain’s religious fervor in its battle with the Turkswas 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 17provinces against the Spanish rule

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

### United Provinces of the Netherlands formed in1581 (Dutch Republic)

#### Received aid from England under Elizabeth I

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

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

####  The Dutch closing of the Scheldt River resulted inthe demise of Antwerp as Europe’s commercialcenter and the rise of Amsterdam

## Spain vs. England

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

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

####  Elizabeth later refused Philip’s request formarriage.

### Elizabeth helped the Protestant Netherlands gainindependence from Spain

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

### He thus planned a monumental invasion ofEngland in 1588

## Spanish Armada, 1588

### Spain’s attempt to invade England ended indisaster

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

### Signaled the rise of England as a world navalpower

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

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

### Spain stillremained 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 strugglebetween 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 religiousreasons 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 bytheir 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 Catholicaristocracy, Henry of Guise, had a leader of theHuguenot party murdered the night before thewedding

### 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 ThreeHenrys: civil wars between Valois, Guise, andBourbons (a Huguenot faction)

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

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

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

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

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

#### He converted to Catholicism to gain the loyalty ofParis (He allegedly stated: “Paris is worth amass”)

#### Privately he remained a Calvinist

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

#### Permitted Huguenots the right to worship privately

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

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

#### Gave Huguenots access to universities, to publicoffice, and the right to maintain some 200 fortifiedtowns in west and southwestern France for self-protection.

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

#### Nevertheless, the Edict gave Huguenots morereligious protection than perhaps any otherreligious 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 theright to choose either Catholicism or Lutheranism asthe official religion of their states.

### The truce in Germany lasted for 60 years untilfactionalism in the Holy Roman Empire precipitated acataclysmic war

## Four phases of the war:

### Bohemian Phase

#### Defenestration of Prague (1618): triggered warin Bohemia

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

#### imperial envoys were thrown out a windowand fell 70 feet below

#### The emperor then sought to annihilate theCalvinist nobility in Bohemia

#### Protestant forces were eventually defeated andProtestantism 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 emperorto fight for the HRE

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

#### Edict of Restitution (1629): The Emperordeclared all church territories that had beensecularized since 1552 to be automaticallyrestored to Catholic Church

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

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

#### Battle of Breitenfeld, 1631: victory forGustav’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 reluctantlyannulled the Edict of Restitution

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

### French Phase: “International Phase”

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

#### Richelieu’s policies reflect Catholic France’sparamount diplomatic concerns as political, notreligious

#### Had the Habsburgs won in Germany, Francewould have been confronted with a morepowerful German state on its eastern border.

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

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

#### In effect, it ended the Catholic Reformation inGermany

####  Guaranteed that Germany would remain dividedpolitically and religiously for centuries

#### The Netherlands and Switzerland gained theirindependence from Spanish rule

#### 300+ German states became sovereign

#### The pope was denied the right to intervene in HREaffairs.

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

#### The two Hapsburg branches were weakened:

##### Spanish Hapsburgs saw their empire declinedramatically 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 ofthe 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 dominantEuropean power;

## accelerated the continued rise of Britain & the Netherlands

## Balance of power diplomacy emerged in Europe