

The Wars of Religion (1566 – 1648)

POLITICS

FRANCE: Wars of Religion, including **St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre** (1572), leave France devastated. Three sons of Catherine de Medici rule until 1589. Peace comes when **Henry of Navarre** became **Henry IV** (King of France) by converting to Catholicism: – “Paris is worth a mass.” During his reign (1589–1610) he

- issues **Edict of Nantes** (1598) that ensures religion toleration for Huguenots
- creates new class of nobles: Nobility of the Robe vs. old Nobility of the Sword
- sells noble titles to fund rebuilding after religious wars
- roots out corruption, wants “chicken in every pot.”

SPAIN: Philip II uses New World silver to fund the Catholic Counter-reformation.

- defeats Turks at Sea, Lepanto 1571)
- forces out *Moriscos* (converted Muslims)
- *Armada* is defeated (1588)

NETHERLANDS: Revolt against Philip's rule in 1566.

- Catholic churches destroyed.
- Northern Provinces declare independence in 1580; Southern Provinces stick with Spain
- Spain does not regain control of the Northern Provinces.

ENGLAND: Elizabeth a prudent ruler. Imprisons Mary Queen of Scots in 1568. Supports Dutch Revolt. Defeats Armada 1588.

Leaves throne to James I (Son of Mary Queen of Scots) in 1603. James believes he rules by **Divine Right**

GERMAN STATES/HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE: Last religious-based war occurs: **30 Years' War** (1618-1648) Four phases:

Bohemian, Danish, Swedish, Swedish

- French Leaders: Wallenstein (Warlord) and Gustavus Adolphus great Swedish commander who creates a highly trained army. Much of the fighting, however, is done by mercenaries from all over Europe, including Spain, who destroy property and civilian life.
- Germany is left weak and divided by the war and deeply resentful of foreign interference in German lands.
- **Peace of Westphalia**: A diplomatic peace with all parties at the table. Establishes Calvinism, Catholicism, and Lutheranism as official religions.

RUSSIA: Ivan the Terrible (1533-1584) increases Muscovy. After his death is the **Time of Troubles**; it ends 27 years later with **Michael Romanov** being placed on Russian throne.

POLAND: *Limits* the power of King (directly opposite of other countries). Though this seems advanced for the time, it will actually weaken Poland to withstand onslaught from its neighbors.

ECONOMICS

The Dutch Republic increases its trade. Dutch forms become the reliable currency of Europe. Great economic growth in Northern Provinces starts to compete with English trade. Economic devastation of Germany during Thirty Years War. Economic power shifts from the South to the North. Atlantic trade grows over Mediterranean trade.

New World wealth creates more inflation – prices rise and wages become stagnant: wages do not keep up with cost of living. Tax inefficiencies in England and France. War debilitates economic production of Germany. Population declines and agricultural prices drop. **Little Ice Age** may also have affected disastrous crop yields.

Settlements in the New World provide sugar, tobacco. Spain, England and France compete for colonies.

RELIGIOUS

French Wars of Religion 1562-1598 end with Edict of Nantes. Puritans increase: strict Calvinists who opposed all Catholic vestiges in the English Anglican church. Puritans undercut the crown, were independent and cause Elizabeth I and James I headaches.

SOCIAL

Overwhelming demand for charity during this devastating time. Epidemics and disease. State taxes and church taxes tithes force peasants deeper into debt. Serfdom (peasants who were tied to the land) disappears in Western Europe – but remains in Eastern Europe.

Landlords demand rent and dues from peasants as times grow tough. *Women*: travel is restricted in some areas. Marriages were postponed during this economic crisis and families start to limit family size. Childbirth remains a killer. Witchcraft: persecutions from 1450 to 1700 – and represent official persecution by government authorities. Poor, elderly females were the main victims (many senile); also young, unprotected women were targeted. Midwives were especially vulnerable. They only cease when elites begin to question the contrived evidence.

INTELLECTUAL

Michele de Montaigne writes essays filled with skepticism. Famous work: *The Essays*.

Bodin identifies three forms of government and helps support absolutist ideas. **Grotius**: Dutch legal scholar who argues for international systems to keep peace, and also speaks for natural law that prohibits torture.

Scientific Revolution

- **Nicolaus Copernicus** publishes *On the Revolution of Heavenly Orbs* (1543). He states that the sun is the center of the universe (heliocentric theory).
- **Tycho Brahe** (1546-1601) and **Johannes Kepler** (1571-1630) further clarify motion of planets.
- **Galileo** (1564-1642) develops better telescope from Dutch model. Identifies satellites of Jupiter, Venus, and craters of moon. Catholic Church begins to keep secret file in 1616. Galileo faces Roman inquisition for heresy and forced to publicly recant in 1633.
- **Francis Bacon** (1561-1626) – supports Deductive reasoning or the scientific method.
- **René Descartes** (1596-1650) – I think, therefore I am. Supports logical principles and human reason.

Medicine: **Vesalius** practices dissections, while **Paracelsus** experiments with new drugs. **Harvey** discovers circulation of blood.

ARTISTIC

James I authorizes new translation of Bible (**King James Version**), a landmark of Elizabethan English. **William Shakespeare** writes his plays – men play women on stage.

Painting has two styles that reflect the troubled times:

- **Mannerism**: theatrical style that distorts perspective. El Greco is prominent mannerist painter.
- **Baroque**: Extravagant, closely tied to the Catholic faith, glorifying church and monarchy. Hapsburg family is the great patrons of Baroque architecture and painting.

Peter Paul Rubens: Catholic painter from Flanders

Rembrandt (van Rijn): Protestant painter from Holland

Operas begin to be performed (opera comes out of the Baroque tradition of flamboyant theatricality).