

Chapter 12

The Age of Religious Wars



Contemporary woodcut of the defenestration in 1618

KEY TOPICS

- The war between Calvinists and Catholics in France
- The Spanish occupation of the Netherlands
- The struggle for supremacy between England and Spain
- The devastation of central Europe during the Thirty Years' War

MAIN EVENTS OF THE FRENCH WARS OF RELIGION

- 1559 Treaty of Cateau-Cambrésis ends Habsburg-Valois wars
- 1559 Francis II succeeds to French throne under regency of his mother, Catherine de Médicis
- 1560 Conspiracy of Amboise fails
- 1562 Protestant worshipers massacred at Vassy in Champagne by the duke of Guise
- 1572 The Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre leaves thousands of Protestants dead
- 1589 Assassination of Henry III brings the Huguenot Henry of Navarre to throne as Henry IV
- 1593 Henry IV embraces Catholicism
- 1598 Henry IV grants Huguenots religious and civil freedoms in the Edict of Nantes
- 1610 Henry IV assassinated

Renewed Religious Struggle

- 1st half of 16th century religious conflict has been in central Europe and centered around Lutheran and Zwinglian struggle to secure rights in the Hapsburg Catholic dominated HRE.
- Peace of Augusburg-1555 only recognized Lutherans. 2nd half of 16th century focus shifted to Western Europe and became a struggle between Lutheran, Zwinglians, Calvinists, and Catholics.

Renewed Religious Struggle: Counter-Reformation



- reform movement in the Catholic Church in response to the Reformation of the Protestant Church
- Catholic devoted to one head and one law – such as an absolute monarchy-**Counter Reformation**
- enjoyed the **baroque** art style, which presented life in grandiose three dimensional displays

Adoration of the Magi by Peter Paul Rubens

Renewed Religious Struggle:

Politiques

- intellectuals of the 1500's criticized the religious strife between Catholics and Protestants
- rulers who urged tolerance and moderation and became indifferent to religion became known as **politiques**
- **Elizabeth I** of England the most successful **politique**



Elizabeth I

The French Wars of Religion 1562-1598:

Protestant Repression in France

- French Protestants were known as **Huguenots**
- **Emperor Charles V** started the first wave of Protestant persecution in 1525
- 1534 – Protestants arrested and leader **John Calvin** sent into exile
- 1540 – **Edict of Fontainebleau** makes Protestants subject to the Inquisition
- 1551 – **Edict of Chateaubriand** establishes more measures against the Protestants
- later the Bourbon and Montmorency-Chatillon families become sympathetic to the Huguenots

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The French Wars of Religion 1562-1598:

Appeal of Calvinism



Louis I-Prince of Conde

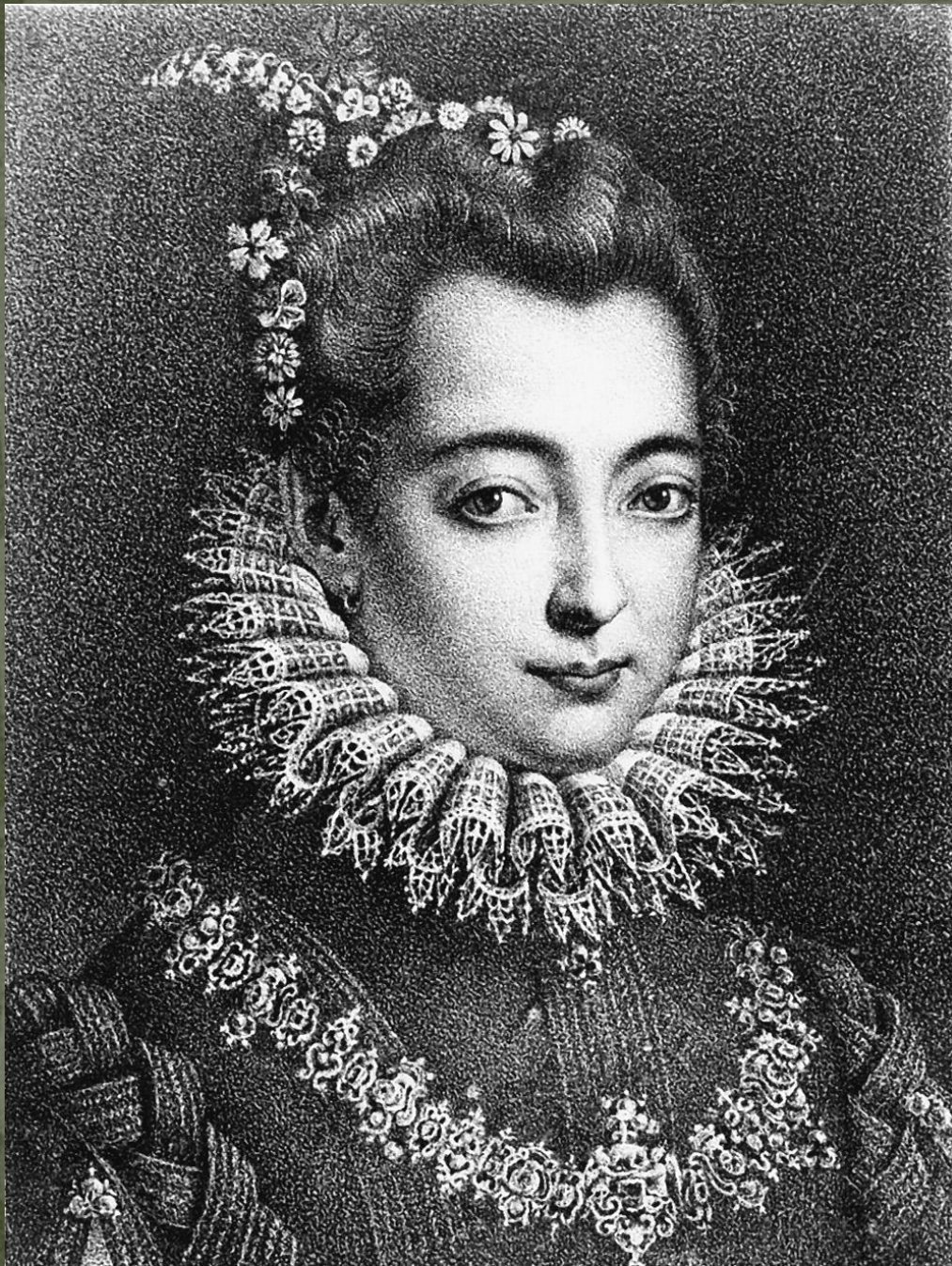


- John Calvin curries favor with powerful aristocrats like the Prince of Conde who converted to Calvinism.
- Louis I Prince of Conde brought the Bourbon dynasty into the Protestant-Huguenot fold.
- Bourbon dynasty was a long enemy of the ruling Catholic Valois dynasty & their Guise supporters & used the religious unrest in France to vie for power in France.
- Often for different reasons ambitious aristocrats & discontented townspeople & merchants joined Calvinist churches.
- the powerful combination of now political and religious (the Huguenots) dissidents made Calvinism a viable religion in Catholic France

The French Wars of Religion 1562-1598:

Medicis and the Guises

- **Catherine de Medicis** unsuccessfully attempts to reconcile the differences between the Protestants and the Catholic **Guises** (dominant radical Catholic group of Eastern France) with religious toleration
- the duke of Guise massacres Protestant worshippers in Champagne causing the French wars of religion
- Medicis and her young king son go under the control of the Guises



Catherine de Médicis (1519–1589) exercised power in France during the reigns of her three sons Francis II (r. 1559–1560), Charles IX (r. 1560–1574), and Henry III (r. 1574–1589).

Getty Images, Inc.–Liaison

The French Wars of Religion 1562-1598:

Medicis and the Guises-The Valois Family:

The Beginning of the End

- ❖ Henri II was the last powerful Valois
- ❖ Three weak sons followed:
 - Francis II
 - Charles IX
 - Henri III
- ❖ Catherine de Medici controlled the sons:
 - Was mother to the boys
 - Played both sides in the civil war
 - Developed a reputation for cruelty

Francis II & His Wife, Mary Stuart



The French Civil War



- ❖ There were two sides:
 - Guise family led Catholics in North
 - Bourbon family led Huguenots in South
 - Fighting for the royal inheritance
- ❖ Catherine supported the Guises in the first phase.
- ❖ St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre
 - August 24, 1572
 - 20,000 Huguenots were killed
 - Henri of Navarre, a Bourbon, survived

The French Wars of Religion 1562-1598:

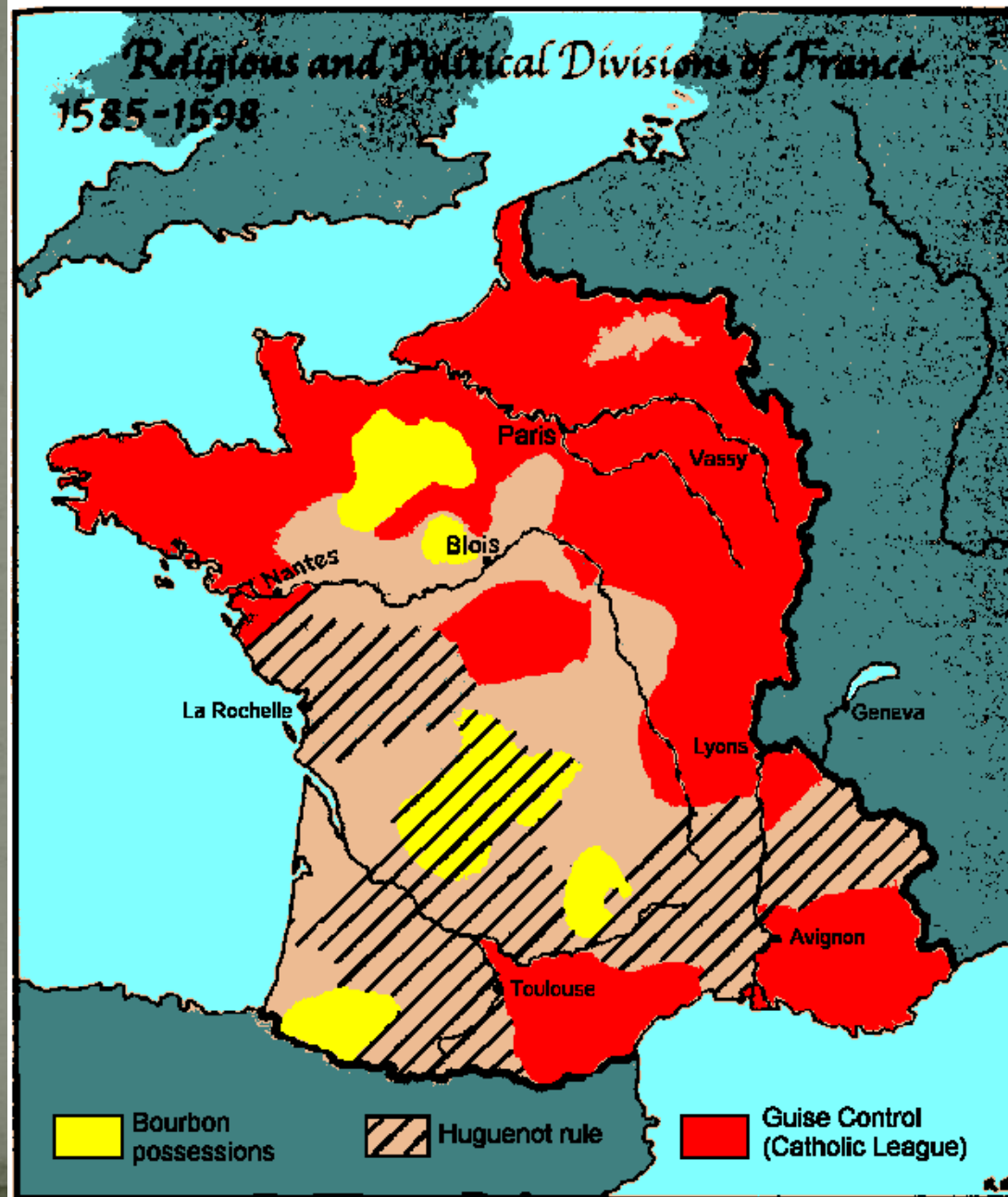
The Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre

- Catherine convinces her son King Charles IX that a Huguenot coup was about to happen
- response is on August 24, 1572 – Coligny and **3,000 Huguenots are massacred in Paris / within three days 20,000 other Protestants are also killed in France**
- Protestant cause becomes one of sheer survival
- in response, Protestant writers call for an active defense of religious rights: the Protestant Resistance Theory is expounded in works such as: John Knox's *First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Terrible Regiment of Women* [1588] & Francis Hotman's *On the Right of Magistrates over Their Subjects* [1573] & Philippe du Plessis Mornay's *Defense of Liberty Against Tyrants* [1579]

St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre



Religious & Political Divisions of France 1585-1598



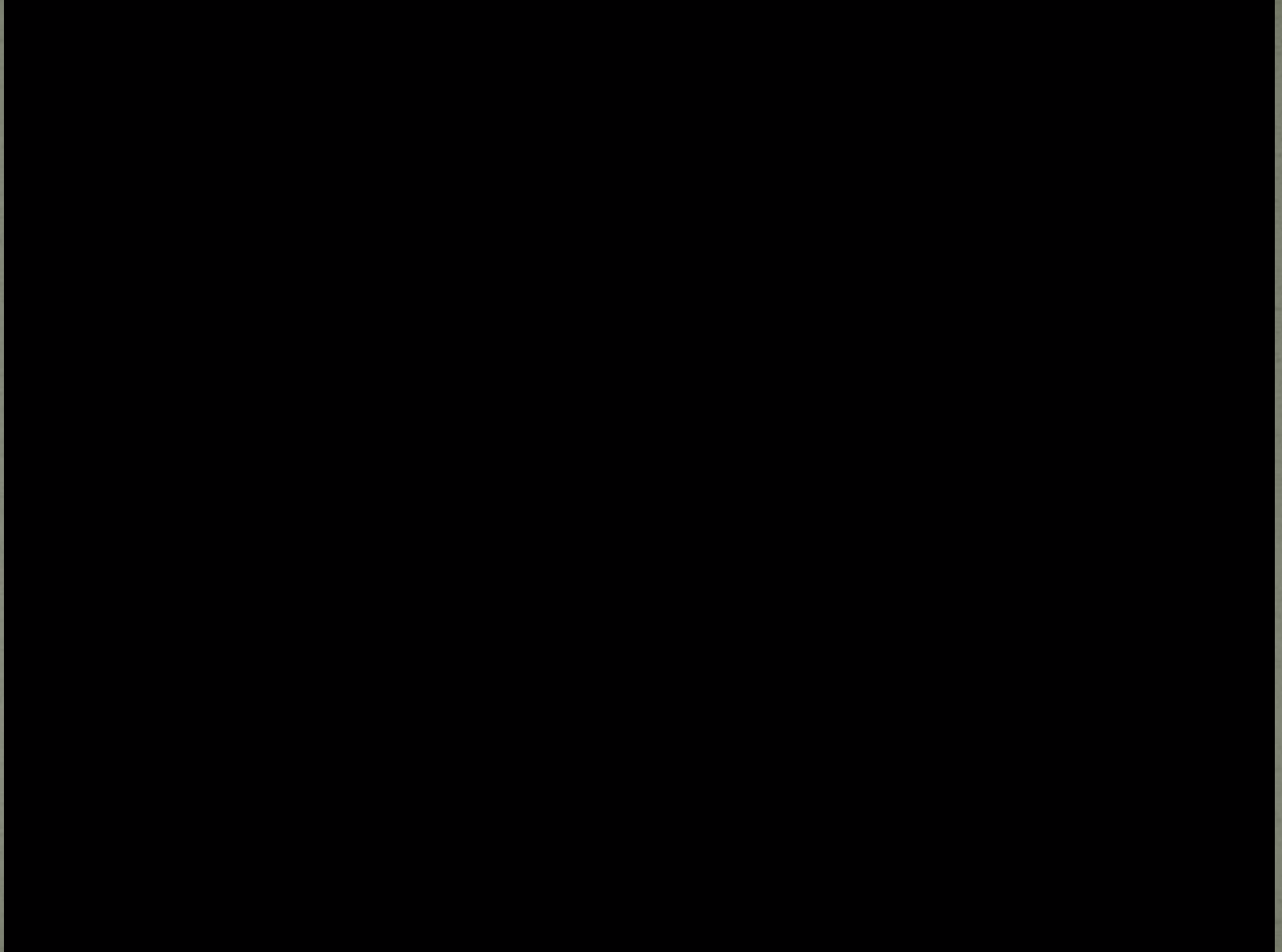
The French Civil War

- ❖ Catherine started supporting the Bourbons.



-
- ❖ **Henri of Navarre** defeated Catholic League & becomes Henry IV of France.
 - ❖ Effects of Civil War:
 - France was left divided by religion
 - Royal power had weakened
 - Valois family now replaced by Bourbons

French Wars of Religion



Cerebellum. *The Wars of Religion*. From Discovery Education. Video Segment. 2003. <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/> (accessed 6 December 2011).

The French Wars of Religion 1562-1598:

The Peace of Saint-Germain-en-Laye

- Three wars of religion end with the deaths of the duke of Guise, Protestant military leader **Conde** and a Huguenot victory
- peace treaty acknowledges the Protestant nobility, grant Huguenots religious freedom, and the rights to fortify their cities
- Catherine who once supported the Protestants, turns to the Guises fearing Protestant leader **Coligny** would draw France into a war with Spain that could not be handled by her son

Henry of Navarre

- Henry III, a politique attempts to compromise with the warring religions to save the nation (which was more important to him than religion)
- Henry of Navarre leads the Protestants in turning back Henry III attempt to rout the Protestants at the Day of the Barricades
- the two Henrys are forced into an alliance against the Guises, but Henry III is assassinated and Henry of Navarre becomes Henry IV, a Protestant as King of France
- Henry IV, basically a politique converts to Catholicism horrifying the Huguenots- "*Paris is worth a mass.*"



Henry III-last Valois King of France



Henry of Navarre (a.k.a.)
Henry IV-first Bourbon King
of France





Henry IV of France painted in 1594

Réunion des Musées Nationaux/Art Resource, NY

Triumphal Entry of Henry IV Into Paris – Peter Paul Reubens



The Edict of Nantes

- a formal religious settlement that gave Protestants religious freedoms within their own towns and territories
- the violence stops, but hostilities remain
- a Catholic fanatic assassinates Henry IV in 1610

Phillip II of Spain

- most powerful man in Europe until the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588
- was very wealthy from bullion and gold
- increased population widens economic gap between the wealthy and the peasants
- makes the Castilian peasants the most heavily taxed people in Europe
- ran an efficient bureaucracy and military
- a sea battle in the Mediterranean Sea against Turkey leads to the deaths of 30,000 Turks and Spanish control of the sea
- suppresses resistance in Portugal




Phillip II and Family in Prayer



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From Discovery
Education. Image. 2005.
<http://www.discoveryeducation.com> (accessed 6
December 2011).



Philip II's El Escorial

**By Ms. Susan M. Pojer
Horace Greeley HS Chappaqua, NY**

El Escorial - 26 miles NW of Madrid



The Escorial



The Town of Escorial
30 km. Northeast of Madrid



El Escorial -- Background

- (El Escorial was begun in 1563 by **Juan Bautista de Toledo**, a Renaissance Spanish architect who had worked earlier in Italy, and was completed after his death in 1567 by **Juan de Herrera**.

El Escorial Statistics

- (15 cloisters
- (16 courts
- (14 entrance halls
- (13 oratory
- (300 cells
- (86 stairways
- (9 towers
- (9 pipe organs
- (232 chorus books
- (73 statues
- (More than 1,600 scenes
- (11 cisterns
- (88 fountains
- (2,673 windows
- (1,200 doors

The Monastery of San Lorenzo



The Escorial Palace



A Section of the Monastery & Gardens

(one of the
largest
religious
establishments
in the world.



The Monastery Gardens: Close-Up



*The View of the Countryside from the
Monastery Area*



Philip II *n. 1556 - 1598*



Philip II & "Bloody" Mary Tudor



The Library Inside the Monastery



- (4,700 manuscripts [many illuminated].
- (40,000 printed books.

Philip II's Chapel



Stairwell Inside the Escorial



Ceiling Inside the Escorial



A Main Corridor Inside the Escorial



The Escorial's Library

- (Over 4,700 rare manuscripts.
- (Many illuminated manuscripts.
- (Over 45,000 books.



Philip II Died in this Bed



The Crypt Area



The Crypt of Philip II



Revolt in the Netherlands

- **Cardinal Greenville** – leader of the council in the Netherlands who wanted to check Protestant gains by church reforms
- **William of Orange** – placing political autonomy above religious creeds (eventually an avowed Calvinist) led revolt against Greenville and had him removed from office
- the ***Compromise*** a solemn pledge by Philip II of Spain to **Louis of Nassau** (Orange's brother) to reject the decrees of Trent and the Inquisition
- revolt by the Protestants after they were called “beggars” by **Regent Margaret** is violently put down by Philip II's , **duke of Alba** who executes thousands of suspected heretics

Independence for the Netherlands

- William the Orange comes out of exile in Germany and leads the independence movement of the Netherlands against Spain
 - Orange takes over Calvinist inclined Northern territories
 - Alba replaced by Don Luis de Requesens
- **Spanish Fury** – Spanish mercenaries leave 7,000 people dead in November 4, 1576 – the massacre unites Protestant and Catholic Netherlands versus Spain under the **Pacification of Ghent**
- Spain signs humiliating **Perpetual Edict** calling for the removal of all Spanish troops from the Netherlands
- Southern provinces afraid of Protestant domination make peace with Spain in the Union of Arras and make one last effort to control the country
- William of Orange is assassinated and replaced by his son Maurice who with the help of England and France finally defeat Spain
- Spain first signs truce in 1609 and recognizes full independence of the Netherlands in 1648 with the **Peace of Westphalia**

Mary I of England

- very hostile to Protestants (executes great Protestant leaders, hundreds are burned at the stake and others flee to the Continent)
- marries into militant Catholicism by wedding Philip II of Spain

Elizabeth I of England

- settled religious differences by merging broadly defined Protestant doctrine with traditional Catholic ritual, later resulting in the Anglican Church
- all anti-Protestant legislation repealed and **Thirty-Nine Articles** is issued in 1563 making moderate Protestantism the official religion of the Church of England
- animosity grows between England and Spain over dominance of the seas

Catholic and Protestant Extremists

- radical Catholics wanted to replace Elizabeth I with **Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots**,
- **Puritans** – Protestants who wanted to purify the church of any “popery”, had two grievances about Elizabeth
 - the retention of Catholic ceremony in the Church of England
 - the continuation of the Episcopal system of church governance
- **Presbyterians** – Puritans creation of an alternative national church of semiautonomous congregations governed by representative presbyteries
- more extreme Puritans, **Congregationalists** wanted every congregation to be autonomous

Mary, Queen of Scots

- Catholic ruler of Scotland who later is forced to abdicate the throne and flee to England and her cousin Elizabeth I
- Elizabeth, who has Mary under house arrest for the fear of a Catholic England uprising , uncovers two plots against her life
- Mary is compliant with the assassination attempts and is executed by Elizabeth
- ending all Catholic hopes of a bloodless reconciliation with Protestant England and leads to the invasion of the Spanish Armada

The Defeat of the Spanish Armada

- **Sir Francis Drake** of England, shells the Spanish port of Cadiz and raids Portugal delaying the invasion of the Spanish Armada
- a huge Spanish fleet of 130 ships and 25,000 sailors is crushed by the swifter defending British navy (1/3 of the Armada never return to Spain)
- Protestant resistance everywhere is given hope and Spain is never again a world power

The Thirty Years' War 1618-1648



Preconditions for The Thirty Years War

- fragmented Germany – Germany was an almost ungovernable land of 360 autonomous political entities
 - was Europe's highway for trade and travel
 - after Council of Trent , Protestants were afraid that Catholics will attempt to recreate Catholic Europe of pre-Reformation times
- religious divisions in the Holy Roman Empire
 - between the equally numbered Catholics and Protestants
 - between liberal and conservative Lutherans
 - between Lutherans and Calvinists
- Calvinism Rule of the Palatinate
 - Calvinism unrecognized as a legal religion by the Peace of Augsburg, puts **Frederick III** in as the **Elector Palatine**
 - Lutherans felt the Palatine Calvinists threatened the Peace of Augsburg and the existence of Lutheran themselves
- **Maximilian I of Bavaria** counters the Palatine with the **Catholic League**

1618-1648



Characteristics of the Thirty Years War

- ❖ The Holy Roman Empire was the battleground.
- ❖ At the beginning → it was the Catholics vs. the Protestants.
- ❖ At the end → it was Habsburg power that was threatened.
- ❖ Resolved by the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648.

The Bohemian Phase: 1618-1622

- ❖ Ferdinand II inherited Bohemia.
 - The Bohemians hated him.
 - Ferdinand refused to tolerate Protestants.
 - *Defenestration of Prague* → May, 1618

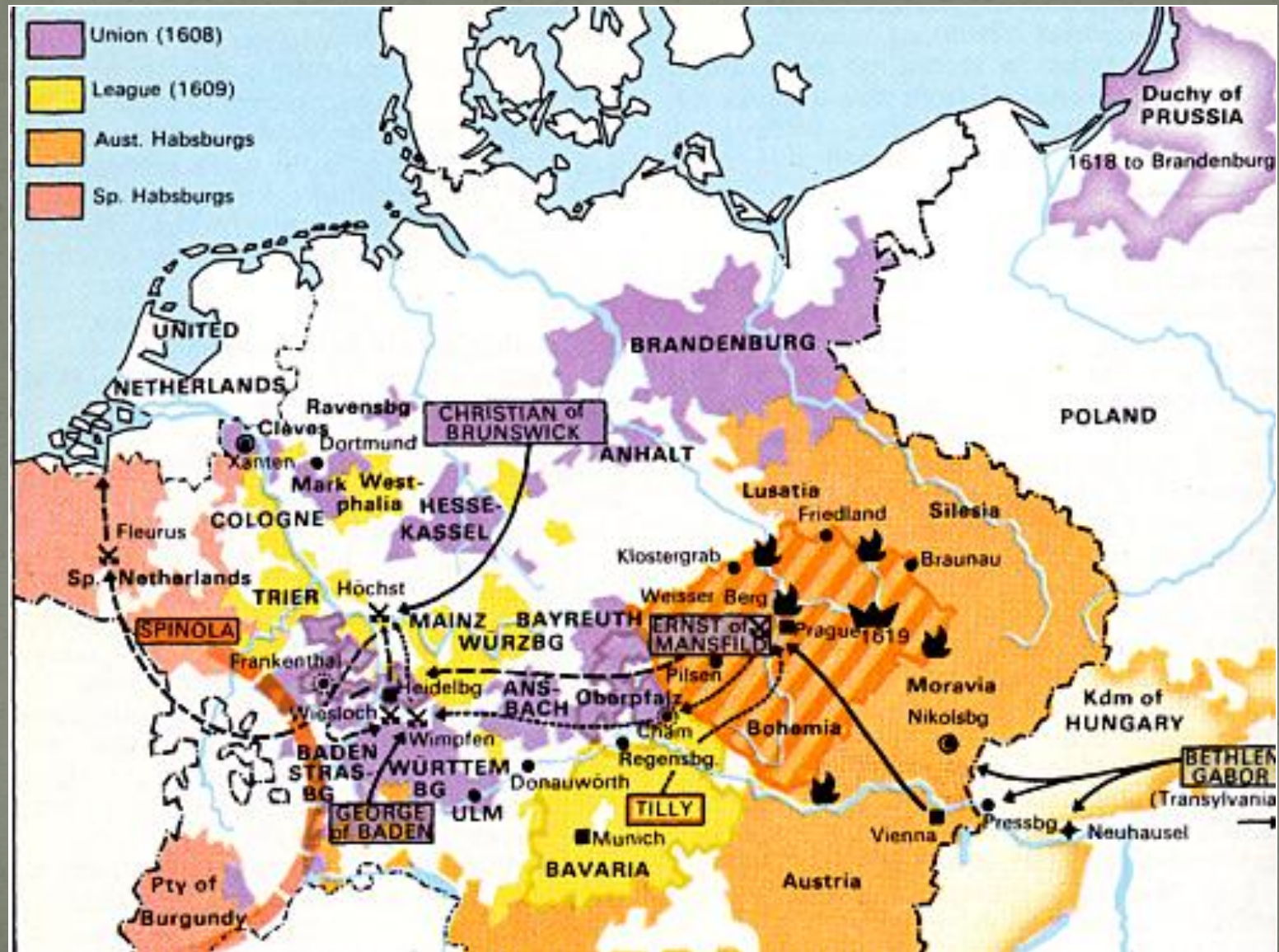


- Bohemia named a new king, Frederick II.

The Bohemian Phase: 1618-1622

- ❖ Ferdinand II becomes Holy Roman Emperor.
 - Frederick II borrowed an army from Bavaria.
 - Frederick lost his lands in the fighting.
- ❖ The rebellion in Bohemia inspired others.

Bohemian Phase



Bohemian Period of the Thirty Years' War

- Catholics name Ferdinand II as Holy Roman Emperor, who immediately revokes religious freedom to Bohemian Protestants
- Bohemians defiantly name Palatine, Frederick V their king
- Spain joins Maximilian who defeats Frederick's troops at the Battle of White Mountain thereby taking over Bohemia and Palatine

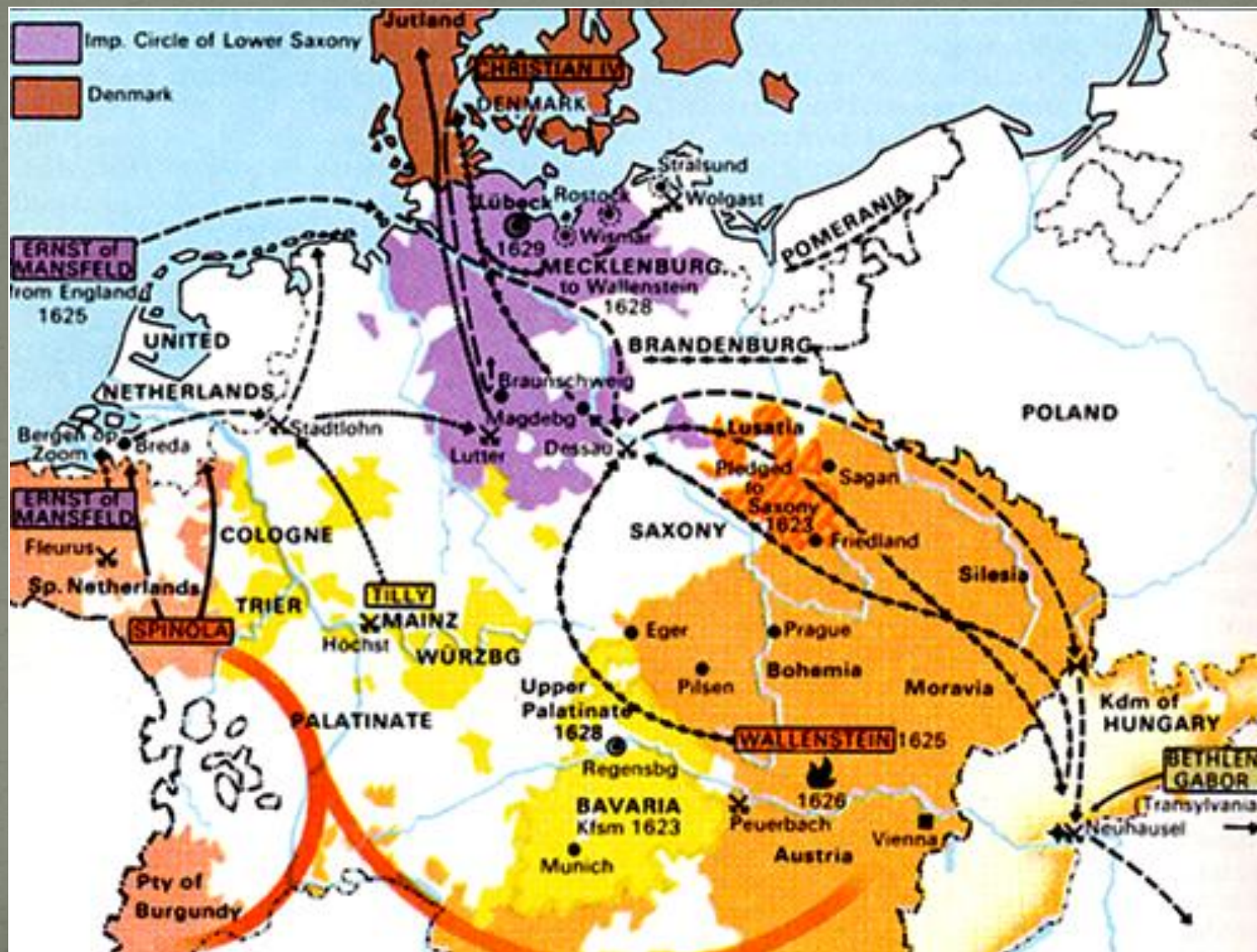
The Danish Phase: 1625-1629

- ❖ Ferdinand II tried to end all resistance.
 - Tried to crush Protestant northern Holy Roman Empire.
 - Ferdinand II used **Albrecht von Wallenstein** for the army.
 - Wallenstein defeated Protestants in north.
- ❖ **Edict of Restitution** (1629):
 - Restored to Catholics all lands lost since 1552.
 - Deprived all Protestants, except Lutherans, of their religious and political rights.
- ❖ German princes feared Ferdinand → he fired Wallenstein in effort to calm them.

Albrecht von Wallenstein



Danish Phase



Danish Period of the Thirty Years' War

- Emperor Maximilian humiliates Protestant forces in Germany under Lutheran king **Christian V** and forces them to return to Denmark
- Emperor Ferdinand gains an ally in the mercenary Protestant **Albrecht of Wallenstein** breaks Protestant resistance and orders the **Edict of Restitution** reasserting the Peace of Augsburg

The Swedish Phase: 1630-1635

- ❖ France & Sweden now get involved.
 - Both want to stop Habsburg power.
 - Sweden led the charge.
 - France provided support.
- ❖ Gustavus Adolphus invaded the HR Empire.
 - Ferdinand II brought back Wallenstein.
 - Swedish advance was stopped.
- ❖ German princes still feared Ferdinand II.
- ❖ Wallenstein assassinated to appease them.



Swedish Period of the Thirty Years' War

- **Gustavus Adolphus II of Sweden** with help from the French and Dutch turn the tide of the war with a smashing victory at Breitenfield
- Adolphus is killed by Wallenstein's forces at the **Battle of Lutzen**, but then Wallenstein is assassinated himself by Ferdinand who was afraid of his independence
- despite religious convictions, the assassination of Wallenstein proved it was more a war of greed and politics
- **Peace of Prague** – German Protestant states reach a compromise with Ferdinand, the war however continues elsewhere

Swedish Phase



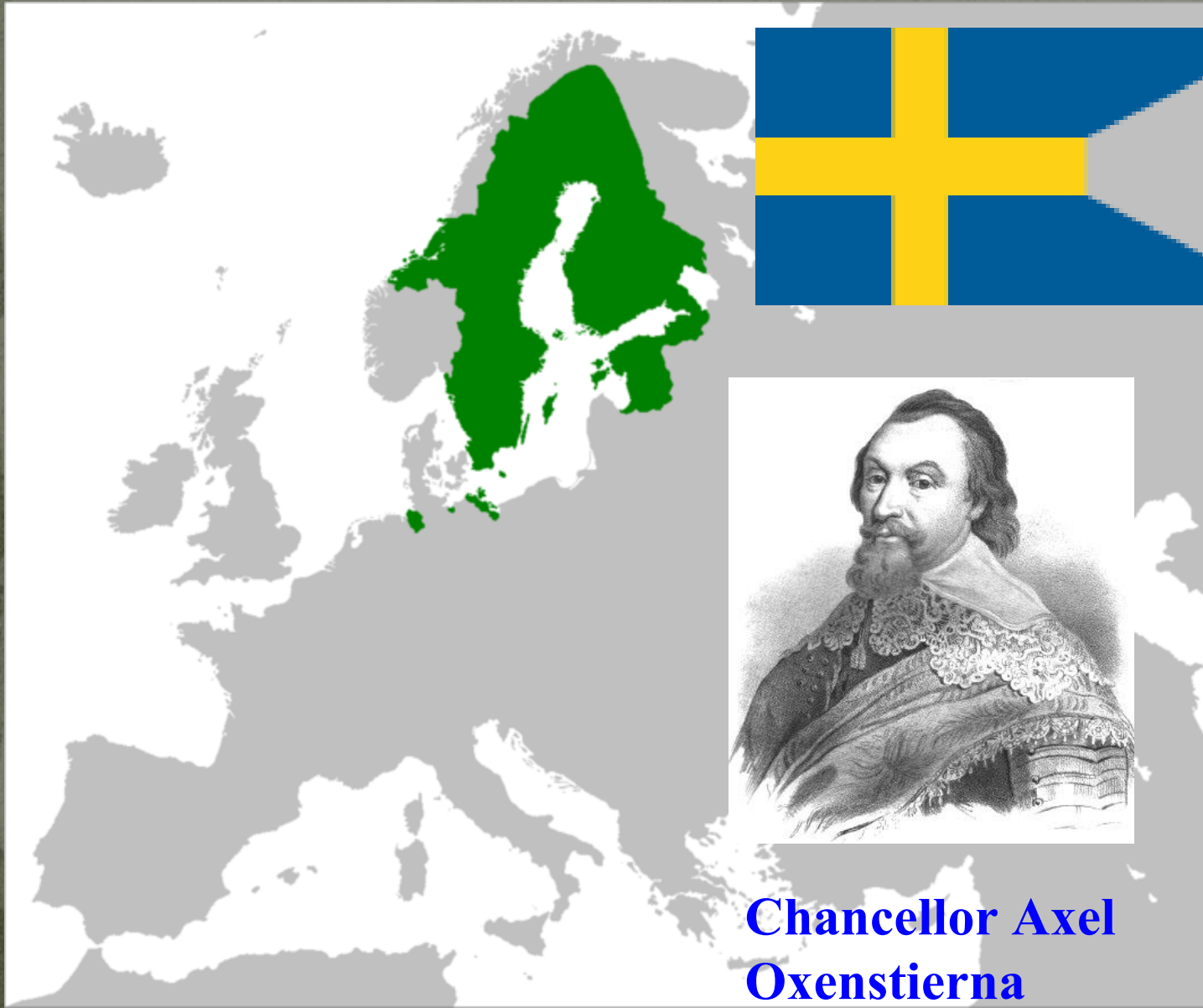


Gustavus
Adolphus

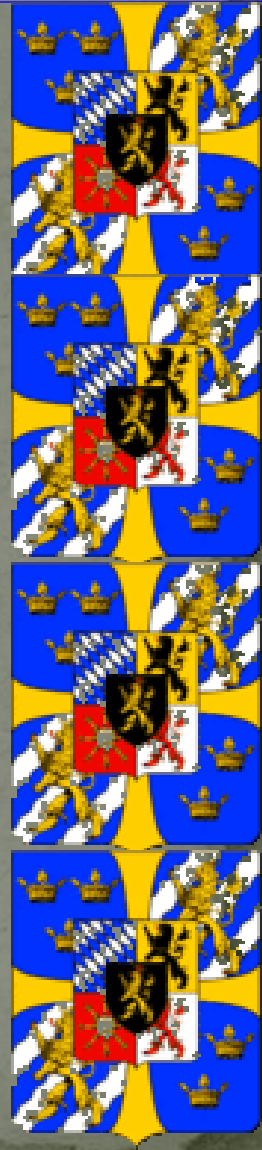
“the Lion of the
North”



The Swedish Empire



Chancellor Axel
Oxenstierna



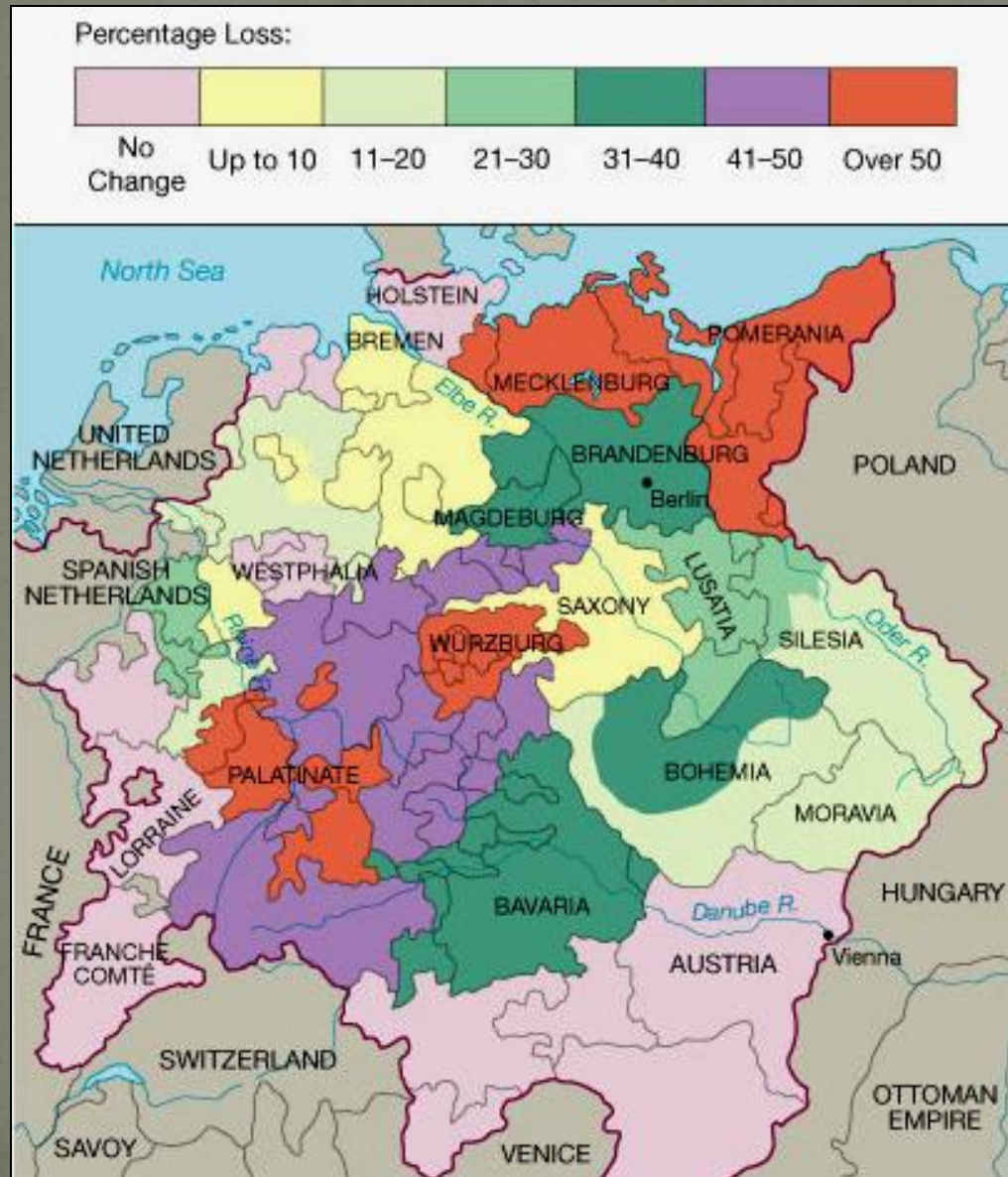
The French Phase: 1635-1648

- ❖ France & Sweden switched roles.
- ❖ All countries in Europe now participated.
- ❖ This phase was most destructive!
 - German towns decimated.
 - Agriculture collapsed → famine resulted.
 - 8 million dead → 1/3 of the population [from 21 million in 1618 to 13.5 million in 1648]
 - Caused massive inflation.
 - Trade was crippled throughout Europe.

Fourth and Final Period: The Swedish-French Period

- French, Swedish, and Spanish troops for the next thirteen years attack and loot Germany simply for the sake of warring itself
- **Treaty of Westphalia of 1648** ends the war by which time had killed one-third of Germany's population – the Treaty did the following:
 - rescinded the Edict of Restitution and put back the Peace of Augsburg
 - Calvinists officially recognized
 - Swiss Confederacy, the Netherlands and Bavaria become independent
 - Brandenburg –Prussia becomes most powerful German state

Loss of German Lives in 30 Years' War



Spain and France

- Spain and France continue to war until 1659, when France emerges victorious
- France becomes Europe's dominant power, while Hapsburg Spain never recovers

The Peace of Westphalia (1648)

❖ Political Provisions:

- Each Ger. prince became free from any kind of control by the HR Emperor.
- The United Provinces [Dutch Neths.] became officially independent → so. part remained a Sp. possession.
- Fr. rcvd. most of the Ger-speaking province of Alsace.
- Sweden → got lands in No. Ger. on the Baltic & Black Sea coasts.
- Switzerland became totally independent of the HR Emperor → Swiss Confederation.
- Sweden won a voice in the Diet of the HR Emp.
- Brandenburg got important terrs. on No. Sea & in central Germany.

The Peace of Westphalia (1648)

❖ Religious Provisions:

- Calvinists would have the same privileges as the Lutherans had in the Peace of Augsburg.
- The ruler of each state could determine its official religion, BUT [except in the hereditary lands of the Habsburgs], he must permit freedom of private worship.

Treaty of Westphalia (1648)



Europe After the Thirty Years' War



Map: Europe after the Thirty Years' War, 1648. From Discovery Education. Image. 2005. <http://www.discoveryeducation.com/> (accessed 6 December 2011).

Nobody Was Happy!

- ❖ Many Protestants felt betrayed.
- ❖ The pope denounced it.
- ❖ Only merit → it ended the fighting in a war that became intolerable!
- ❖ For the next few centuries, this war was blamed for everything that went wrong in Central Europe.