Chp. 4 Wars of Religion

Strengthened Monarchy

* Francis I took control over the appointing of church officials through an agreement with the Pope.
* He also now demanded more taxes from towns that they had previously not paid but only during a war.
* He threatened force if the taxes were not collected.
* Nobles lost some control over their own courts.
* Selling of offices and titles becomes a common practice as a way of earning income.
* When the nobles didn’t come up with the money, the king put the squeeze on the people in higher taxes.

Crisis

* Population went up sharply in the 16th century, but soon outpaced food production.
* Prices rose rapidly.
* Rich could afford the high food prices but still asked the peasants to do tasks like fixing the roads to help pay for their taxes.
* Wealthy nobles rented out their land to tenant farmers but lesser nobles fared worse as the income from their small parcels of land could not keep up with food prices.
* Sharecroppers worked horrible termed deals where they had to give up half their crop to the owner.
* There were revolts by peasants over taxes and tithes.
* They were hoping for a ruler who looked out for the needs of the people.

French Calvinists and the Crisis of the French State

* Henry II who succeeded his father Francis I began religious repression that created Calvinist martyrs.
* Henry’s nobles were converting to Calvinism, up to 40%.
* Henry II was killed by a lance during a jousting tournament and his 15 year old son Francis II became king.
* Henry’s wife Catherine Medici became the regent.
* She was hated as she was not French; her father was Lorenzo Medici the man who “The Prince” was dedicated to.
* She was known as the wicked Italian queen.
* She tried to stop the Calvinists but failed.
* Francis II died after 18 months on the throne as was succeeded by his 10 year old brother Charles IX.
* With the crisis of the French throne, Calvinists took this opportunity to practice their faith openly.
* Violence was the result.
* Calvinists destroying Catholic churches and their property.
* Catholics responded by slaughter of Calvinists more than once making them wear a crown of thorns on the way to their death.
* Both sides burned books.

First full scale war

* Started when a Catholic Duke ordered the execution of all Huguenots on his lands.
* Protestants were executed and thrown into the river to purify them.
* In 1563 a royal edict allowing one protestant town in each region was allowed intensifying the fighting.
* King Charles IX and his younger brother had no sons so there was no clear heir to the throne.
* A marriage between Henry of Navarre and Margaret, Charles’s sister was arranged.
* Huguenots could attend but were not allowed to carry any weapons.
* The Kings’ mother helped convince him the only way to stop the Huguenots was to strike first.
* St. Bartholomew’s day massacre was the result.
* 1571, Catholic assassins hunted down and killed protestant leaders including Admiral Coligny who was responsible for an earlier Catholic assassination. His body was thrown through a window, castrated, and dragged through the streets of Paris by children.
* For six days Catholic mobs stormed through Paris killing 2,000 and outside another 10,000 were killed.
* A French court made it legal to kill any heretic.
* The pope said a mass in celebration of the slaughter.
* Charles IX died and was succeeded by his ailing brother Henry III.
* He seemed pious but also spent a lot of money.
* He wore women’s clothing and gave attention to men around him.
* He was running out of money and when he asked for higher taxes, he didn’t get any help from his nobles.
* They were upset at Italian finance ministers and the lavish life of the court.
* Henry III tried to make everyone happy but it only led to more bloodshed.
* Finally, the last of the king’s brothers died and Henry of Navarre was heir to throne now but he was a Huguenot.

Henry of Navarre

* Henry was born with a Protestant mother and a Catholic father.
* He flip flopped quite a bit during his life before he became king.
* There had been a rivalry between Henry III, Henry Duke of Guise and Henry of Navarre.
* Henry of Navarre had switch allegiances during this conflict to whatever way the politics pointed.
* Duke of Guise was a Catholic, Henry III a protestant, and Henry of Navarre at time both.
* Henry of Guise was assassinated and the Catholics went into full revolt.
* A monk then assassinates Henry III, his guards now favoring Henry of Navarre as king.
* Henry renounces Protestantism again and the Catholic league starts to disperse and Henry starts to gain control over his kingdom.
* Pope lifts an excommunication order against him and he goes about calming tensions that years of war had caused.
* Bad harvest and epidemics compounded the misery of the poor.
* Wars caused devastation to fields and dislocated people.
* The minting of coins by both sides raises inflation severely.
* Henry promised to reduce the taxes of the poor by providing a “chicken in every pot”.
* But the taxes the poor had to pay went up instead.
* Henry created a new tax permitting nobles through purchase to guarantee that their heirs would have the same jobs.
* This added to the jobs for money scandal that was already rampant.
* He survived 9 assassination attempts.
* Jesuits called for his assassination.
* He carried to two loaded pistols in his belt and someone tasted his food and wine.
* Edict of Nantes made Catholicism that official religion in France.
* It also allowed the 2 million Protestants to practice home, hold religious services, open schools, and maintain a number of fortified towns.
* Henry gets an annulment and marries another Medici.
* Used money from the dowery to pay off debts.

Statemaking of Henry IV

* He made France a strong monarchy by the time he was done.
* He was suspicious of any representative group.
* He never called the Estates General.
* He dispensed privileges for loyalty and money.
* He gave more power to lesser nobles in an effort to keep an eye on troublesome nobles.
* He had a social hierarchy firmly in place.
* Ist Estate –Clergy, 2nd Estate- Nobles, 3rd Estate –everyone else.
* Took an interest in French settlement of the new world.
* Cartier’s exploration of the St. Lawrence Seaway, Champlain’s founding Quebec.
* In 1610, Henry’s carriage got stuck in traffic, by the time the guards got to Henry to clear the way, he had been stabbed by a monk three times in revenge for his support of Protestants.

Louis XIII and Absolute Rule

* Louis was 8 years old at the time with his mother Marie Medici as a regent.
* Marie foiled noble’s plots against her on several occasions.
* Louis was influenced by a noble who told him to impose his own rule.
* He had one of his mother’s friends killed and had his mother exiled.
* He never really grew up.
* Show scars of being whipped on his dad’s orders and having his dad die when he was so young.
* Louis XIII wife finally had an heir after several miscarriages but they were never a happy couple.
* Louis attended church every day but ordered more executions that any other king of France.
* Having people executed nobles and commoners alike for things like dueling.

Cardinal Richelieu

* Expanded the reach of the monarchy.
* He told Louis that representative bodies must be punished.
* He split France up into 32 districts where he put an intendant in control of each answering only to the king.
* Ordered the destruction of Huguenot fortresses.
* Frequently the target of attacks by nobles and family who thought he had too much control.
* Louis XIII died when he was 42 of tuberculosis.

Factions of the Holy Roman Empire

* Made up of 1,000 autonomous territories
* Some as large as Hapsburg Austria to as small as a few kilometers run by a bishop.
* Toll stations were set up so travelers had to pay to get in new territory.
* Some larger states were not contiguous and may have had different religions in those regions.
* 4 electoral princes and 3 archbishops decided who was to be the new Emperor when the previous had died.
* Had a body that would negotiate with the German princes and foreign countries.
* Only a threat from the Turks did the German princes act with unity.
* With this loose government uniformity was almost impossible.

Origins of 30 Years War

* Rudolf II wanted to launch a religious crusade against Protestantism when he became emperor.
* He closed Lutheran churches, reneging on promises made in earlier agreements.
* Rudolf II became a recluse and had fits of depression and insanity.
* His brother Mathias was convinced to act on his behalf.
* Made peace with the Hungarian and Transylvanian Protestants.
* Rudolf II was angered by this attacked his brother and cousin Archduke Ferdinand II.
* Rudolf loses and is forced to concede religious toleration for the affected territories.
* This showed the effectiveness of the Empire had declined severely.
* Princes were ignoring imperial edicts.
* Catholic princes wanted to take advantage of the Protestant infighting (Luther vs. Calvin) in order to take back those lands as Catholic.
* A catholic Duke Maximilian sent troops to assure Catholic control and angered Protestant princes.
* Now Spain and France were asked to help the Catholics.
* A group of Catholic states created the Catholic League, and group of Protestants created the Protestant Union
* Matthias who was now Emperor used the Catholic Union for his own purposes.
* Ferdinand II, who became Emperor after his uncle’s death, was convinced that he needed to start a religious war in an effort to save his soul.
* Bohemia rose in revolt of Hapsburg rule after Ferdinand severely limited Protestant worship.
* Territories were promised to Spain and Bavaria for troop support of Ferdinand.
* Protestants promised Ferdinand’s crown to an elector named Frederick and he accepted.
* These acts get the 30 Years war started.

Expansion of Conflict

* Count Tilly led the Catholic forces that eventually forced Frederick to look to Scandinavia for help.
* Christian IV of Denmark thought this was his opportunity to add territories to his holdings.
* He invaded asking help from the Dutch, English, and French. Not much help was given and he was left on his own to face Albrecht Wallenstein.
* Wallenstein was a wealthy general who was entrusted by Ferdinand II for raising an army and fighting for the Catholic cause.
* Believed in astrology, was ruthless with a violent temper.
* He hated noise which was odd for a general.
* He would sometimes order the cats and dogs of a town to be killed before he entered so he didn’t have to hear them.
* He forbade townspeople and soldiers from wearing heavy boots or spurs or anything that would make noise.
* He would swing from generosity to cruelty very quick.
* He had an executioner waiting for him all the time.
* He routed the Danes and ran rampant in the Jutland.
* Christian IV signed a peace treaty because he was bankrupt.
* Some feared Wallenstein’s power and his way hurting friend and foe alike.
* Ferdinand at this point goes after Protestants in Bohemia very hard by killing them and expelling them.
* He made it clear he wanted to add to Hapsburg lands and this made the French nervous.
* It was difficult to enforce Catholicism on people who hadn’t practiced it in decades.

Swedish Period

* England, the Dutch Republic, Brandenburg, and the Palatinate asked Lutheran King Gustavus Adolphus to enter the war on the side of the Protestants.
* Known as the “Lion of the North”, survived a shipwreck when he was five, been tutored in warfare by mercenaries, played the flute, composed poetry, and conversed in ten languages.
* Also had bad temper, when he came upon two stolen cows outside an officer’s tent he dragged the thief to the executioner himself.
* His courage was legendary; he barely paused as cannonballs exploded nearby and as his horses were shot out from under him or fell through the ice.
* Influenced by the Romans, he formed his military lines thinner than the traditional European way.
* He subdued Poland and things seemed to be turning positive for the Protestants at this point.
* Emperor Ferdinand called the electors to recognize his son as the heir.
* This did not work because the Protestant electors refused to come and Catholic electors wanted Wallenstein dismissed because they feared his army.
* Ferdinand dismissed him even though he might have been able to take over all the German states with Wallenstein.
* Ferdinand sent Tilly to stop Adolphus; he besieged Magdeburg and pillaged it.
* The atrocities caused other states to ally with the Swedes now.
* Swedish army with help from France, and other German mercenaries marched through northern territories and reversed the Hapsburg gains there.
* Ferdinand turns to Wallenstein again to raise a new army and he conquers new lands as a result.
* No one would help the Catholics at this point.
* Gustavus took a chance to attack Wallenstein late in the fall instead of digging in for the winter and at the battle of Lutzen, Gustavus fell dead in the mud.
* Wallenstein very unpopular around Europe was let go and his murder ordered when Ferdinand found out Wallenstein had went to Gustavus to propose his help to them.
* An Irish mercenary snuck into Wallenstein’s room and killed him with a spear.
* One by one Protestant leaders were leaving the war giving the Catholics the upper hand.

Armies of the 30 Years war

* One of the cruelest episodes of warfare in European history.
* Reasons why may been that Mercenaries and volunteers were usually fighting far from home, living off the land to survive, and propaganda against other religions.
* Some leaders imposed harsh penalties, including execution.
* Catholics and Protestants rampaged through the German states with atrocities following.
* Armies were undisciplined and in some cases had their families following them.
* The large number of camp followers including families may have given the soldiers the idea that life in the army was normal and may have led to it lasting longer.
* Soldiers wore what they could find and as the war dragged on they took clothes off the dead and wore them.
* Some joined looking for adventure, others because of religion but most joined because of what they were promised by recruiters like food and clothing even if it meant fighting against your religion.
* Language was a problem also there as many as ten languages spoken by the same army.

Religion and Dynastic Struggles

* The war had begun as religious struggle had turned into a dynastic struggle by 1648.
* It became a fight between France and Hapsburg Austria.
* France allied with Sweden and Spain allied with the Hapsburgs.
* Richelieu wanted to get Hapsburg armies away from the French border.
* The pope called for reps to meet in Cologne and no one showed up.
* The French and Swedish armies were making headway and had defeated the imperial army.
* The Spanish then were devastated by defeats and Austria was forced to make peace as a result.
* Chaos had sprung up all over Europe.
* English Civil War started, Richelieu had plots against him, the Swedish people were sick of a distant war, Music and Plays in Germany were against the war, and Lutheran minister railed against the war from the pulpit.
* The only person who wanted the war to continue was Louis XIII.
* Ferdinand III who succeeded his father concluded he had to make peace after for devastating Hapsburg losses in 1645.
* Louis XIV was forced to make peace as his reign was threatened.

Treaty of Westphalia

* Two Hundred rulers and a thousand diplomats converged on Westphalia.
* Information took weeks to get to the courts of the major players. 10 days to Vienna and Paris, 20 days to Stockholm, and 1 month to Madrid.
* France refused to sign any treaty hoping the Spanish would surrender.
* Spain finally allowed Dutch independence.
* The Treaty recognized the Dutch provinces and Switzerland.
* It did not end hostilities between Spain and France though.
* With minor exceptions the map of Europe stayed the same until the French Revolution in 1789.
* It ended the wars of religion in Europe.
* It encouraged religious toleration in Europe.
* Reinforced strong autonomous traditions in Holy Roman Empire.
* Holy Roman Empire came out weaker by allowing member states to carry on their own foreign policy but they are not to make alliances with anyone.
* Hapsburgs lost the goal of a strong centralized state, obedient to the Emperor.
* Calvinists gained the same rights as Lutherans.
* Peace of Augsburg upheld, allowed rulers to choose religions.
* There was persecution in territories if rulers wanted it.
* Generally Lutheranism dominated the north and Catholicism dominated the south.
* Population in Holy Roman Empire dropped from 20 million to 16 million people in 30 years.
* Farms destroyed and death due to starvation, plague, influenza, typhus, flight of peasants from farms led to decrease in agriculture.
* France would emerge as the strongest state in Europe.
* Louis XIII had ensured the beginning of absolutism which spread over Europe.