

Chapter 15: Religious Wars and European Expansion

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1. Politics, religion, and war

- a. The Spanish-French wars ended in 1559 with a Spanish victory (**Treaty of Cateau-Cambrésis**), leading to a variety of European wars centering on religious and national issues.
 - i. These wars used bigger armies and gunpowder, and led to the need for administrative reorganization.
 1. Changed popular opinion that war was noble, because these new technologies allowed people to kill indiscriminately.
 - ii. Religious passions conditioned the mind-sets of all elements of society, motivating ordinary people to participate in wars as well.
 - iii. Governments had to use various propaganda devices, including the printing press, to arouse public opinion to support war.
 - iv. The **Peace of Westphalia** (1648) ended religious wars but also ended the idea of a unified Christian society.
 1. It ended the Thirty Years' War in the Holy Roman Empire as well as the Eighty Years' War between Spain and the Dutch Republic.
- b. The origins of difficulties in France (1515-1559)
 - i. By 1500, France was recovering from plague and disorder, and the nobility began to lose power.
 - ii. The French kings, such as Francis I and his son Henry II, continued the policies of centralization and were great patrons of Renaissance art but spent more money than they raised.
 - iii. The wars between France and Emperor Charles V--the Habsburg-Valois wars--were also costly.
 - iv. To procure funds, France turned to two time-honored practices of increasing taxes (**taille and gabelle**) and engaging in heavy borrowing.
 - v. To raise additional money, Francis I sold public offices (**simony**) and signed the **Concordat of Bologna (1516)**, in which he recognized the supremacy of the papacy in return for the right to appoint French bishops.
 1. Simony created a tax-exempt class made up of the heirs of a man who bought an office called the "**nobility of the robe.**"
 - a. The nobility of the sword (those born into nobility) resented the nobility of the robe.
 2. This settlement established Catholicism as the state religion in France.
 3. It also perpetuated corruption within the French church.
 4. The corruption made Calvinism attractive to Christians eager for reform: some clergy and members of the middle and artisan classes.
- c. Religious riots and civil war in France (1559-1589)
 - i. The French nobility, many of them Calvinist, attempted to regain power over a series of weak monarchs.
 1. Henry II's three sons were **Francis II** (died after seventeen months) , **Charles IX** (succeeded at the age of ten and was dominated by his mother) **and Henry III.**
 2. While Henry III was involved with his male favorites, his mother, **Catherine de Medici**, dominated French policy.
 3. Catherine de Medici had no consistent religious policy; her actions were

- vi. The Low Countries were finally split into the Spanish Netherlands in the south, under the control of the Spanish Habsburgs, and the independent **United Provinces of the Netherlands** in the north.
 - 1. The north was Protestant and ruled by the commercial aristocracy.
 - 2. The south was Catholic and ruled by the landed nobility.
- vii. **Elizabeth I of England** supported the northern, or Protestant, cause as a safeguard against Spain attacking England.
 - 1. The wars in the Low Countries had badly hurt the English economy.
 - 2. The murder of Dutch leader William the Silent and the Spanish invasion of the Netherlands convinced Elizabeth to enter the war on the Protestant side.
- f. Philip II and the Spanish Armada
 - i. Philip II of Spain lived at a monastery called the Escorial; here he had a palace but he spent much time in prayer.
 - ii. Philip II sought pleasure in his youth but in older age sought prayer--but he did not believe that the state should dictate morals.
 - 1. As was common in his time, he did not believe in religious toleration, because he felt it would lead to ruin.
 - 2. He failed to crush the Protestant cause because he was preoccupied with the administration of his huge empire.
 - a. The Ottoman Turks were advancing into the Eastern Mediterranean.
 - b. His son (and heir) and third wife had died.
 - c. The Moriscos in Granada revolted.
 - d. "I have so much on my mind that I rarely know what I am doing or saying."
 - iii. Philip II supported Mary Queen of Scotland's plot to kill Elizabeth of England. Pope Sixtus V finds out and offers to pay Philip II one million gold ducats to invade England. Other motives included:
 - 1. He wanted to keep England in the Catholic fold.
 - 2. He believed he would never conquer the Dutch unless he defeated England first.
 - iv. Philip II had two invasion plans to decide between:
 - 1. Sail from Lisbon, attack English Navy in the channel and invade -- according to **Alexander Farnese**, this plan was more militarily sound
 - 2. Assemble in Flanders and cross-channel assault -- according to supporters, there would be enough English Catholic support
 - v. His ill health and fear of Turkish attack forced Philip II to make a decision; he made a compromise between the plans.
 - 1. fleet from Lisbon to Flanders, fight off English navy if necessary, meet with Farnese and escort barges across English Channel
 - vi. The English defeated the Spanish Armada because the English had faster, more maneuverable ships. The Spanish had also encountered storms, had little ammunition and suffered from spoiled food and rank water.
 - vii. The destruction of the Spanish Armada of 1588 did not end the war, but it prevented Philip from unifying western Europe.
 - viii. In 1609, Philip III agreed to a truce, recognizing the independence of the United Provinces.
- g. The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)
 - i. Lutherans, in violation of the Peace of Augsburg, were steadily acquiring German bishoprics.

- ii. Calvinism, which wasn't recognized under the Peace of Augsburg, spread throughout Germany
- iii. Princes converted religions back and forth, making the whole area a ticking bomb.
- iv. The **Protestant Union** (led by **Frederick of the Palatinate**) and the **Catholic League** (led by **Ferdinand of Styria**) were both determined that the other should make no religious (territorial) advance
- v. First violence was in Bohemia
 - 1. Ferdinand of Styria, the new Catholic king of Bohemia, closed some Protestant churches.
 - 2. Angry Protestants threw two of Ferdinand's officials from a castle window; This incident would later be called the **defenestration of Prague**.
- vi. The **Bohemian phase** (1618-1625) was characterized by civil war in Bohemia between the Catholic League and the Protestant Union.
 - 1. The Bohemians fought for religious liberty and independence from Habsburg rule.
 - 2. As a result of winning the **Battle of White Mountain**, Ferdinand II wiped out Protestantism in Bohemia.
- vii. The **Danish phase** of the war (1625-1629) led to further Catholic victory.
 - 1. **King Christian IV of Denmark** witnessed the many victories of **Albert of Wallenstein's** Catholic imperial army.
 - 2. Albert of Wallenstein wanted his own empire, dividing the Catholic forces and eclipsing religion as a basic issue of the war
 - 3. Jesuits persuaded Holy Roman Emperor Emperor **Ferdinand II** to pass the **Edict of Restitution**.
 - a. All Catholic properties lost to Protestants should be returned.
 - b. Only Catholicism and Lutheranism are recognized. (Peace of Augsburg part II)
 - c. Edict of Restitution was passed in fear of the collapse of the balance of power in north-central Europe.
- viii. The **Swedish phase** of the war (1630-1635) ended the Habsburg plan to unite Germany.
 - 1. Swedish Protestant king **Gustavus Adolphus** arrived in Germany.
 - 2. **Cardinal Richelieu**, the chief minister of King Louis XIII of France, subsidized the Swedes, hoping to weaken Habsburg power in Europe, true to French foreign policy.
 - 3. Gustavus Adolphus led the Protestants toward victory, until his death.
 - 4. The Thirty Years' War widens to more countries.
- ix. The **French phase** (1635-1648) ended with a destroyed Germany and an independent Netherlands.
 - 1. France, under the advice of Cardinal Richelieu, enter the war on the Protestant side to weaken the Habsburgs.
 - 2. The **Peace of Westphalia** recognized the independent authority of the German princes.
 - 3. The treaties allowed France to intervene at will in German affairs.
 - 4. They also denied the pope the right to participate in German religious affairs.
- h. Germany after the Thirty Years' War
 - i. The war was economically disastrous for Germany.
 - ii. The war led to agricultural depression in Germany, and a return to serfdom for many peasants.

2. Discovery, reconnaissance, and expansion (1450-1650)
 - a. The "Age of Discovery" from 1450 to 1650 ushered in a new age of world history based on European mastery of ocean travel, increased migration, and economic, political, and cultural expansion.
 - b. Overseas exploration and conquest
 - i. The outward expansion of Europe began with the Viking voyages, and then the Crusades, but the presence of the Ottoman Turks in the East frightened the Europeans and forced their attention westward.
 - ii. Political centralization in Spain, France, and England prepared the way for expansion.
 - iii. The Portuguese, under the leadership of **Prince Henry the Navigator**, pushed south from North Africa.
 1. By 1500 Portugal controlled the flow of gold to Europe.
 2. **Bartholomew Diaz, Vasco da Gama, and Cabral** established trading routes to India.
 - a. **Bartholomew Diaz** rounded the Cape of Good Hope
 3. The Portuguese gained control of the Indian trade by overpowering Muslim forts in India.
 - c. Technological stimuli to exploration
 - i. The development of the cannon aided European expansion.
 - ii. New sailing and navigational developments, such as the **caravel** ship, the magnetic compass, and the astrolabe, also aided the expansion.
 1. Caravel ships replaced the old, open, narrow boats called galleys.
 2. Caravel ships were more maneuverable, giving Europeans great advantage over the rest of the world.
 - d. The explorers' motives
 - i. The desire to Christianize the Muslims and pagan peoples played a central role in European expansion.
 - ii. Limited economic and political opportunity for upperclass men in Spain led to emigration.
 - iii. Government encouragement was also important.
 - iv. Renaissance curiosity caused people to seek out new worlds.
 1. **Ovide's General History of the Indies** was a widely read book detailing the wildlife and peoples of the New World.
 - v. Spices, such as nutmeg, mace, ginger, cinnamon, and pepper, were another important incentive.
 1. Venetian **Marco Polo** visited China and wrote about it in **Travels**, causing Venetians to hold a monopoly of spice trade.
 2. The new Ming Dynasty's expulsion of foreigners and the entrance of the Ottoman Turks into the Mediterranean forced Europeans to find a new route to Asian markets.
 - vi. The economic motive--the quest for material profit--was the basic reason for European exploration and expansion.
 1. "to serve God and to grow rich as all men desire to do" **Bartholomew Diaz**
 2. "Christians and spices" **Vasco da Gama**
 3. "I have come to win gold, not to plow the fields like a peasant" **Hernando Cortés**
 4. "Religion supplies the pretext and gold the motive" **Ogier Gheselin de Busbecq**

- e. The problem of Christopher Columbus
 - i. Until recently most historians agreed with Morison that Columbus was a great hero who carried Christian civilization to the new world.
 - ii. Now historians note that he enslaved and killed Indians and that he did not discover a new continent; others claim that he destroyed an earthly paradise.
 - iii. In reality, Columbus was a deeply religious man; he saw a link between the expulsion of the Moors and his task as Christian missionary.
 - 1. But his principal object was to find a direct route to Asia.
 - 2. When it was clear that he had not found great new spice markets, he turned to setting up a government in the islands.
 - 3. Thus he paved the way for Spanish imperial administration.

3. Later explorers

- a. The people of Columbus's era believed that he had discovered a "New World."
 - i. They ravenously read Columbus's letter about finding America *De Insulis Inventis*
 - ii. Amerigo Vespucci, America's namesake, wrote a letter called *Mundus Novus* (The New World) which was the first document to describe America as a separate continent
 - iii. Spanish exploitation in the Caribbean led to the destruction of the Indian population.
 - 1. The population of Hispaniola declined from 100,000 to 300; Indians and black Africans were imported to continue the mining.
 - iv. In 1519 **Magellan** sailed southwest across the Atlantic for Charles V of Spain; he claimed the "Western Isles" for Spain, and proved the earth was round and larger than Columbus had estimated.
 - v. **Cortez** conquered the Aztec Empire and founded Mexico City as the capital of New Spain.
 - vi. **Pizarro** crushed the Inca empire in Peru and opened the **Potosí** mines, which became the richest silver mines in the New World.
 - vii. The Low Countries, particularly the cities of Antwerp and Amsterdam, had been since medieval times the center of European trade.
 - 1. The **Dutch East India Company** became the major organ of Dutch imperialism.
 - 2. The **Dutch West India Company** gained control of much of the African and American trade.
 - viii. France and England made sporadic efforts at exploration and settlement.
 - 1. England's **John Cabot** discovered Newfoundland but found no gold so King Henry VII, uninterested, stopped funding him.
 - 2. 1534-1541, France's **Jacques Cartier** explored the St. Lawrence region of Canada, but Quebec wasn't founded until 1608.
- b. The economic effects of Spain's discoveries in the New World
 - i. Population increase caused increased product demand that could not be met because of the reconquista; skilled workers had been expelled
 - ii. Spanish products couldn't compete internationally because they were too expensive for the government to levy taxes
 - 1. levy- to raise taxes to cut the public's buying power; fewer goods sold, lower prices
 - iii. Spain was forced to repudiate its debt, dampening national spirit.
 - iv. Enormous amounts of American gold and silver poured into Spain in the sixteenth century.
 - v. It is probable that population growth and not the flood of American bullion caused

inflation in Spain.

vi. European inflation affected different classes differently:

1. Inflation hurt the upper class because they had fixed incomes.
2. Inflation benefited the middle class because they had fixed taxes.
3. Inflation hurt the lower class the most

c. Colonial administration

i. The Spanish monarch divided his new world into four viceroyalties, each with a viceroy and *audiencia*, or board of judges, that served as an advisory council and judicial body.

1. Four viceroyalties were:

- a. New Spain (Mexico, Central America and present-day California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas)
- b. Peru (originally all of continental South America)
- c. New Granada (present-day Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, and Ecuador)
- d. La Plata (Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay)

ii. The **intendants** were royal officials responsible directly to the monarch.

iii. The Spanish acted on the mercantilist principle that the colonies existed for the financial benefit of the mother country.

1. The Crown claimed the **quinto**, one fifth of all precious metals mined in South America.
2. The development of native industries was discouraged, because of mercantilism.

iv. Portuguese administration in Brazil was similar to Spain's.

1. The crown of Portugal and Spain became one in 1580, and Spanish administrative forms were introduced.
2. Portugal's mercantilist policies constrained Brazil's growth--but black slave labor led to much cultivation of coffee, cotton, and sugar.
3. One unique feature of colonial Brazil was the thorough mixture of the races.

4. Changing attitudes

a. The wars of religion had bred confusion, uncertainty, and insecurity; it was an age in which sexism, racism, and skepticism began to take on modern forms.

b. The status of women declined.

i. Literature on women and marriage called for a subservient wife, whose household was her first priority, and a protective, firm ruling, and loyal husband.

1. Catholic marriages could not be dissolved, while Protestants held that divorce and remarriage were possible.
2. Women did not lose their identity or meaningful work, but their subordinate status did not change.
 - a. Women were allowed to do charity work, help with her husband's business, but were not allowed to do social/public activities because it would distract from her household

3. **Elizabeth Hardwick's** success in real estate illustrates that some women became rich and powerful.

- a. Four careful marriages made her rich. With her money, she built a few mansions.

ii. Prostitution was common, and brothels were licensed.

iii. Protestant reformers believed that convents were antifeminist and that women would find freedom in marriage and sex.

- iv. With the closing of convents (nunneries), marriage became virtually the only occupation for upperclass Protestant women.
- c. A great European witch hunt lasted for a century
 - i. A "witch" was defined as a person who worked for the devil and could mysteriously injure other people or animals.
 - ii. Extreme religious thought and inability to explain everyday misfortunes led to a rise in the belief in the evil power of witches.
 - iii. The thousands of people executed as witches represent society's drift toward social and intellectual conformity.
 - iv. Witchhunting reflects widespread misogyny and a misunderstanding of women.
 - v. - between fifty and seventy years old, crippled or bent with age, pockmarked skin, had practiced midwifery or folk medicine, sharp tongues, quick to scold
 - vi. - educated and ignorant people believed in witches
 - vii. - religious reformers' extreme notions of the Devil's powers and the insecurity from the religious wars --> more belief in witches
 - viii. - witchcraft was considered heresy because witches were believed to make a pact with the Devil, renouncing God
 - ix. - theories to explain witch-hunt:
 - x. - a means of accounting for inexplicable misfortunes
 - xi. - undiagnosable illnesses
 - xii. - way for communities to eliminate the non-conformists
 - xiii. - neighbors feared their evil powers
 - xiv. - witches worshipped the Devil, had sex with him and ate babies
 - xv. - psychological projection resulting from Christianity's repression of sexuality
 - xvi. - women are weaker vessels for the Devil because THEY ARE SEX ANIMALSSSS
 - xvii. - witch-craft only declined in the 18th
- d. European slavery and the origins of American racism
 - i. Black slavery originated with the end of white slavery (1453) and the widespread need for labor, particularly in the new sugarproducing settlements.
 - 1. Ottoman capture of Constantinople halted the flow of white slaves from the Black Sea region and the Balkans
 - ii. Beginning in 1518 Africans were brought to America to replace Indian slavery; this was promoted by the missionary **Bartholomew las Casas**, who wished to protect Indians.
 - iii. African kings and dealers sold black slaves to European merchants; the first slaves were brought to Brazil.
 - iv. Settlers brought to the Americas the racial attitudes they had absorbed in Europe from Christianity and Islam, which by and large depicted blacks as primitive and inferior.
 - 1. Christian theological speculation
 - a. Savages because of their eating habits, morals, clothing, social customs
 - b. Barbarians because of their language and methods of war
 - c. heathens because they weren't Christian
 - d. THEY ALSO LOVE SEX!!
 - 2. Arab ideas
 - a. physical repulsiveness, mental inferiority (only people who had no sciences or stable states) and primitivism
 - b. African kings sold their people with no qualms, but their people did not

care because they were too simpleminded to have worries

5. Literature and art

- a. Religious war and overseas expansion is mirrored in an explosion of intellectual and artistic activity.
- b. The origins of modern skepticism is found in the essays of Montaigne.
 - i. Skeptics doubt whether definitive knowledge is ever attainable.
 - ii. **Montaigne** is the best representative of early modern skepticism and a forerunner of modern attitudes.
 1. "I will listen with attention to the judgment of all men; but so far as I can remember, I have followed none but my own. Though I set little value upon my own opinion, I set no more on the opinions of others."
 2. In the *Essays* he advocated openmindedness, tolerance, and rejection of dogmatism.
 3. He rejected the claim that one culture may be superior to another, and he inaugurated an era of doubt.
- c. Elizabethan and Jacobean literature
 - i. Shakespeare's forerunners include **Sir Philip Sidney** (*Astrophel and Stella*), **Edmund Spenser** (*The Faerie Queene*) **Christopher Marlowe** (*Tamburlaine* and *the Jew of Malta*)
 - ii. Shakespeare's understanding of human psychology was rooted in his appreciation of classical culture, individualism, and humanism.
 1. His "history plays" were very popular.
 2. His tragedies--*Hamlet*, *Othello*, and *Macbeth*--explore human problems such as ambition, sin, and revenge.
 - iii. The *Authorized Bible* of King James I (*King James Bible*) is a masterpiece of English vernacular writing.
 1. represented Anglican and Puritan desire for laypeople to read Scripture
- d. Baroque art and music
 - i. In the late sixteenth century, the papacy and the Jesuits encouraged the growth of an emotional, exuberant art intended to appeal to the senses and kindle the faith of ordinary churchgoers.
 - ii. The baroque style took definite shape in Italy after 1600 and developed with exceptional vigor in Catholic countries.
 1. **Rubens** developed a sensuous, colorful style of painting characterized by animated figures and monumental size.
 2. In music, the baroque style reached its culmination with **Bach**.
 - iii. Example: Interior of the Church of the Gesù