The Wars of Religion

	Concept Outline	Learning Objectives
	1.3.III	
	1.3.IIIB	OS-3/11 SP-2/3/11

I. From 1560 to 1648 wars would be fought largely over religious issues.
   A. Spain sought to squash Protestantism in Western Europe and the spread of Islam in the Mediterranean.
   B. French Catholics sought to squash the Huguenots.
   C. The Holy Roman Empire sought to re-impose Catholicism in Germany.
   D. The Calvinist Netherlands sought break away from Spanish rule.
   E. A civil war occurred in England between Puritans and Anglicans.

II. Spain's Catholic Crusade
   A. **Philip II** (1556-98): A **Habsburg** ruler like his father, Charles V, he fanatically sought to re-impose Catholicism in Europe.
      1. Under Philip, Spain became the dominant country in Europe: the "Golden Age" of Spain.
      2. **Escorial**: a new royal palace (and monastery and mausoleum) was built in Madrid in the shape of a grill to commemorate the martyrdom of St. Lawrence.
         • This symbolized the power of Philip as well as his commitment to his Catholic crusade.
      3. Spain waged a war against the Turks in the Mediterranean to secure the region for Christian merchants.
         a. **Battle of Lepanto** (1571): Spain defeated the Turkish navy off the coast of Greece.
         b. Spain's victory ended the Ottoman threat in the Mediterranean.

   B. **The Dutch Revolt** (1568-1648)
      1. **William I (William of Orange)** (1533-1584) led 17 provinces in the Netherlands and Flanders against the **Spanish Inquisition**.
         • Philip sought to crush the rise of Calvinism in the Netherlands.
      2. The **United Provinces of the Netherlands** formed in 1581 (the Dutch Republic).
         a. She received aid from England under Elizabeth I.
         b. This was a major blow to Philip's goal of maintaining Catholicism throughout his empire.
         c. The **Spanish Netherlands** (modern-day Belgium): the 10 southern provinces remained under Spain's control.
         d. The Dutch closing of the Scheldt River resulted in the demise of Antwerp as Europe's commercial center and the rise of Amsterdam.

   C. **Catholic Spain vs. Protestant England**
      1. **Queen Mary Tudor** tried to re-impose Catholicism in England.

    a. She married Philip II of Spain before he became king of Spain.

    b. When she died, **Queen Elizabeth I** reversed Mary's course via the "Elizabethan Settlement."

    c. Elizabeth later refused Philip's request for marriage.

2. Elizabeth subsequently helped the Protestant Netherlands in their revolt for independence from Spain.

3. Philip sought revenge for England's support for the Dutch; he also sought to make England Catholic again.
   - He thus planned a monumental invasion of England in 1588.

4. The **Spanish Armada, 1588**

    a. Spain's attempt to invade England ended in disaster.

    b. Much of Spain's navy lay in ruins due to a raging storm in the English Channel as well as the effectiveness of England's smaller but better-armed navy.

    c. This signaled the rise of England as a world naval power.

III. **French Wars of Religion** (at least 9 wars occurred between 1562-1598)

  A. After the death of Henry II in 1559 a power struggle between three noble families for the Crown ensued.

    1. The throne remained in the fragile control of the Catholic Valois dynasty.
   - Three French kings from 1559 to 1589 were dominated by their mother, **Catherine de Médici,** who as regent fought hard to maintain Catholic control in France.

    2. Between 40-50% of nobles became Calvinists (**Huguenots**)—many were Bourbons.

      a. Many nobles ostensibly converted for religious reasons but sought independence from the crown.

      b. **The Bourbons were next in line to inherit the throne if** the **Valois did not produce a male heir**.

    3. The **ultra-Catholic Guise family** also competed for the throne; strongly anti-Bourbon.

    4. Fighting began in 1562 between Catholics and Calvinists.
   - Atrocities against rival congregations occurred.

  B. **St. Bartholomew Day Massacre** (August 24, 1572)

    1. The marriage of Margaret of Valois to the Bourbon Huguenot Henry of Navarre was intended to reconcile Catholics and Huguenots.

    2. Rioting occurred when the leader of the Catholic aristocracy, Henry of Guise, had a leader of the Huguenot party murdered the night before the wedding.

    3. Catherine de Médicis ordered the massacre of Calvinists in response.
   - 20,000 Huguenots were killed by early October.

    4. The massacre initiated the **War of the Three Henrys**: civil wars between Valois, Guise, and Bourbons.

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C. <mark>Henry IV (Henry of Navarre)</mark> (r. 1589-1610): In 1589 he became the first Bourbon king.
1. He became one of the most important kings in French history.
2. His rise to power ended the French Civil Wars and placed France on a gradual course towards absolutism.
3. **Henry & Catherine de Medici** were ***politique*** (**like Elizabeth I in England**)
   a. He sought practical political solutions (rather than ideological ones like Philip II); he was **somewhat Machiavellian in nature.**
   b. **He converted to Catholicism to gain the loyalty of Paris (He allegedly stated: "Paris is worth a mass")**
   c. Privately he remained a Calvinist for the rest of his life.
4. <mark>Edict of Nantes</mark>, 1598: Henry IV granted a degree of religious toleration to the Huguenots and ushered in an era of <mark>religious pluralism</mark>.
   a. It permitted Huguenots the right to worship privately.
      • Public worship, however, was not allowed.
      • Huguenots were not allowed to worship at all in Paris and other staunchly Catholic cities.
   b. It gave Huguenots access to universities, to public office, and the right to maintain some 200 fortified towns in western and southwestern France for self-protection.
   c. In reality, the Edict was more like a truce in the religious wars rather than a recognition of religious toleration.
      • Nevertheless, the Edict gave Huguenots more religious protection than perhaps any other religious minority in Europe.

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IV. <mark>Thirty Years' War</mark> (1618-1648) – most important war of the 17th century
A. Failure of the Peace of Augsburg, 1555
1. The agreement had given German princes the right to choose either Catholicism or Lutheranism as the official religion of their states within the HRE.
2. The truce in Germany lasted for 60 years until factionalism in the Holy Roman Empire precipitated a cataclysmic war.

B. Four phases of the war:
1. **Bohemian Phase**
   a. **Defenestration of Prague** (1618): it triggered war in Bohemia
      • The Holy Roman Emperor placed severe restrictions on Protestantism in its empire.
      • Two HRE officials were thrown out a window and fell 70 feet (they did not die because they were allegedly saved by a large pile of manure).
      • The emperor then sought to annihilate the Calvinist nobility in Bohemia.
   b. Protestant forces were eventually defeated and Protestantism was eliminated in Bohemia.

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2. <mark>Danish Phase</mark>: this represented the height of Catholic power during the war
   a. **Albrecht von Wallenstein** (1583-1634): he was a mercenary general who was paid by the emperor to fight for the HRE.
      • He invaded northern Germany and won a number of important battles against Protestant armies.
   b. **Edict of Restitution** (1629): The Emperor declared all church territories that had been secularized since 1552 to be automatically restored to Catholic Church
3. **Swedish Phase** (1629-1635): Protestants liberated territory lost in the previous (Danish) phase
   a. <mark>**Gustavus Adolphus**</mark> (r. 1611-1632) King of Sweden: he led an army that pushed Catholic forces back to Bohemia.
      • Gustavus was killed in another battle in 1632.
   b. In response, the Holy Roman Emperor reluctantly annulled the Edict of Restitution.
   c. The Swedish army was defeated in 1634; France now feared a resurgence of Catholicism in the HRE.
4. **French Phase**, "International Phase" (1635-1648)
   b. <mark>**Cardinal Richelieu**</mark> (1585-1642) of France allied with the Protestant forces to defeat the HRE (as had occurred 100 years earlier in the wars against Charles V).
      • France allied with Holland, Sweden, Finland, and German mercenaries.
   c. <mark>**Richelieu's policies reflected Catholic France's paramount diplomatic concerns as political, not religious; thus he can be seen as a *politique*.**</mark>
      • Had the Habsburgs won in Germany, France would have been confronted with a more powerful German state on its eastern border.

C. <mark>**Treaty of Westphalia**</mark> (1648)
   1. **It renewed the Peace of Augsburg but added Calvinism as a politically accepted faith.**
      a. In effect, it ended the Catholic Reformation in Germany.
      b. It guaranteed that **Germany would remain divided politically and religiously for centuries.**
   2. **The dissolution of Holy Roman Empire was now confirmed.**
      a. **The Netherlands and Switzerland gained their independence from Spanish rule.**
      b. 300+ German states became sovereign.
      c. The pope was denied the right to intervene in HRE affairs.
   3. The **two Hapsburg branches were weakened:**
      a. The Spanish Hapsburgs saw their empire decline dramatically thereafter.
      b. The Austrian Hapsburgs lost much influence in Germany.

D. Results of the Thirty Years' War
   1. Germany was physically devastated (about 1/3 of the population perished; as high as 50% in certain areas).

2. Germany was further divided by the decline of the Holy Roman Empire.
3. It ended the wars of religion.
4. It marked the beginning of the rise of France as the dominant European power; it also accelerated the continued rise of England, the Netherlands, and Prussia.
   - Balance of power diplomacy emerged in Europe.

Memory Device for Treaty of Westphalia: **EF-CHIP**

E nd of the Wars of Religion
F rance emerges as Europe's most powerful country
C alvinism is added to the Peace of Augsburg
H oly Roman Empire is effectively destroyed
I ndependence for the Netherlands and Switzerland
P russia emerges as a great power

V. **English Civil War** (Puritan Revolution) –(see also Unit 2.1)
   A. Since the reign of the **Stuart** king, **James I (1603-1625)**, there had been a struggle between the king and Parliament regarding taxation and civil liberties.
   - Both James I and his successor, Charles I, believed in **"divine right"** of kings and absolutism.
   - The monarchy strongly defended the Anglican Church.

   B. Parliament was composed of many **Puritans** (English Calvinists) and Presbyterians (English Calvinists who favored the Scottish Presbyterian organization of John Knox).

   C. **Charles I** (r. 1625-1649) twice dissolved Parliament
      1. In effect, Charles ruled as an absolute monarch between 1629 and 1640.
      2. He raised money using medieval forms of forced taxation (those with a certain amount of wealth were obligated to pay).
      3. "Ship money": all counties were now required to pay to outfit ships where before only coastal communities had paid.
      4. Religious persecution of Puritans by Charles I became the biggest reason for the English Civil War.

   D. Civil War broke out in 1642: **Cavaliers** supported the king; **Roundheads** (Calvinists) opposed the king

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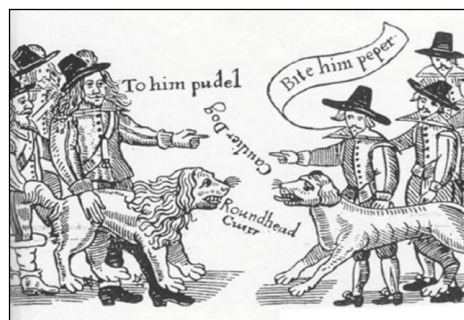
An English political cartoon in the 1640s

E. **Oliver Cromwell**, a fiercely Puritan **Independent** and military leader of the Roundheads, eventually led his **New Model Army** to victory in 1649.
   1. A division between Puritans and Presbyterians (and non-Puritans) developed late in the war.
   2. **Pride's Purge** (1648): Elements of the New Model Army (without Cromwell's knowledge) removed all non-Puritans and Presbyterians from Parliament leaving a **"Rump Parliament"** with only 1/5 of its members remaining.

F. **Charles I was beheaded in 1649.**
   • He was the first king in European history to be executed by his own subjects.

G. New sects emerged
   1. **Quakers**: descendants of the Anabaptists
      a. Believed in an "inner light," a divine spark that existed in each person
      b. Rejected church authority
      c. As pacifists, they were opposed to war.
      d. They allowed women to play a role in preaching.

H. The **Interregnum** (1649-1660): rule without a king
   1. The Commonwealth (1649-1653): a republic was created after the war that abolished the monarchy and the House of Lords
      a. The new republic failed to govern effectively.
      b. Cromwell dissolved the "Rump Parliament" in 1653.
   2. **The Protectorate** (1653-1659): Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector and instituted a Puritan dictatorship.
      a. He denied religious freedom to Anglicans and Catholics.
      b. He allowed Jews to return to England in 1655 (Jews had not been allowed since 1290).

   3. In 1649, Cromwell invaded Ireland to put down an Irish uprising that had favored royalist forces in England.
      a. Act of Settlement (1652): The land from 2/3 of Catholic property owners was given to Protestant English colonists.
      b. Cromwell's control of Ireland (through the New Model Army) was particularly brutal.
      c. Perhaps 15-20% of the Irish population perished under Cromwell's policies.
   4. Cromwell conquered Scotland in 1651-52.
      a. The Scots had continued strong support of the Presbyterians in England that had been removed by Cromwell.
      b. England's rule over Scotland was far more peaceful than in Ireland.
   5. The Puritan dictatorship sought to regulate the moral life of England by commanding that people follow strict moral codes that were enforced by the army.

       a. Dancing, gambling, drinking alcohol, and prostitution
           were against the law.
       b. This seriously alienated many English people from
           Cromwell's rule
   6. Cromwell died in 1658 and was succeeded by his son,
       Richard, who was ineffective as his successor.
   7. <u>The Stuarts under **Charles II** (r. 1660-1685) were restored
       to the throne in 1660.</u>

Memory Device for the Religious Wars: "**30 FEDS**"

30 Years' War
F rench Civil Wars
E nglish Civil War
D utch Revolt
S panish Armada

Terms to Know

Philip II	Edict of Restitution
Escorial	Gustavus Adolphus
Battle of Lepanto	French Phase
Dutch Revolt	Cardinal Richelieu
William of Orange	Treaty of Westphalia
Spanish Inquisition	English Civil War
United Provinces of the Netherlands	Stuart dynasty
Spanish Netherlands	James I
Mary Tudor ("Bloody Mary")	"divine right" of kings
Elizabeth I	Puritans
Spanish Armada	Charles I
French Civil Wars	Cavaliers
Catherine de Medicis	Roundheads
St. Bartholomew Day Massacre	Oliver Cromwell
War of the Three Henry's	New Model Army
Henry IV	Pride's Purge
politique	"Rump Parliament"
Edict of Nantes	Quakers
Thirty Years' War	Interregnum
Bohemian phase	The Protectorate
Defenestration of Prague	Charles II
Albrecht von Wallenstein	

Essay Questions

Note: This sub-unit is a high probability area for the AP exam. <u>In the past 10 years, 4 questions have come wholly or in part from the material in this chapter.</u> Below are questions that will help you study the topics that have appeared on previous exams.

1. Analyze the impact that religion played in the Dutch Revolt, the French Civil Wars, the Thirty Years' War, and the English Civil War.

2. Analyze the extent to which the religious policies of the following rulers were successful:
   - Philip II
   - Elizabeth I
   - Henry IV
   - James I & Charles I
   - Oliver Cromwell

3. To what degree did religion and politics play in the Thirty Years' War?

4. Analyze the impact of the Thirty Years' War on European politics.

5. To what extent did the wars of religion result in the decline of the Spanish Empire?

6. Analyze the causes of the English Civil War and the impact of Puritan rule on English politics and society.

Overarching Questions and Themes from the AP® Curriculum Framework for Unit 1.4

➤ **What roles have traditional sources of authority (church and classical antiquity) played in the creation and transmission of knowledge?**

OS-3: Explain how political revolution and war from the 17th century on altered the role of the church in political and intellectual life and the response of religious authorities and intellectuals to such challenges.   (1.3.III, 1.4.III)

➤ **How and why did Europeans come to value subjective interpretations of reality?**

OS-11: Explain how and why religion increasingly shifted from a matter of public concern to one of private belief over the course of European history. (1.3.III, 1.4.III)

➤ **What forms have European governments taken, and how have these changed over time?**

SP-2: Explain the emergence of and theories behind the New Monarchies and absolutist monarchies, and evaluate the degree to which they were able to centralize power in their states. (1.3.II, 1.3.III)

SP-3: Trace the changing relationship between states and ecclesiastical authority and the emergence of the principal of religious toleration. (1.3.II, 1.3.III)

➤ **How did civil institutions develop apart from governments, and what impact have they had upon European states?**

SP-11: Analyze how religious and secular institutions and groups attempted to limit monarchical power by articulating theories of resistance to absolutism and by taking political action. (1.3.II, 1.3.III, 2.1.II)

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