

- Power concentrated within Europe between 1500 and 1648
 - Monarchy prevailed
 - Hereditary local authority was struggling
 - Noble and burgher classes combined to some extent?
 - Centralization of power meant armies asserting will became more commonplace
 - Church lost some degree of power
- Rapid increase in military tech meant organizing armies was more difficult, especially for local leaders
 - Urban development needed to support expansion
- Civil wars, religious reforms, and revolts all countered this trend in parts of Europe
 - Notably resisted in Dutch + English societies
- Idea of universal monarchy was possible with Holy Roman Emperor Charles V
 - Lots of enemies lead to stalemates
 - General inability to unify
- Colonization became more prevalent in the time period, see Americas, Caribbean, India
 - More mercantile
- Reformation + Renaissance
 - Martin Luther attack ideas of indulgences and suggests salvation is possible for sinners
 - Search for coherent world view
 - Roman church creates Society of Jesus for protection + spreading of catholicism
- Science
 - Some not swept up in above conflicts
 - Galileo, Descartes, Kepler
 - Francis Bacon argued idea of observation + analysis as the path to understanding of the world instead of religion
 - New instruments like telescope, microscope, pendulum clocks, etc...
 - Science appealed to many after religious conflicts
- Pluralism and wide variety of opinion developed in Europe