Abstract

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This paper will examine Frederick V the Elector of the Palatinate and how both his confessional diplomatic channels between him, England, and other German princes, and constitutional beliefs influenced his actions, which inevitably ignited the Thirty Years’ War. I will be relying heavily on primary source material from England, which I will be examining this summer as part of my M.A. thesis travels, translated German documents, and secondary source material on the topic. In 1555 C.E., the Peace of Augsburg was signed in the Holy Roman Empire between Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor and the German Protestant Princes and Imperial cities of the Schmalkaldic League. From this peace, *Cuius regio, eius religio*, which means “whose realm, his religion,” gave German princes and Imperial cities in the empire the ability to chose the religious practices of their land. However, after sixty-three-year peace, the confessional rivalries, which plagued the Holy Roman Empire before the Peace of Augsburg resurfaced, setting the stage for another possible cross-confessional conflict.