

Summary

The Thirty Years War (1618-1648) was a European religious war between Catholics & Protestants. Discontent began to grow when Ferdinand II issued a statement forcing everyone to become a Roman Catholic. Enraged, Bohemian nobility threw Ferdinand's representatives out of Prague Castle and staged revolts backed by Sweden & Denmark-Norway. Ferdinand allied with the Catholic League (present day Germany, Belgium, & France) and quickly dissolves the Protestant Union & conquers Denmark-Norway. Eventually, Habsburg, the Holy Roman Empire, & 50,000 troops led by a Bohemian nobleman (Albrecht von Wallenstein) vanquished Sweden & create the 'Peace of Prague'. The French were unhappy by the treaty's provisions. The joining of the French, revival of Sweden, and Portuguese revolts in Spain greatly weakened the Catholic forces. However, Denmark-Norway allied w/ the Holy Roman Empire and French King Louis XIII died, giving way to the final battle of Prague (1648). While the castle was captured & pillaged, the city was not. Eventually, many parties signed the Peace of Westphalia & concluded the war.

