

The confessional states in the sixteenth and seventeenth century

The battle of Nördlingen (1634)

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Erasmus+



Political situation in the middle age

During the Middle Age Europe was just a geographic term, instead of that concept there was other called “christianity”.

During this period the bishop of Rome was seen as the sovereign of the hole christianity, in a worldly and spiritualy way.

Kings had to share the power with the church and the noblemen.

Religion was everywhere in everyday life.



Lutero

He was born in 1483 in Eisleben, he became an Augustinian monk in 1505.

He criticised a lot of the behaviour of the pope and his court

Lutero was afraid because he thought god was not going to save his soul because of the church's opulence.

He decided to have his own religious doctrine, although at the beginning he did not want to fight against rome.

At the beginning his doctrine was supported by the German princes because they wanted the wealth and territories of the church for themselves.

Later other countries as the Scandinavian Kingdoms the Teutonic Knights or part of Transilvania became luteran because of the same reason.



Trent council

It lasted more than fifteen years (1545-1563). The council caused the breakup of christianity into two blocks: the Catholic church and Protestantism.

The trent council was not a consequence of Iuteros' ideas (neither Calvinos' s or Zwinglio's ideas). The reformation and the counter-reformation were both part of the same process: the social component of the church.

Protestant kings and catholic kings accumulated more power after the reformation and the trent council



The christianity breaks up

The Peace of Augsburg (1555). It was probably the most important failure of emperor Charles V

In this treaty the emperor recognised the freedom of each German prince to choose his religion, the dream of creating an empire unified by the same religion and by a powerful emperor was finally just a dream.

A protestant group of countries and noblemen earned power and wealth after this treaty, and later, during the second half of the sixteenth century and the first half of the seventeenth, those anticatholic countries fought against the catholic kings in the religion wars, which left Europe completely destroyed

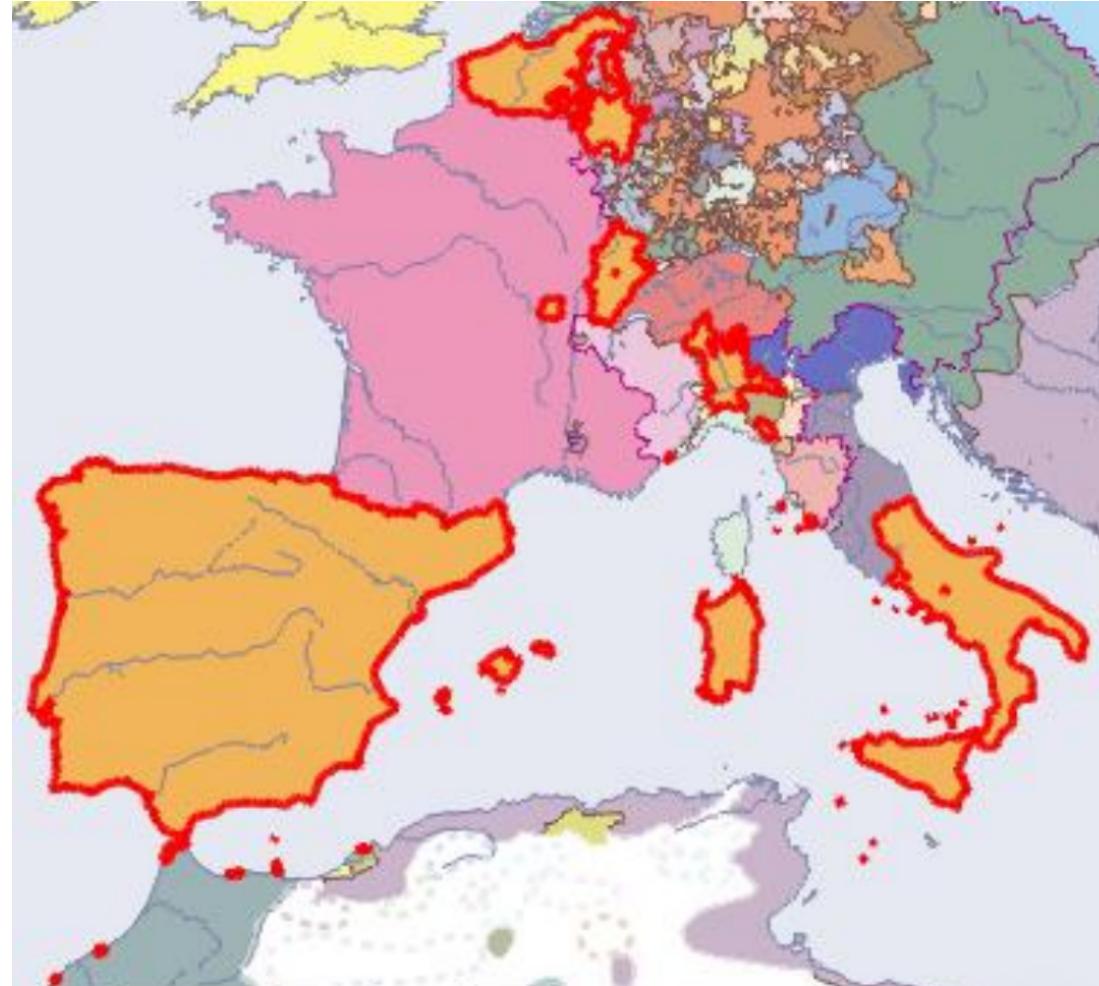


The Spanish empire (in Europe)

The Spanish empire (also known as the Hispanic monarchy) was created at the end of the xv century and beginning of xvi. When emperor Charles v inherited a lot of territories all around Europe.

During the XVI and XVII century Spain was one of the most powerful countries in the world and it was also known because of the defense of Catholicism during the Religion Wars

It's supremacy ended at the end of the Thirty Years' War, with the Westfalia Treaty (in 1648) and the Pyrenees Peace (in 1659)



Kingdom of Sweden

During the sixteenth century, under the rule of Gustavus Adolphus II Sweden became a great power in europe.

Sweden was never as powerful as it was in this age.

At the end of the sixteenth century king Gustav Vasa supported protestantism because he wanted to have more power than the church.

During the sixteenth century Denmark was the most powerful country in the north but due to the changes in the administration and army during the reign of Gustavus Adolphus II Sweden made itself a Baltic empire.



Gustav II Adolf of Sweden (The Lion of the North)

He was born 1594 and became king of Sweden 1611 (when he was 17 years old). Three wars were going on when he became king. One against Russia, another against Poland and another against Denmark.

He is known as the father of modern warfare because of his modern military tactics.

He transformed Sweden into a modern state with a lot of domestic reforms.

Gustav Adolf died during the battle of Lützen in 1632.



Thirty years' war

It began as a civil war in The Holy Roman Empire between catholics and protestants but soon other countries started to support the different sides.

Within this war there were also many conflicts as the Flanders war, the Anglo-spanish war, the war between Sweden and Poland, Sweden against The Holy Roman Empire. Denmark also fought in the war...

The war started when emperor Matthias died without a heir and archiduke Ferdinand II (with the support of Philip III of Spain) was crowned as emperor and king of Bohemia. The protestant wanted Frederick V, elector of Palatine, to be the king

In 1618 in Prague, two imperial rulers were attacked because Ferdinand II adopted closed-minded politics against protestants, the emperor abolished the freedom of religion.

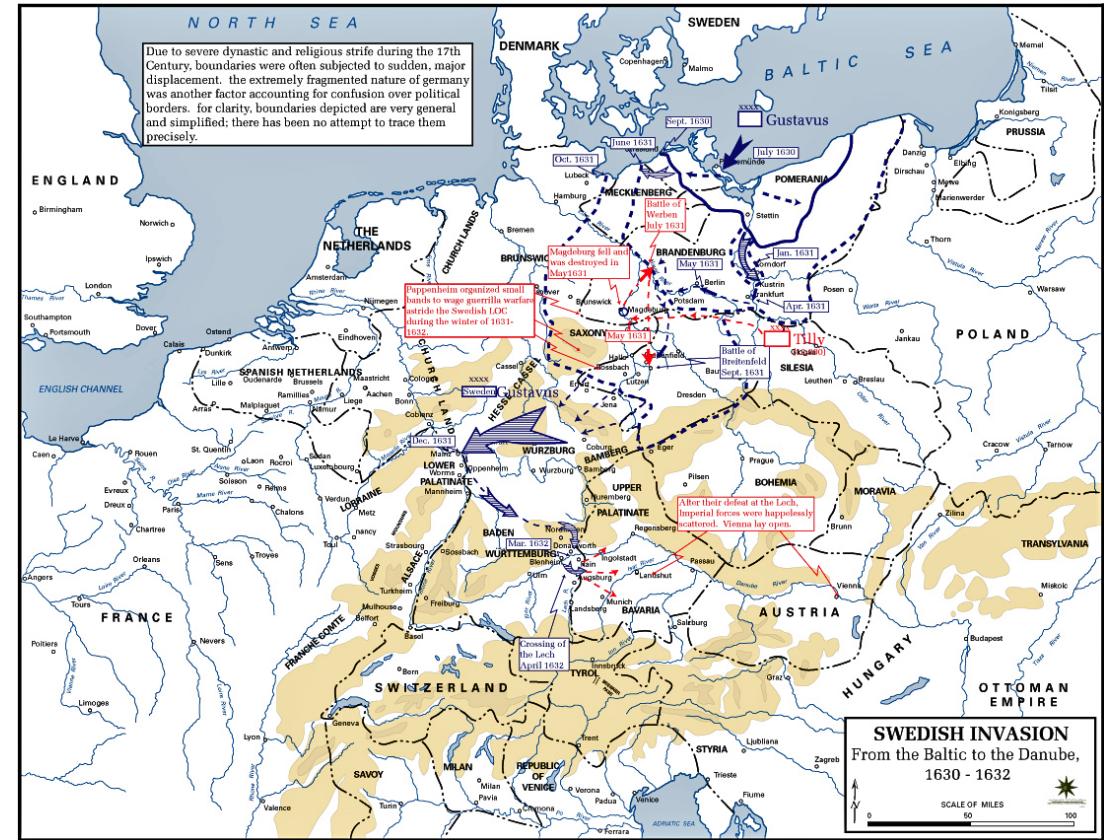


Sweden during the war

At the beginning of the seventeenth century the catholics were pushing up in nothern Germany, where Sweden had a lot of commercial connections.

From 1635 to 1648 Sweden fought against German catholics near France under the command of Johan Banér

As a curiosity in 1634 the first swedish constitution was put in place by council of regency and it was never accepted by the monarchy.



Spain during the war

Spain and the Holy Roman Empire were ruled by the Habsburg family. Especially Spain considered itself as the champion of the Catholicism.

Spain was also fighting against the protestants in the Netherlands.

Philip IV of Spain was the main supporter of the emperor. The king of Spain wanted to expand his territories across the “Spanish Road”.

The war was also a good opportunity to defeat the protestants for good in the Netherlands (the twelve years' truce was going to finish in 1621, and the war was now inevitable).



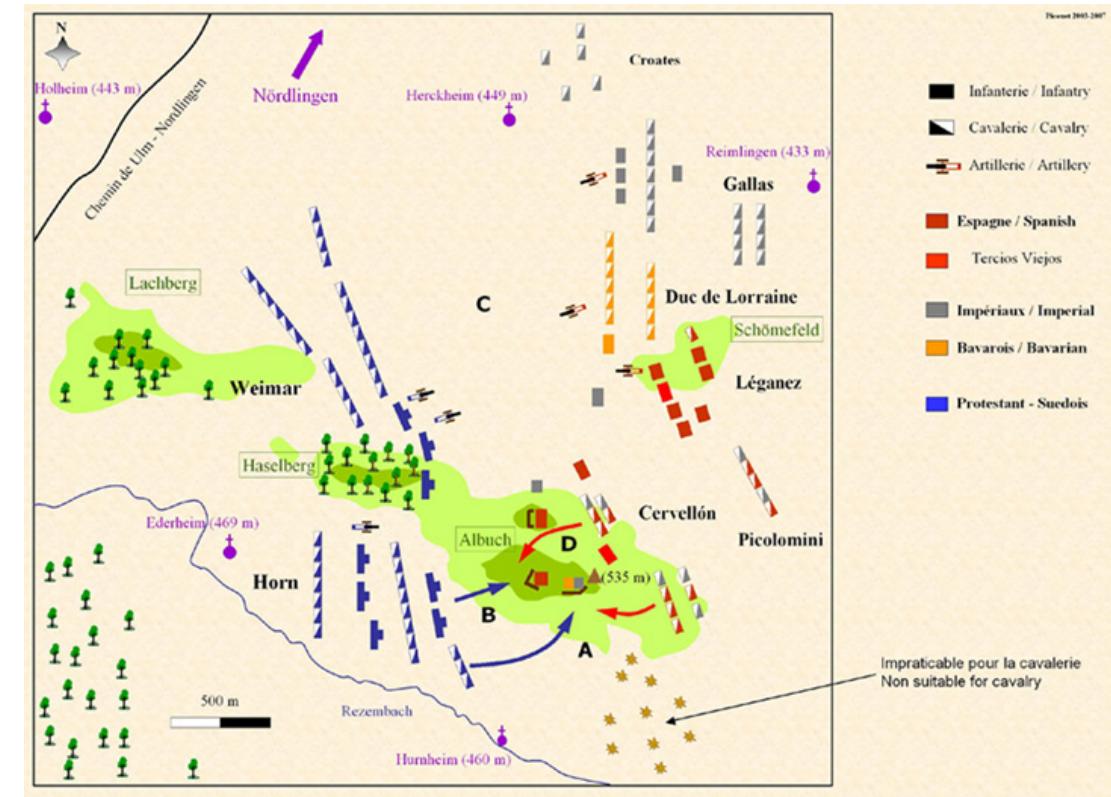
Battle of Nördlingen

After the protestant victory of Lützen, the Swedish were unable to continue invading new territories due to the death of Gustav Adolf II. The situation got worse when Spanish reinforcements lead by Cardinal-Infante Ferdinand arrived.

When the battle began, Swedish troops (lead by Gustaf Horn) bravely charged against Albuch hill, but they were defeated time and time again by the Spanish army supported by Italian cavalry.

After the imperial troops defeated the Saxons, the catholics were able to finally defeat the swedish army, they also capture Gustaf Horn

After these battles and without the leadership of Gustav Adolf, the Swedish lost influence in the Holy Roman Empire, although at the end of war they were able to preserve some territories near the Baltic sea.



Cardinal-Infante Ferdinand of Austria

Ferdinand of Austria was born in El Escorial in 1609, he was the third son of Philip III.

He was ordered cardinal by Paul V in 1619. He was also viceroy of Catalonia (1632). In 1633 he travelled to Flanders as governor of those lands and in 1634 he assumed the command of a part of the Imperial army and the Spanish reinforcements near the city of Nördlingen. There he defeated the protestant army (formed by Swedish and northern German troops commanded by Gustaf Horn). Over twelve thousand men died and the peace of Prague was signed in 1635. The protestant armies were stopped in the netherlands and France started to fight against Spain.

The Cardinal died in 1641 in the Netherlands



Gustaf Horn

He was born in 1592, he was a military officer and governor, he studied military sciences in the netherlands. He was upgraded to field marshal by Gustav Adolf.

He was successful in many battles until he was defeated in the battle of Nördlingen.

He was in prison until 1642 in Burghausen castle (Germany). He was exchanged for three catholic generals.

He was given a castle because of his military services.



Political Consequences of the war

In 1648 the peace of Westphalia was signed, this treaty was the final defeat of the Habsburgs.

Here we have the main political consequences of the peace treaties .

The terms of the Peace of Augsburg were validated again, so every governor could choose his own religion.

Each German prince was sovereign of his territory, the influence of the emperor in the princes' territories was reduced.

The Habsburgs lost their supremacy, after the treaty of the Pyrenees (1659) France became the most important country in Europe.



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