

Europe in Crisis: The Wars of Religion

GUIDE TO READING

The BIG Idea

Competition Among Countries

Religious and political conflicts erupted between Protestants and Catholics in many European nations.

Content Vocabulary

- militant (p. 454)
- armada (p. 456)

Academic Vocabulary

- conflict (p. 454)
- policy (p. 455)

People, Places, and Events

- King Philip II (p. 454)
- Ireland (p. 456)
- Netherlands (p. 454)
- Huguenots (p. 457)
- William the Silent (p. 455)
- Henry of Navarre (p. 457)
- Elizabeth Tudor (p. 455)
- Edict of Nantes (p. 457)
- Scotland (p. 456)

Reading Strategy

Comparing and Contrasting

As you read, complete a chart like the one below comparing the characteristics of Spain, England, and France.

	Spain	England	France
Government			
Religion			
Conflicts			

NORTH CAROLINA STANDARDS Ninth Grade World History

6.06 Trace the development of internal conflicts due to differences in religion, race, culture, and group loyalties in various areas of the world.

8.03 Classify within the broad patterns of history those events that may be viewed as turning points.

During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, conflicts between Protestants and Catholics in many European nations resulted in wars for religious and political control.

Spain's Conflicts

MAIN IDEA King Philip II championed Catholic causes throughout his lands, while England became the leader of Protestant nations of Europe.

HISTORY & YOU Suppose you won an arm-wrestling contest against someone who seemed much bigger and stronger? Learn how England defeated Spain at sea.

By 1560, Calvinism and Catholicism had become highly **militant** (combative) religions. They were aggressive in winning converts and in eliminating each other's authority. Their struggle was the chief cause of the religious wars that plagued Europe in the sixteenth century. However, economic, social, and political forces also played an important role in these **conflicts**.

Spain's Militant Catholicism

The greatest supporter of militant Catholicism in the second half of the sixteenth century was **King Philip II** of Spain, the son and heir of Charles V. King Philip II, whose reign extended from 1556 to 1598, ushered in an age of Spanish greatness.

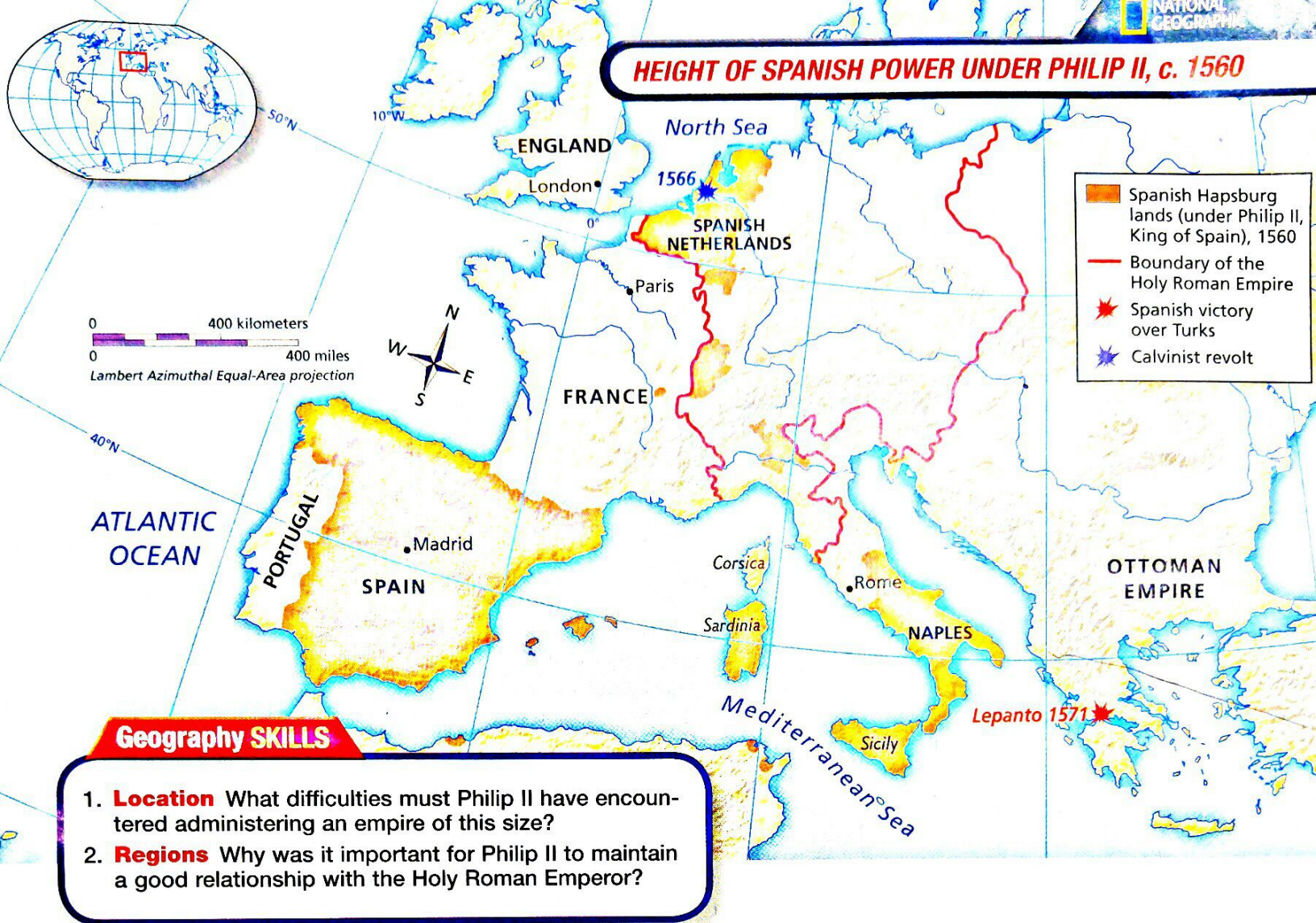
Philip's first major goal was to consolidate the lands inherited from his father. These included Spain, the **Netherlands**, and possessions in Italy and the Americas. To strengthen his control, Philip insisted on strict conformity to Catholicism and strong monarchical authority.

During the late Middle Ages, Catholic kingdoms in Spain had reconquered Muslim areas there and expelled the Spanish Jews. Driven by this heritage, Spain saw itself as a nation of people chosen by God to save Catholic Christianity from Protestant heretics.

The "Most Catholic King," Philip II championed Catholic causes. His actions led to spectacular victories and defeats. Spain's leadership in a Holy League against the Turks, for example, resulted in a stunning victory over the Turkish fleet in the Battle of Lepanto in 1571. Philip was not so fortunate in his other conflicts.

Resistance from the Netherlands

One of the richest parts of Philip's empire, the Spanish Netherlands, consisted of 17 provinces (modern Netherlands and Belgium). Philip's attempts to strengthen his control in this region caused resentment and opposition from the nobles of the



Netherlands. Philip also tried to crush Calvinism in the Netherlands. Violence erupted in 1566. Philip sent ten thousand troops to crush the rebellion.

Philip faced growing resistance from the Dutch in the northern provinces led by **William the Silent**, the prince of Orange. The struggle dragged on until 1609 when a 12-year truce finally ended the war. The northern provinces began to call themselves the United Provinces of the Netherlands and became the core of the modern Dutch state. In fact, the seventeenth century has often been called the golden age of the Dutch Republic because the United Provinces held center stage as one of Europe's great powers.

Protestantism in England

Elizabeth Tudor ascended the English throne in 1558. During her reign, the small island kingdom became the leader of the

Protestant nations of Europe and laid the foundations for a world empire.

Intelligent, careful, and self-confident, Elizabeth moved quickly to solve the difficult religious problem she inherited from her Catholic half-sister, Queen Mary Tudor. Elizabeth repealed the laws favoring Catholics. A new Act of Supremacy named Elizabeth as "the only supreme governor" of both church and state. The Church of England under Queen Elizabeth followed a moderate Protestantism that kept most people satisfied.

Elizabeth was also moderate in her foreign policy. She tried to keep Spain and France from becoming too powerful by balancing power. If one nation seemed to be gaining in power, England would support the weaker nation. The queen feared that war would be disastrous for England and for her own rule; however, she could not escape a conflict with Spain.

Defeat of the Spanish Armada

In 1588, Philip II made preparations to send an **armada**—a fleet of warships—to invade England. A successful invasion of England would mean the overthrow of Protestantism. The fleet that set sail had neither the ships nor the manpower that Philip had planned to send.

The hoped-for victory never came. The armada was battered by the faster English ships and sailed back to Spain by a northern route around **Scotland** and **Ireland** where it was pounded by storms.

By the end of Philip's reign in 1598, Spain was not the great power that it appeared to be. Spain was the most populous empire in the world, but it was bankrupt. Philip II had spent too much on war. His successor spent too much on his court. The armed forces were out of date, and the government was inefficient. Spain continued to play the role of a great power, but the real power in Europe had shifted to England and France.

Reading Check Explaining What did Philip II hope to accomplish by invading England?

TURNING POINT

In the mid-1500s, the English supported the Protestant side in religious wars between Protestants and Catholics within France and the Netherlands. Resenting this, Philip II of Spain decided to invade England to overthrow Protestantism and establish Catholic rule there.

The English fleet had clear superiority in gunnery and naval tactics. It dealt the Spanish Armada a terrible blow in the English Channel. The Spanish retreated on a northward route around Scotland without charts or a pilot. There the fleet was battered by storms. Half of the Spanish fleet and three-quarters of the men were lost. After defeating the Spanish Armada, England remained Protestant and began to create a world empire.

The defeat of the Spanish Armada:

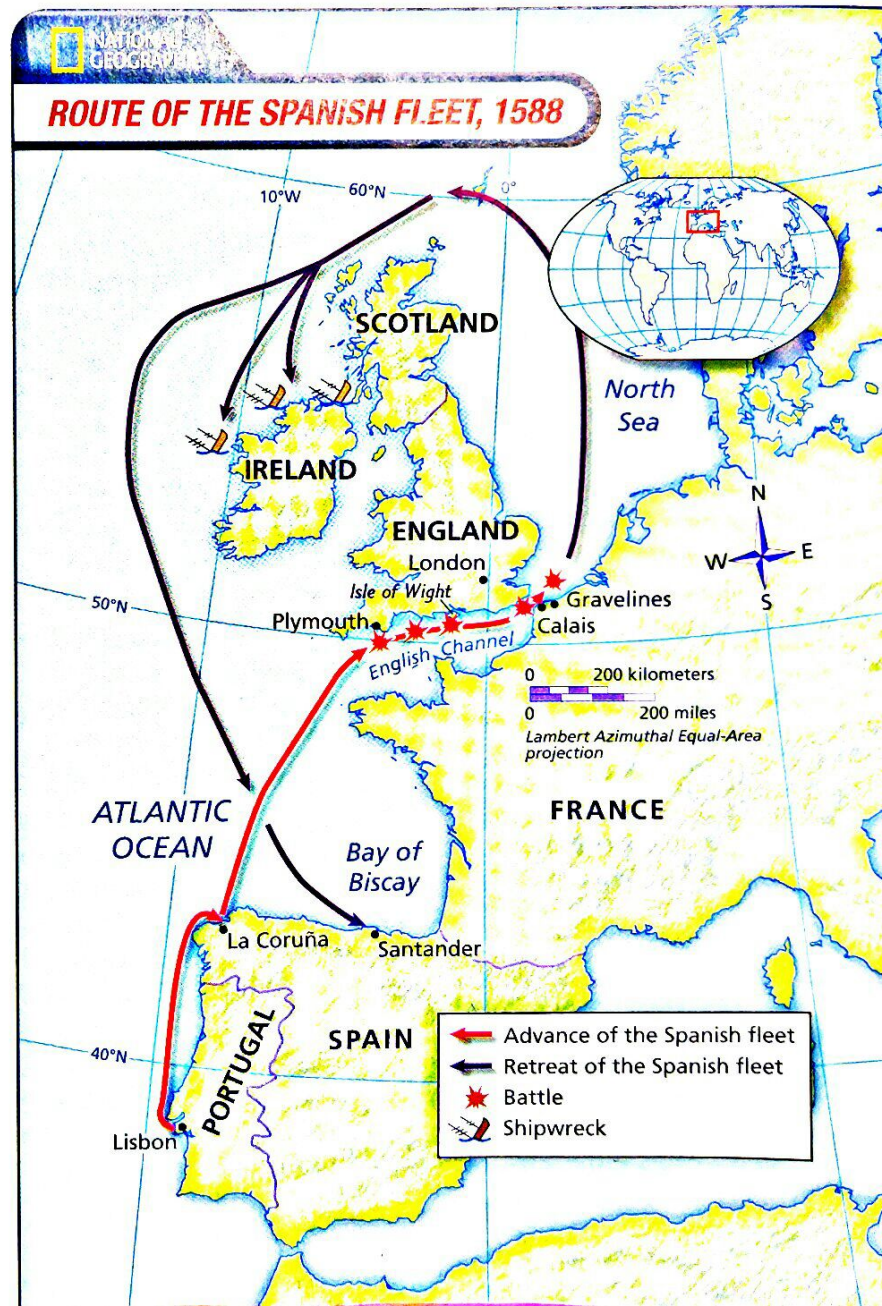
- Guaranteed that England would remain a Protestant country
- Signaled a gradual shift in power from Spain to England and France

Geography SKILLS

1. **Location** Use the map to estimate the distance covered by the Spanish retreat.
2. **Region** Why was the defeat of the Spanish Armada a turning point?

Maps In Motion See StudentWorks™ Plus or glencoe.com.

DEFEAT OF THE SPANISH ARMADA



The French Wars of Religion

MAIN IDEA Conflict between Catholics and Protestants was at the heart of the French Wars of Religion.

HISTORY & YOU What would you do if some classmates started a trend that you didn't like? Learn how Catholic leaders in France protested the spread of Protestantism.

Of the sixteenth-century religious wars, none was more shattering than the French civil wars known as the French Wars of Religion (1562–1598). Religious conflict was at the center of these wars. The French kings persecuted Protestants, but the persecution did little to stop the spread of Protestantism.

Huguenots

Huguenots (HYOO•guh•NAHTS) were French Protestants influenced by John Calvin. They made up only about 7 percent of the total French population, but 40 to 50 percent of the nobility became Huguenots. This made the Huguenots a powerful political threat to the Crown.

An extreme Catholic party—known as the ultra-Catholics—strongly opposed the Huguenots. Having the loyalty of parts of northern and northwestern France, they could pay for and recruit large armies.

Religion was the most important issue, but other factors played a role in the French civil wars. Towns and provinces were willing to assist the nobles in weakening the growing power of the French monarchy.

Henry IV and the Edict of Nantes

For 30 years, battles raged in France between the Catholics and Huguenots. Finally, in 1589, **Henry of Navarre**, the Huguenot political leader, succeeded to the throne as Henry IV. He realized that as a Protestant he would never be accepted by Catholic France. Therefore, he converted to Catholicism. When Henry IV was crowned king in 1594, the fighting in France finally came to an end.

To solve the religious problem, Henry IV issued the **Edict of Nantes** in 1598. The edict recognized Catholicism as the official religion of France. It also gave the Huguenots the right to worship and to enjoy all political privileges such as holding public offices.



SECTION



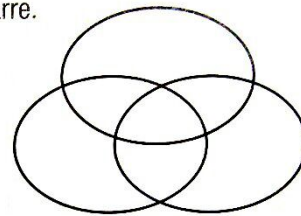
REVIEW

Vocabulary

1. **Explain** the significance of: militant, conflict, King Philip II, Netherlands, William the Silent, Elizabeth Tudor, policy, armada, Scotland, Ireland, Huguenots, Henry of Navarre, Edict of Nantes.

Main Ideas

2. **Explain** how Philip II championed Catholic causes throughout his lands.
3. **Create** a Venn diagram like the one shown below to compare and contrast the reigns of Philip II, Elizabeth Tudor, and Henry of Navarre.



4. **Describe** how the Edict of Nantes appeased both Catholics and Huguenots.

Critical Thinking

5. **The BIG Idea Analyzing** Analyze which of the major three nations—Spain, England, or France—lost the most power and standing during their religious and political conflicts.
6. **Drawing Conclusions** What did Elizabeth hope to achieve—or to avoid—with her moderate foreign policy of balancing power between France and Spain?
7. **Analyzing Visuals** Examine the maps on pages 455 and 456. How do you think the defeat of the Spanish Armada might have affected Philip's ability to rule the Spanish empire? Explain your answer.

Writing About History

8. **Persuasive Writing** Write a persuasive essay arguing whether it was a good idea for Philip II to sail against England. Identify the main reason the king of Spain decided to invade.

History ONLINE

For help with the concepts in this section of *Glencoe World History*, go to glencoe.com and click Study Central™.

✓ Reading Check Identifying List the sequence of events that led to the Edict of Nantes.

Social Crises, War, and Revolution

GUIDE TO READING

The BIG Idea

Order and Security Social, economic, and religious conflicts challenged the established political order throughout Europe.

Content Vocabulary

- inflation (p. 458)
- witchcraft (p. 458)
- divine right of kings (p. 461)
- commonwealth (p. 461)

Academic Vocabulary

- restoration (p. 462)
- convert (p. 462)

People and Places

- Holy Roman Empire (p. 460)
- Bohemia (p. 460)
- James I (p. 461)
- Puritans (p. 461)
- Charles I (p. 461)
- Cavaliers (p. 461)
- Roundheads (p. 461)
- Oliver Cromwell (p. 461)
- James II (p. 462)

Reading Strategy

Summarizing Information As you read, use a chart like the one below to identify which conflicts were prompted by religious concerns.

Religious Conflicts

NORTH CAROLINA STANDARDS Ninth Grade World History

4.01 Analyze the causes and assess the influence of seventeenth to nineteenth century political revolutions in England, North America, and France on individuals, governing bodies, church-state relations, and diplomacy.

6.06 Trace the development of internal conflicts due to differences in religion, race, culture, and group loyalties in various areas of the world.

Severe economic and social crises plagued Europe in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The Holy Roman Empire was devastated, and France emerged as the dominant nation in Europe. Conflicts between the kings of England and its parliament led to a civil war, an execution of a king, and a revolution. From such crises, constitutional monarchy emerged.

Crises in Europe

MAIN IDEA Population decline in Europe and the hysteria of witchcraft trials contributed to economic and social problems in seventeenth-century Europe.

HISTORY & YOU What if the number of students in your school declined by half this year? Learn how Europeans responded to economic and social problems.

From 1560 to 1650, Europe witnessed severe economic and social crises. One major economic problem was **inflation**, or rising prices. A growing population in the sixteenth century increased the demand for land and food and drove up prices for both.

Economic and Social Crises

By 1600, an economic slowdown had begun in parts of Europe. Spain's economy, grown dependent on imported silver, was failing by the 1640s. The mines were producing less silver. Fleets were subject to pirate attacks. Also, the loss of Muslim and Jewish artisans and merchants hurt the economy. Italy, the financial center of Europe in the Renaissance, was also declining economically.

Population figures in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries reveal Europe's worsening conditions. Population grew in the sixteenth century. The number of people probably increased from 60 million in 1500 to 85 million by 1600. By 1620, the population had leveled off. It had begun to decline by 1650, especially in central and southern Europe. Warfare, plague, and famine all contributed to the population decline and to the creation of social tensions.

The Witchcraft Trials

A belief in **witchcraft**, or magic, had been part of traditional village culture for centuries. The religious zeal that led to the Inquisition and the hunt for heretics was extended to concern about witchcraft. During the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, an intense hysteria affected the lives of many Europeans. Perhaps more than a hundred thousand people were charged with witchcraft. As more and more people were brought to trial, the fear of witches

Witchcraft Hysteria

The *Malleus Maleficarum*, or the *Hammer of the Witches*, of 1486 was a guide for prosecuting witches during the Inquisition. It influenced witch trials in Europe for more than 200 years. Here are some excerpts:

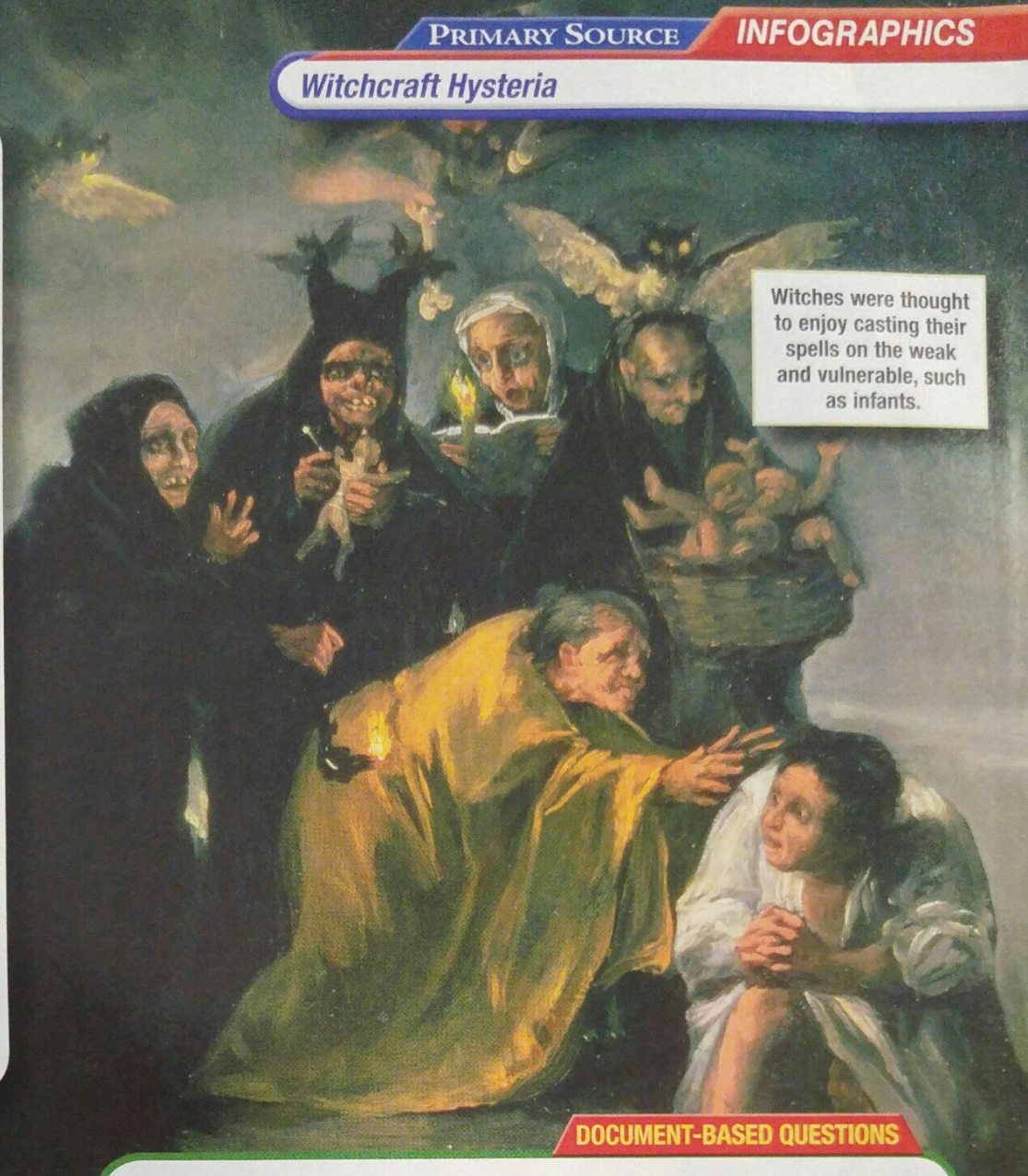
On the classification of witches:

"The category in which women of this sort are to be ranked is called the category of Pythons, persons in or by whom the devil either speaks or performs some astonishing operation. . . ."

On extracting a confession:

"The method of beginning an examination by torture is as follows: The jailers . . . strip the prisoner. This stripping is lest some means of witchcraft may have been sewed into the clothing—such as often, taught by the Devil, they prepare from the bodies of unbaptized [murdered] infants . . . the judge . . . tries to persuade the prisoner to confess the truth freely; but, if [the witch] will not confess, he bids attendants make the prisoner fast to . . . some . . . implement of torture."

Witches were thought to enjoy casting their spells on the weak and vulnerable, such as infants.



DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTIONS

This painting is entitled *Witches' Sabbath: The Conjurers* by Francisco de Goya (1746–1828).

1. **Describing** According to the excerpts, whom do witches serve?
2. **Comparing** Describe similarities between witchcraft trials and the Inquisition.

grew, as did the fear of being accused of witchcraft.

Common people—usually the poor and those without property—were the ones most often accused of witchcraft. More than 75 percent of those accused were women. Most of them were single or widowed and over 50 years old.

Under intense torture, accused witches usually confessed to a number of practices. For instance, many said that they had sworn allegiance to the devil and attended sabbats, nightly gatherings where they

feasted and danced. Then others admitted to casting evil spells.

By 1650, the witchcraft hysteria had begun to lessen. As governments grew stronger, fewer officials were willing to disrupt their societies with trials of witches. In addition, attitudes were changing. People found it unreasonable to believe in the old view of a world haunted by evil spirits.

✓ Reading Check **Explaining** What caused a decline in witchcraft trials?

The Thirty Years' War

MAIN IDEA Started over religious conflicts, the Thirty Years' War was sustained by political conflicts.

HISTORY & YOU What if fierce arguments destroyed your best friendship? Learn what caused thirty years of warfare.

Religious disputes continued in Germany after the Peace of Augsburg in 1555. One reason for the disputes was that the peace settlement had not recognized Calvinism. By the 1600s, Calvinism had spread through Europe.

Causes of the War

Religion played an important role in the outbreak of the Thirty Years' War, called the "last of the religious wars." However, political and territorial motives were also evident. Beginning in 1618 in the **Holy Roman Empire**, the war first involved the struggle between Catholic forces, led by the Hapsburg Holy Roman emperors, and Protestant (primarily Calvinist) nobles in

Bohemia. As Denmark, Sweden, France, and Spain entered the war, the conflict became more political. Especially important was the struggle between France and Spain and the Holy Roman Empire for European leadership.

Effects of the War

All major European powers except England became involved in the Thirty Years' War. For 30 years Germany was plundered and destroyed. The Peace of Westphalia officially ended the war in Germany in 1648.

The Peace of Westphalia divided the more than three hundred states of the Holy Roman Empire into independent states and gave them power to determine their own religion and to conduct their own foreign policy. This brought an end to the Holy Roman Empire as a political entity. Germany would not be united for another two hundred years.

✓ Reading Check **Summarizing** What three major powers struggled for European leadership during the Thirty Years' War?

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

EUROPE AFTER THE PEACE OF WESTPHALIA, 1648



Geography SKILLS

1. **Regions** Compare this map to the map on page 455. Describe the effects of the Thirty Years' War on the Holy Roman Empire.
2. **Movement** Research what led France to become involved in the Thirty Years' War.

Revolutions in England

MAIN IDEA

Civil war raged over what roles the king and Parliament should have in governing England.

HISTORY & YOU

What if your class had to decide who should be the leader of an important school project? Learn how the struggle for power in England was resolved.

In addition to the Thirty Years' War, a series of rebellions and civil wars rocked Europe in the seventeenth century. By far the most famous struggle was the civil war in England known as the English Revolution. At its core was a struggle between king and Parliament to determine what role each should play in governing England. It would take another revolution later in the century to finally resolve this struggle.

The Stuarts and Divine Right

With the death of Queen Elizabeth I in 1603, the Tudor dynasty came to an end. The Stuart line of rulers began with the accession to the throne of Elizabeth's cousin, the king of Scotland, who became **James I** of England.

James believed that he received his power from God and was responsible only to God. This is called the **divine right of kings**. Parliament did not think much of the divine right of kings. It had come to assume that the king or queen and Parliament ruled England together.

Religion was an issue as well. The **Puritans** (Protestants in England inspired by Calvinist ideas) did not like the king's strong defense of the Church of England. While members of the Church of England, the Puritans wished to make the church more Protestant. Many of England's gentry, mostly well-to-do landowners, had become Puritans. The Puritan gentry formed an important part of the House of Commons, the lower house of Parliament. It was not wise to alienate them.

The conflict that began during the reign of James came to a head during the reign of his son, **Charles I**. Charles also believed in the divine right of kings. In 1628, Parliament passed a petition that

prohibited the passing of any taxes without Parliament's consent. Although Charles I initially accepted this petition, he later changed his mind. Charles realized that the petition would put limits on the king's power.

Charles also tried to impose more ritual on the Church of England. When he tried to force Puritans to accept this policy, thousands chose to go to America. Thus the religious struggles of the Reformation in England influenced American history.

Civil War and Commonwealth

Complaints grew until England slipped into a civil war in 1642 between the supporters of the king (the **Cavaliers** or Royalists) and the parliamentary forces (called the **Roundheads** because of their short hair). Parliament proved victorious, due largely to the New Model Army of **Oliver Cromwell**, a military genius.

The New Model Army was made up chiefly of more extreme Puritans, known as the Independents. These men believed they were doing battle for God. As Cromwell wrote, "This is none other but the hand of God; and to Him alone belongs the glory." Some credit is due to Cromwell. His soldiers were well disciplined and trained in the new military tactics of the seventeenth century.

The victorious New Model Army lost no time in taking control. Cromwell purged Parliament of any members who had not supported him. What was left—the so-called Rump Parliament—had Charles I executed on January 30, 1649. The execution of the king horrified much of Europe. Parliament next abolished the monarchy and the House of Lords and declared England a republic, or **commonwealth**.

Cromwell found it difficult to work with the Rump Parliament and finally dispersed it by force. As the members of Parliament departed, he shouted, "It is you that have forced me to do this, for I have sought the Lord night and day that He would slay me rather than put upon me the doing of this work." After destroying the roles of both king and Parliament, Cromwell set up a military dictatorship.

The Restoration

Cromwell ruled until his death in 1658. George Monk, one of Cromwell's leading generals, realized that under any of Cromwell's successors the country would be torn apart. With his army, Monk created a situation favorable to restoring the monarchy in the person of Charles II, the son of Charles I. Charles II had lived years of exile during Cromwell's rule. With the return of the monarchy in 1660, England's time of troubles seemed at an end.

After the **restoration** of the Stuart monarchy, known as the Restoration period, Parliament kept much of the power it had gained earlier and continued to play an important role. One of its actions was to pass laws restoring the Church of England as the state religion and restricting some rights of Catholics and Puritans.

Resisting attempts by his mother and sister to **convert** to Catholicism, Charles II remained openly loyal to the Protestant faith. He was, however, sympathetic to Catholicism. Parliament was suspicious

about his Catholic leanings, especially when Charles suspended the laws that Parliament had passed against Catholics and Puritans. Parliament forced the king to back down on his action.

Charles's brother James did not hide the fact that he was a Catholic. Complying with his brother's wishes, James agreed to raise his two daughters in the Protestant faith. Rather than take an anti-Catholic oath, James resigned from all of his offices. His second marriage to a Catholic gave Parliament even more concern.


When Charles died, leaving no heirs to the throne, **James II** became king in 1685. James was an open and devout Catholic. Religion was once more a cause of conflict between king and Parliament. James named Catholics to high positions in the government, army, navy, and universities.

Parliament objected to James's policies but stopped short of rebellion. Members knew that James was an old man. His Protestant daughters Mary and Anne, born to his first wife, would succeed him.

PEOPLE *in* HISTORY

Charles I

1600–1649 King of England



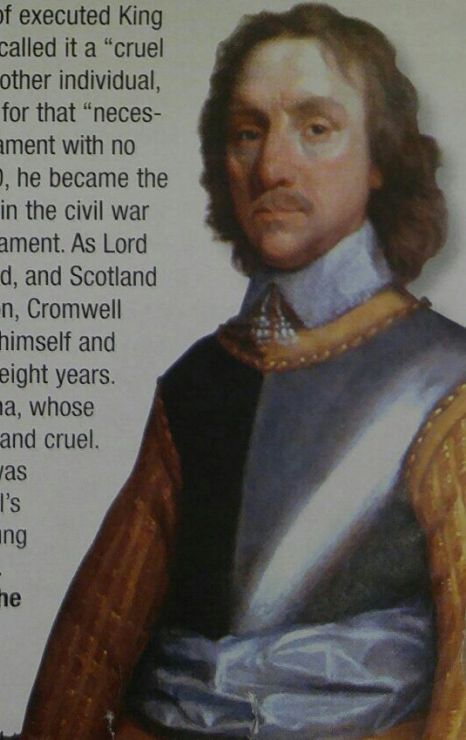
"Hurt not the ax, that may hurt me," the condemned man on the scaffold told the executioner, pleading for a quick, painless death. The condemned man was Charles I, King of England. As he spoke the final words of his reign and his life, he asked those gathered to witness his beheading to remember him as "an honest man and a good king." After a reign of 24 years, during which he frequently clashed with Parliament, his forces were defeated and he was condemned to death.

With his death on January 30, 1649, Parliament sent the world a message about the "divine right" of kings.

How did King Charles I want to be remembered after his death?

Oliver Cromwell

1599–1658 English Revolutionary



After visiting the coffin of executed King Charles I, Oliver Cromwell called it a "cruel necessity." More than any other individual, Cromwell was responsible for that "necessity." As a member of Parliament with no military experience in 1640, he became the most capable commander in the civil war between the king and Parliament. As Lord Protector of England, Ireland, and Scotland following Charles' execution, Cromwell quarreled with Parliament himself and ruled largely without it for eight years. History rates him an enigma, whose rule was both enlightened and cruel. Soon after the monarchy was restored in 1660, Cromwell's body was exhumed and hung in London's Tyburn Square.

What did Cromwell call the death of King Charles I?

However, in 1688, James and his second wife, a Catholic, had a son. Now, the possibility of a Catholic monarchy loomed large.

A Glorious Revolution

A group of English nobles invited the Dutch leader, William of Orange, to invade England. In their invitation, the nobles informed William that most people throughout the kingdom wanted a change. The invitation put William and his wife Mary, the daughter of James II, in a difficult position. Based on Mary's relationship to James, it would be appalling to rise up against her father, the king of England. However, William, a foe of France's Catholic king Louis XIV, welcomed this opportunity to fight France with England's resources.

William began making preparations to invade England in early 1688. He made his plans as secretly as possible and thus kept them largely hidden from James. Not until early October did James realize William's intentions. In November 1688, William's forces landed at Torbay and began their march toward London. James responded by sending forward his army. Following the desertion of many of his soldiers and the defection of his daughter Anne and her husband, James retreated to London. There he made plans for his wife and son to flee to France where James later joined them.

With almost no bloodshed, England had undergone a "Glorious Revolution." The issue was not if there would be a monarchy but who would be monarch.

In January 1689, Parliament offered the throne to William and Mary. They accepted it, along with a Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights set forth Parliament's right to make laws and to levy taxes. It also stated that standing armies could be raised only with Parliament's consent. Under the Bill of Rights, it was impossible for kings to oppose or to do without Parliament. The rights of citizens to keep arms and have a jury trial were also confirmed. The Bill of Rights helped create a system of government based on the rule of law and a freely elected Parliament. This bill laid the foundation for a limited, or constitutional, monarchy.

Another important action of Parliament was the Toleration Act of 1689. This act granted Puritans, but not Catholics, the right of free public worship. Few English citizens, however, would ever again be persecuted for religion.

By deposing one king and establishing another, Parliament had destroyed the divine-right theory of kingship. William was, after all, king by the grace of Parliament, not by the grace of God. Parliament had asserted its right to be part of the English government.

✓ Reading Check Describing Trace the sequence of events that led to the English Bill of Rights.

SECTION



REVIEW

Vocabulary

1. **Explain** the significance of: inflation, witchcraft, Holy Roman Empire, Bohemia, James I, divine right of kings, Puritans, Charles I, Cavaliers, Roundheads, Oliver Cromwell, commonwealth, restoration, convert, James II.

Main Ideas

2. **Explain** what contributed to the economic and social problems of sixteenth-century Europe.
3. **Illustrate** the causes and effects of the Thirty Years' War by using a chart like the one below.

Thirty Years' War	
Cause	Effect

4. **Explain** why Oliver Cromwell first purged Parliament and then declared a military dictatorship.

Critical Thinking

5. **The BIG Idea Drawing Conclusions** Which nation emerged stronger after the Thirty Years' War? Did 30 years of fighting accomplish any of the original motives for waging the war?
6. **Distinguishing** What are the differences, if any, between a military dictatorship and a king ruling by "divine right"?
7. **Analyzing Visuals** Examine the painting on page 459. How does Goya portray the witches? What details in the painting indicate that witches were feared?

Writing About History

8. **Expository Writing** Write an essay on why population increased and decreased in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century England. Include a population graph.

History ONLINE

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