


# Topics

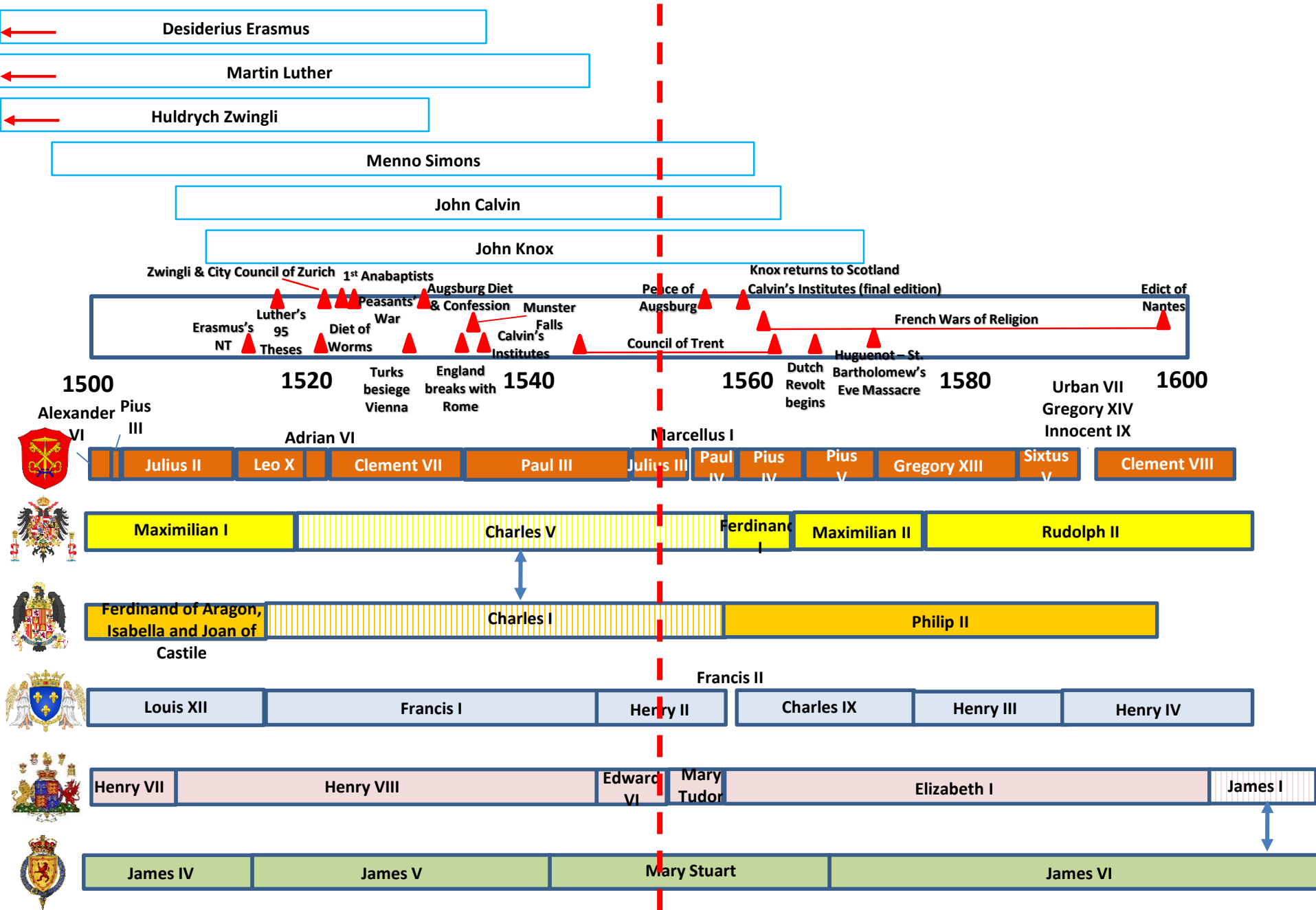
- Introduction & Context for the Reformation
- Desiderius Erasmus and the Humanists
- Martin Luther & Germany
- Huldrych Zwingli & Switzerland
- Reformation Radicals
- John Calvin & Geneva
- The Reformation in England
- The Reformation in Scotland
- Roman Catholicism during the Reformation
-  Completing the Story – the Second Half of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century
- Results of the Protestant Reformation

[www.rpchurchmanassas.org/drupal/ReformationChurchHistory](http://www.rpchurchmanassas.org/drupal/ReformationChurchHistory)

# Overview

- Holy Roman Empire (Germany)
- France
- The Low Countries
- Summary

# Reformation Timeline 1500 - 1600



# The Holy Roman Empire to 1555

- 1530 - Diet at Augsburg results in Charles V's deadline for Lutheran states to convert to Catholicism
- 1531 – Formation of the Schmalkaldic League
- 1530's – Charles V distracted and unable to enforce Diet at Augsburg deadline
- 1541 – Regensburg Colloquy fails to reconcile Lutheranism and Catholicism
- 1544 – Treaty of Crepy between Charles V and Francis I
- 1546 – Martin Luther dies
- 1546 – Schmalkaldic War
  - Decisive victory for Charles V at the Battle of Mühlberg
  - Charles still unable to re-impose Catholicism on defeated League members
- 1548 – The Augsburg Interim grants Lutherans minor concessions (e.g., married clergy)
- 1552 – Counteroffensive by the League succeeds in achieving a truce
- 1555 – Peace of Augsburg
  - Leader determines the religion (Catholic or Lutheran) in their territory
  - Individuals conform or move



Philip  
Melanchthon



Fernando, Duke of  
Alba



Johann, Elector of Saxony

*“Oh God we do not desire new contentions and discord. We pray only that the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us and rose from the grave, will guide us, that all of us who are in many churches and many communions may be one church and one communion and one in Him”*

– Philip Melanchthon

*Cuius regio, eius religio – Whose realm, his the religion*

# The Holy Roman Empire

1555 - 1600

## LUTHERANS

- Theological dispute after Luther's death
  - Philipists – Followed Melanchthon's drift toward Erasmus (free will and works) and Calvin (the Eucharist)
  - Gnesio-Lutherans – "Genuine" Lutherans, adhered to Luther's position on free-will and the Eucharist
  - Resolved with the Gnesio-leaning Formula of Concord (1577-1580)



## CALVINISTS

*"Q. What is your only comfort in life and in death?"*

*A. That I am not my own, but belong body and soul, in life and in death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ."* - Heidelberg Catechism

- Begin appearing in the HRE in the 1560's
  - Top down phenomenon – Prince converts then converts subjects
  - Resented (technically illegal), but tolerated by Lutheran Princes
  - The Palatinate is the strongest Calvinist state
    - ❑ Heidelberg Catechism - 1563

## CATHOLICS

- Hit low point ~1550 – Priest shortage, many Protestant conversions
- Revival from 1550's – 1580's
  - Jesuit German College in Rome and colleges throughout HRE provide better priests
  - Bavaria becomes a model Catholic state
  - Revival includes converting back some Lutheran states



German College in Rome

# France to 1562



John Calvin (d. 1564)

- A significant “underground” Protestantism takes root in France before Calvin
- Calvin leaves France – 1535 and ends up in Geneva
- Calvinism spreads to France (especially in the south) from Geneva.
- Steady growth in Calvinist influence extends into French professionals and nobility
- French Calvinists labelled as “Huguenots” and represent an estimated 10% of the population of France



King Francis I (r. 1515-1547)

- Relatively tolerant of “underground” Protestantism
- The Affair of the Placards in 1534 turns Francis more actively against Protestantism
- Imposes legislation to combat heresy including prohibition of imported Calvinist books
- Ongoing conflict with the HRE distracts Francis from full focus on addressing Protestantism



King Henry II (r. 1547-1559)

- Initiates more active anti-Protestant actions
- The Chambre Ardente becomes energized in attacking heresy
- Edict of Chateaubriant – 1551 directs punishment of heretics, limits Protestant occupations, property, and publications
- Edict of Compiegne – 1557 establishes death penalty for relapsed and obstinate heretics

*“Since it pleases God to employ you to the death in maintaining His quarrel, He will strengthen your hand in the fight and will not suffer a single drop of your blood to be spent in vain.” – John Calvin, letter to five imprisoned Huguenots awaiting death in France.*

# France – The Wars of Religion

- French Wars of Religion (1562-1598)
  - Initiated by massacre of Huguenots in Vassy
  - Adversaries
    - ❑ Strongly Catholic French Nobility
    - ❑ Growing and determined Calvinists
  - Death estimates **2 – 4 million**
  - Ultimate Result – Edict of Nantes (1598)
    - ❑ Protestant “state within state” with limited rights and privileges



- The Participants
  - House of Valois – “moderate” Catholics
  - House of Bourbon – mix Catholics & Calvinists
  - House of Guise and the Catholic League – extreme Catholics
  - Calvinist Huguenots

## THE ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S DAY MASSACRE - 1572

- Wedding in Paris
  - Marguerite of Valois to Henry of Navarre (Bourbon) partially aimed at reducing religious violence
  - Huguenot leaders attend
- Huguenot leader wounded by a shot out of a Guise building
- King & mom promise justice but fear Huguenot backlash
- Royal Council decides to preempt Huguenot backlash by killing dozens of Huguenot leaders



- Violence spreads
  - 2000 (more?) Huguenots slaughtered in Paris
  - Thousands, ten thousands, a hundred thousand(?) Huguenots slaughtered throughout France
- Effects on French Huguenots
  - Some return to Catholicism
  - Some flee
  - Those who remain are more determined and bitter
    - ❑ Emergence of Calvinist writings justifying resistance

# France

## THE THREE HENRYS – 1584 - 1598



**King Henry III**

- Childless Valois King



**Henry of Navarre**

- Huguenot Bourbon heir to the throne



**Henry Duke of Guise**

- Staunch Catholic

- Henry III has no children and his brother dies leaving Henry of Navarre (a Huguenot) as the hereditary heir
  - House of Guise and the Catholic League push Charles (Uncle of Henry III) as alternate
- 1588 – Guise and the Catholic League force Henry III out of Paris
- Henry III allies with Henry of Navarre and has **Henry of Guise assassinated**
- **1589 – Henry III assassinated (revenge!)**
- Catholic League prevents Henry of Navarre (new King) from entering Paris
- 1593 – 1594 – **Henry of Navarre converts to Catholicism, enters Paris as King Henry IV**
  - “Paris is worth a mass”
- 1598 – Edict of Nantes ends French Wars of Religion
  - Catholicism is official religion of France (and can be practiced in Huguenot towns)
  - Huguenots can worship on their nobles’ estates and villages controlled as of 1597
  - Huguenots granted right to education, holding office, access to previously restricted occupations, and to maintain a military



# The Netherlands



**Philip II of Spain**  
Catholic Spanish  
Habsburg

- Explosive growth in Calvinism results in an iconoclastic fury in 1566
- Philip II of Spain retaliates
  - Occupation (and taxes to support occupying army)
  - Council of Troubles (or of Blood) – 9000 lose property, 1100 their lives
  - Many Calvinists flee or convert
- 1568 – 1571 Resistance led by William of Orange including Calvinists and disgruntled Dutch Catholics
- 1572 – 1573 Calvinist Pirates (Sea Beggars) and William of Orange take control of most of the Netherlands
  - Constant stress between William and the Sea Beggars over treatment of Catholics
- 1576 – The “Spanish Fury” in Antwerp increases anti-Spanish sentiment across religious lines
- Late 1570’s-1580s – Break-up of anti-Spanish coalition and recovery of Spanish position in southern Netherlands results in split
  - Calvinist north (later Holland)
  - Catholic south (later Belgium and Luxembourg)



**William of Orange** (aka  
William the Silent)  
Dutch Nationalist,  
Moderate, turned  
Calvinist in 1573,  
Assassinated 1584

# Summary

- Late 16<sup>th</sup> Century characterized by political and religious chaos and violence throughout western Europe
- “Settlement” of the Protestant vs. Catholic Issue varies by country
  - Holy Roman Empire & Switzerland – a mosaic of Catholic, Lutheran, and Calvinist states
  - England & Scotland – Protestant (Catholicism is underground and viewed with suspicion as the century closes)
  - France – Catholic with a tolerated Calvinist state within the state
  - The Netherlands – Ends the century split between a Calvinist state in the north (later Holland) and a Catholic state in the south (later Belgium and Luxembourg)
    - ☐ Private worship by Catholics and Mennonites tolerated in Calvinist Holland
  - Italy and Spain remain Catholic with little permanent or influential Protestant presence
- Protestantism divides into Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, and several smaller denominations