Crisis and Absolutism in Europe, 1550-1715

Chapter 14
Introduction

This unit is divided into four parts:
1. Europe in Crisis: The Wars of Religion
2. Social Crises, War, and Revolution
3. Response to Crisis: Absolutism
4. The World of European Culture
1. Europe in Crisis: The Wars of Religion

- **Key question:** *What motivated the religious and political conflicts between Catholics and Protestants?*
- **Main idea:** *European countries gained and lost power as a result of religious and political conflict.*
Europe in Crisis: The Wars of Religion

- Main idea: Catholicism and Calvinism were engaged in violent conflicts.
- These conflicts were present in four countries: Spain, the Netherlands, England, and France.
The French Wars of Religion

- 1562 to 1598
- Religion main cause of war
- Catholicism vs. Calvinism (Huguenots)
- The **Huguenots** were French Protestants influenced by John Calvin
- The Huguenots were opposed by the “ultra-Catholics.”
Huguenots

- HYOO-guh-NAWTS
- French Protestants influenced by John Calvin.
- 7% of total French population
- 40 – 50% of French nobility became Huguenots
Henry of Navarre

- Political leader of the Huguenots
- 1589 – became King Henry IV
- War ended when Henry IV came to the throne
- Converted to Catholicism so he would be accepted by the majority of Catholic France
- Henry passed the Edict of Nantes (1598,) which made Catholicism the official religion of France and allowed Protestants certain religious freedoms.
Spain: Militant Catholicism

- **King Philip II**: ruled Spain from 1556-1598
- He wanted to combine his territory into one nation (Spain, the Netherlands, parts of Italy and the Americas)
- He insisted that citizens be Catholic, and he pushed for strong monarchial authority
Spain’s militant Catholicism

- Philip II is known as the “most Catholic king”
- Married Mary I of England
- He got Spain involved in battles with the Turks and other groups over religion.
- One country that Spain began to disagree with was the Netherlands.
Resistance from the Netherlands

- During this time, Spain controlled parts of what is the present-day Netherlands and Belgium
- Dutch people did not like Philip II because he:
  1. Tried to get more control of the region.
  2. Tried to crush Calvinism
Resistance from the Netherlands

- The leader of the people who opposed Philip II was **William the Silent**
- The struggle between Philip II (the Spanish) and William (the Dutch) lasted until 1609.
- The areas under William’s control became the core of the modern-day Netherlands
Protestantism in England

- **Elizabeth Tudor**: became queen of England in 1558.
- Took throne after her half-sister, Mary (Bloody Mary)
- Elizabeth had to fix a lot of problems that Mary had caused.
- Stabilized nation
- Died without an heir
Spain & England’s ties

The English Succession to 1603

TUDORS

Ferdinand = Isabella of Aragon
Catherine (1) = Henry VIII (1509–1547)
Joanna
Emperor Charles V (Holy Roman Empire, King of Spain)
Philip II = Mary I (1553–1558)

STUARTS

Henry VII (1485–1509)* = Elizabeth of York
(2) Anne Boleyn
(3) Jane Seymour
Edward VI (1547–1553)
Margaret = James IV of Scotland
James V
Francis II (1) = Mary = (2) Lord Darnley
James VI I and I (King of Scotland from 1567) (1603–1625)

*Indicates dates of reign
Protestantism in England

- Queen Elizabeth was Protestant, but moderate in her religion.
- She tried to keep peace between France and Spain (if one began getting too strong, she supported the other)
- Did not want to go to war with Spain, but could not avoid it
Defeat of the Spanish Armada
1588

- King Philip II of Spain ordered an armada (fleet of warships) to invade England.
- The fleet was not strong enough to take on this endeavor
- Spain was not strong enough to overthrow England and sailed back to Spain
  - Pounded by storms, ended in disaster
  - Many of the Spanish ships sank
- See page 432 for map
Defeat of the Spanish Armada

- English ships were smaller and faster
- Remaining Spanish ships got stuck in storms
- In 1598, Philip II’s reign ended:
  - Spain was bankrupt!
  - Spain was replaced by France and England as a world power.
1. How many ships were in the Spanish Armada?
   - England: 130
   - Spain: about 1900

2. How many cannons did the English have?
   - England: 100 cannons
   - Spain: 40 cannons

3. Which side had more cannons? What does that tell you about the number of cannons carried by each ship?
   - England had more cannons per ship than did Spain.
2. Social Crises, War, and Revolution

- Key question: *What effects could have resulted from social, economic, and religious conflicts had on European countries?*

- This part of the unit will discuss uprisings throughout Europe
Economic and social crises

- Europe suffered from **inflation** (rising prices) from 1560-1650
- Spain’s economy was slowing down because they weren’t finding as much silver
- Population began to decrease
- Warfare, plague, and famine all contributed to the population decline
The Thirty Years’ War

- “the last of the religious wars.”
- Began 1618 in Holy Roman Empire - Germany/Netherlands
- Conflict between Catholics and Protestants (originally)
- Denmark, Sweden, France, and Spain got involved
- *England was the only European power not involved
The Thirty Years’ War

- As Denmark, Sweden, France, and Spain got involved, it became more political.
- They all wanted to be the strongest nation in Europe.
Effects of the War

- Settled by the Peace of Westphalia
- More than 300 states that were formerly part of the Holy Roman Empire became independent
- Calvinism was not recognized by the peace settlement

Religious disputes continued in Germany after the Peace of Augsburg in 1555. By 1660s, Calvinism had spread to many parts of Europe.
Revolutions in England

- The English Revolution was going on at the same time as the Thirty Years’ War.
- Issue: What roles would the king and Parliament have in the English government?
The Stuarts and the Divine Right

- Queen Elizabeth died in 1603, ending the Tudor dynasty
- The next line of rulers is known as The Stuarts.
- The first Stuart ruler was James I, Elizabeth’s cousin who had been King of Scotland
The Stuarts and the Divine Right

- **James I** (1603 – 1625) believed his power came from God and that he was responsible only to God.
- This idea is called the **divine right of kings**.
- **Puritans**: Calvinist-Protestants in England
- They did not like James’ strong defense of the Church of England
- Had Bible translated from Latin into English – King James version
The Stuarts and the Divine Right

- The conflict about religion lasted into the reign of his son, Charles I (1625 – 1649).
- He also believed in the divine right.
- Some Puritans got mad and decided to leave... “Pilgrims”
Civil war and Commonwealth

- Civil war starts in 1642
- Supporters of the king: **Cavaliers**
- Parliamentary forces: **Roundheads**
- Parliamentary forces win under the leadership of **Oliver Cromwell**
- Watch Oliver Cromwell video
Civil war and Commonwealth

- Cromwell was put in charge. He:
  2. Had **Charles I** executed.
  3. Declared England a commonwealth (republic)
- Cromwell becomes Lord Protector
Civil war and commonwealth

- Cromwell could not get along with his Parliament, so he kicked them out.
- Set up a military dictatorship.
- Exiled Catholics to Ireland
- Strict Puritan laws passed – theaters closed, Sunday set aside for worship, no lewd dancing, taverms or gambling
England – Charles II
The Restoration
1660 - 1685

- Charles II - Popular ruler
- Monarchy restored – Hence: Restoration
- Bowed to the wishes of Parliament
- Restored the Church of England
- Stabilized government
England – William and Mary

English Bill of Rights

1689

- William and Mary were given the throne after the English Bill of Rights was passed.
- Guaranteed supremacy of Parliament over the monarchy.
- Parliament had to meet on a regular basis
- Monarchy could neither make nor suspend laws
- Trial by jury reinstated.
- Abolished fines and cruel and unusual punishment.
- Affirmed “writ of habeas corpus” – no person can be held in prison without first being charged with a specific crime. Due process of laws.
- Laid groundwork for American system of laws.
Crisis and Absolutism in Europe (1550–1715)

The English Bill of Rights

A king cannot suspend any laws without the consent of Parliament.

A king needs the approval of Parliament to raise taxes and maintain an army.

This bill guarantees the right of trial by jury for anyone accused of a crime.

A king is required to call frequent Parliamentary sessions for amending, strengthening, and preserving the laws.

These are the true, ancient, indubitable rights and liberties of the people of England.
Toleration Act of 1689

Act granted Puritans, but not Catholics, the right of free public worship. Few English citizens, however, would ever again be persecuted for their religion.

DIVINE RIGHT OF KINGS – 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 the grace of God.”
3. Response to Crises: Absolutism

- Key question: *What effect would the exercise of absolute power have on a nation?*

- This section will discuss how absolute rulers in Europe built powerful nations and empires.
Response to Crisis: Absolutism

- Monarchs needed to increase stability
- What they did is known as **absolutism**
- **Absolutism**: “a system in which a ruler holds total power.”
Leading up to Louis XIV

- Louis XIII came to the throne when he was a child. (*oldest son of Henry IV)
- **Cardinal Richelieu** basically ran France until Louis XIII was old enough
- Richelieu strengthened monarchy by taking away Huguenots’ political and military rights.
Louis XIV Comes to Power

- **Louis XIV** is viewed as the best example of absolutism in the 17th century.
- He was the son of Louis XIII
- Officially became king at 4 years old
- **Cardinal Mazarin** ran France until Louis was old enough.
Louis Comes to Power

- Louis XIV officially became king in 1643, but didn’t take over power until 1661.
- Known for his love of fun…and for having affairs with his maids.
Government under Louis XIV

- Established the royal court at Versailles
- Biggest threat to his rule came from nobles who wanted more power.
- Louis kicked them out of the royal council.
- He forced them to stay busy in court life.
France – Louis XIV
Versailles

Hall of Mirrors
Government under Louis XIV

- Louis demanded the nobles obey his every wish.
- He didn’t share his authority with them.
- He had complete power over: foreign policy, religion, and taxes.
Religion under Louis XIV

- He wanted religious harmony, so he revoked the Edict of Nantes (tried to convert Huguenots to Catholicism).
- He ordered the destruction of Huguenot churches and schools.
- Around 200,000 Huguenots fled to England, Germany, and the Netherlands.
The Economy and War

- Louis spent lots of money building palaces and pursuing wars.
- In order to increase wealth and power, France followed *mercantilism*.
- They built roads and canals, and raised taxes on foreign goods in order to help French business.
The Economy and War

- He developed a standing army of 400,000.
- Louis waged 4 wars between 1667 and 1713.
- He wanted to expand his influence throughout Europe.
Legacy of Louis XIV

- He died in 1715.
- Left France in debt and surrounded by enemies.
- His successor was his great-grandson.
- Louis advised his successor to not overspend and to try and be at peace with his neighbors.
Absolutism in Central and Eastern Europe

Main idea: Prussia and Austria emerged as great European powers in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
Prussia and Austria

- Prussia: a small territory with no natural frontiers for defense.
- Frederick William built a large and efficient army.
- 1701: his son, Frederick, officially became king.
The Hapsburgs and Austria

- Had long served as emperors in the Holy Roman Empire
- 17th Century: lost the German empire
- Austria defeated the Turks in 1683 and took control of Hungary, Transylvania, Croatia and Slavonia
Ivan IV Russia

- Ivan IV: first Russian ruler to take the title of **czar**, or Caesar.
- Also called “Ivan the Terrible” because he was ruthless.
- When his dynasty ended, The Romanov Dynasty began.
Peter the Great Russia

- Peter: most prominent member of the Romanov family
- He wanted to borrow European technology to modernize the military.
- Won a war against Sweden and built St. Petersburg.
4. The World of European Culture

- Key question: *How might art, literature, and philosophy be influenced by the turbulence of the time period?*
- This section will discuss how artists expressed identification with, or reaction to, the issues of the culture.
Art after the Renaissance

- European art in the 17th century was largely focused on religion.
Mannerism

- **Mannerism**: the artistic movement that appeared after the Renaissance.
- It ignored principles of balance, harmony, and moderation
- **El Greco**: seen as the greatest painter of the mannerism period.
The Baroque Period

- Mannerism was replaced by the **baroque** movement
- Started in Italy and moved through Europe and to Latin America.
- Connected the ideals of the Renaissance and the religious tones of Mannerism.
The Baroque Period

- Greatest figure of the **Baroque Period**: **Gian Lorenzo Bernini**, Italian sculptor and architect.
- He completed Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome
Golden Age of Literature

- **Main idea**: Writers in both England and Spain produced classic dramas and comedies between 1580 and 1640.

- He is known as a writer, but he also acted and owned theaters.
- His writing showed understanding of the human condition.
Spain’s Cervantes and Vega

- **Miguel de Cervantes** wrote *Don Quixote*
- The book illustrates that visionary dreams and hard work of reality are necessary
Spanish playwright Lope de Vega

- **Lope de Vega** wrote nearly 1500 plays, 500 of which still exist today.
- He openly admitted that the only reason he wrote was to please the audience and to make money.
Political Thought

Main Idea: Thomas Hobbes and John Locke were two English philosophers during the Age of Absolutism.
Hobbes

- Was very concerned with the uprisings in England.
- Wrote *Leviathan*, which was about political philosophy
- Thought absolute power was necessary to preserve order.
John Locke

- Differed from Hobbes
- Wrote *Two Treatises of Government*
- Believed people had natural rights: life, liberty, and property
- Claimed people were obligated to revolt if the government was unfair