

# Chapter 15

## STATE BUILDING AND THE SEARCH FOR ORDER IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY



Objective(s):

1. Describe the historical explanations for why a witch-hunting craze began in the mid-sixteenth century and waned by the mid-seventeenth century.
2. Describe the causes and impacts of the Thirty Years' War.

FQ: What economic, social, and political crises did Europe experience in the first half of the seventeenth century.





# Historical Context

- Economic recession worsened due to imports of silver from the Americas declining. (1630s and 1640s)
- Europe's population continued to be impacted by war, famine, and plague.
- Protestant Reformation led to religious tension and warfare.



# The Witchcraft Craze

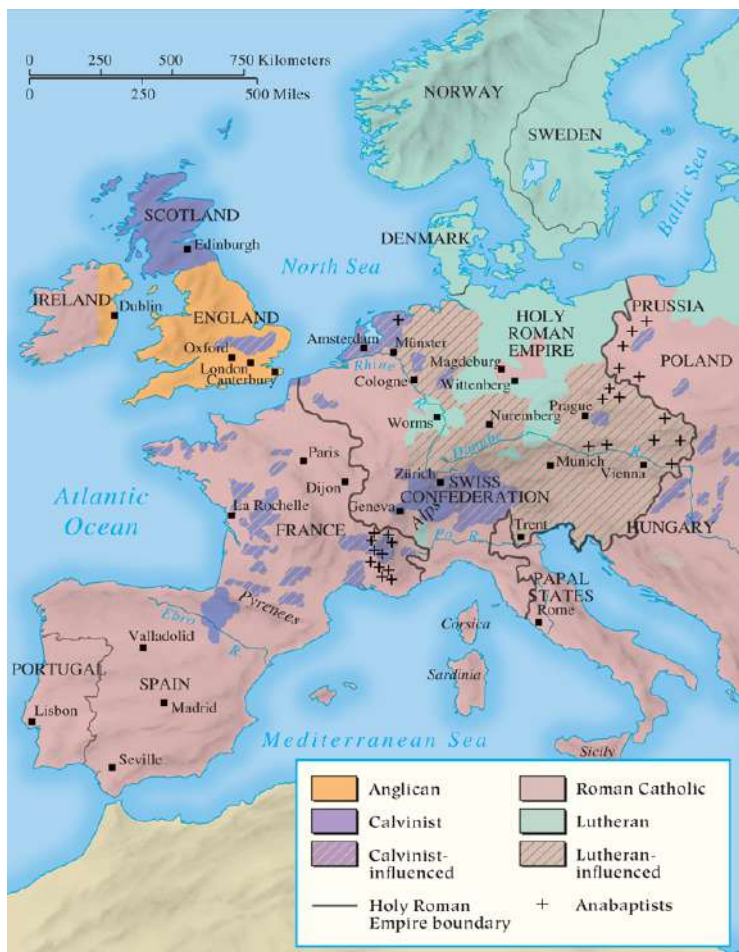


- Increased number of trials and executions of presumed witches during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.
- Contributing factors explaining the drastic increase include:
  1. Religious uncertainty between Protestants and Catholics.
  2. Social conditions – new economic priorities focused on oneself. Older women often used as scapegoats during economic downturns.

# Decline of Witchcraft



- Exhausted from religious warfare, Europeans began to lower religious passions and increase toleration in the mid-seventeenth century.
- By 1700, educated people began to question traditional attitudes toward religion.



**Compare the two maps above. Which countries engaged in the war were predominantly Protestant, which were predominantly Catholic, and which were mixed.**



# The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)



## *Background to the war*

- Catholicism v. Calvinism shifts to more secular, political conflict
- Bourbon Dynasty of France v. Habsburg dynasties of Spain and the Holy Roman Empire.
- Protestant Union (Frederick IV) v. Catholic League of German States (Duke Maximilian)

# The Bohemian Phase (1618-1625)

- Bohemian Protestant nobles rebelled against Ferdinand and his attempts to re-Catholicize Bohemia.
- Frederick V and the Bohemian nobles were defeated by Ferdinand and the Catholic League



**Ferdinand II**  
*Holy Roman  
Emperor*  
1619-1637

*King of Bohemia*  
1617-1619,  
1620-1637





# The Danish Phase (1625-1629)

- King Christian IV of Denmark, a Lutheran engaged on behalf of the Protestant cause.
- Christian IV made an anti-Habsburg and anti-Catholic alliance with the United Provinces of England.
- Protestants were eventually defeated ending Danish supremacy in the Baltic.
- Ferdinand II issued the Edict of Restitution in 1629. (prohibited Calvinist worship and restored all property taken by Protestants back to Catholics.



FERDINAND II,  
Counter-Reformation  
Emperor, 1578–1637

ROBERT BIRELEY



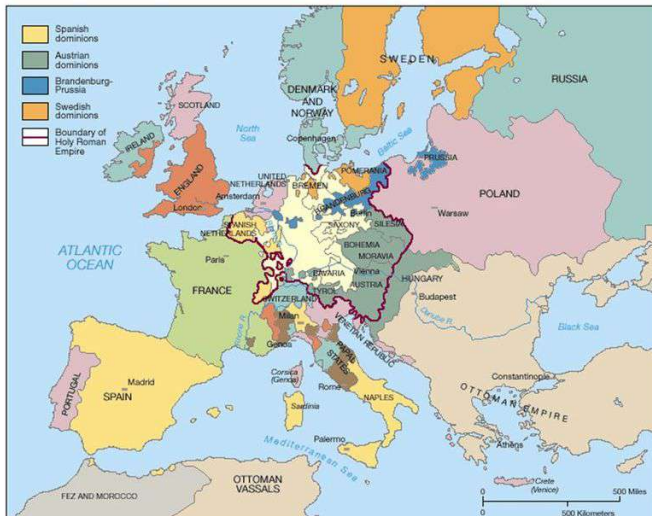
# The Swedish Phase (1630-1635)

- Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden (Lutheran) led his army into Germany.
- Ferdinand eventually defeated the Swedes and attempted to make peace by offering to annul the Edict of Restitution.



# The Franco-Swedish Phase (1635-1648)

- Religious issues were not as significant by this phase in the war.
- Catholic French supported Protestant Swedes against the Catholic Habsburgs of Germany and Spain.
- Five years of negotiations led to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648.




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# Outcomes of the war

- All German states, including the Calvinist ones, were free to determine their own religion.
- More than three hundred states that made up the Holy Roman Empire were recognized as independent.
- Religion and politics were now separate.
- Marked the beginning of a modern international order with sovereign states operating as equals in a secular framework.







