

HistoryAtOurHouse
Jr/Sr High - Homework Writing Assignment
Due Date: Monday, March 2 (2015)

ADDENDUM

The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)

Students have been tasked with writing a narrative of the *Reformation and Religious Wars* from 1517 to 1648. As part of this assignment, they have been instructed to use this event:

1648 - The Thirty Years' War comes to an end, with “*cuius regio, eius religio*” extended to include Calvinism

Although this was discussed in class, it has been pointed out to me that the event does *not* feature in the class notes, and thus students may be concerned about how to incorporate it. I apologize for this error. Here is how I want to address it...

First, the event is indispensable. One cannot understand the full historical significance of this era without understanding how *long and bloody* the feuding was between the different sects in Christianity. If we were to conceive of the period as ending in 1555, that would be grossly inadequate.

Of course, since the event is not featured in the *American* history class notes, students will feel that they don't know enough to write about it. I have therefore included some excerpted class notes from the European history class on this subject on the next page. This should suffice to give students the broad context, however, they should not make reference to the details of these purely *European* matters! The essential point in American history is the continuance of the religious wars until 1648, demonstrating the devastation caused by the inability of European Christians to *tolerate* religious differences.

—Mr. Powell

HistoryAtOurHouse European History Class Notes (Excerpt)

D. The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)

1. ...another independent-minded people long ago forced into the Empire like the Dutch were hoping to reject the authority of the Hapsburg emperor and the pope. The people of Bohemia (now known as the Czech Republic) were preparing a revolt.
2. ...
3. In 1618, the Calvinist lords of Bohemia signaled their intention to do just that. Having welcomed the Hapsburg emperor's ambassadors to the great castle of Prague, which sits atop a big hill, they “defenestrated” them (threw them out the window!) as a declaration of rebellion!
4. This “Defenestration of Prague” of 1618 triggered a Hapsburg declaration of war, thus beginning another religious war that would last thirty years, and eventually merge with the Eighty Years' War, both of which would end only in 1648.
5. By this time, the ongoing efforts of the Hapsburgs to destroy any non-Catholic form of Christianity had become a concern for any monarch in Europe who had become Lutheran or Calvinist. Thus the Lutheran king of Denmark entered the war to help fight the Hapsburgs, and was later joined by the king of Sweden.
6. ...
7. ...
8. ...
9. ...
10. France's financial aid to the Hapsburgs' enemies, and later, its direct participation in the war, tipped the balance in favor of the Protestant nations.

E. The Peace of Westphalia (1648)

1. In 1648, all the nations involved in the ... Thirty Years' War sent ambassadors to a peace conference where they redrew the map of Europe, in both a political and religious sense.
2. Importantly, the Peace of Westphalia saw the official recognition by the rulers of Europe of two new countries: Netherlands and Switzerland. (Both were mainly Calvinist.)
3. Within the Holy Roman Empire itself, the Peace of Westphalia extended the idea of “cuius regio, eius religio” to include Calvinism. (It was now legal for a German lord to be either Catholic, Lutheran, or Calvinist.)
4. Perhaps the most dramatic fact concerning the peace was that the pope had no role in it. He was deeply disturbed by it and denounced it, however his disapproval was basically ignored. Though the people of Europe remained Christian, even the Catholic countries no longer accepted the idea that the pope could command their rulers in matters not directly having to do with religion.