

## F. The Rise of Calvinism in Switzerland and France

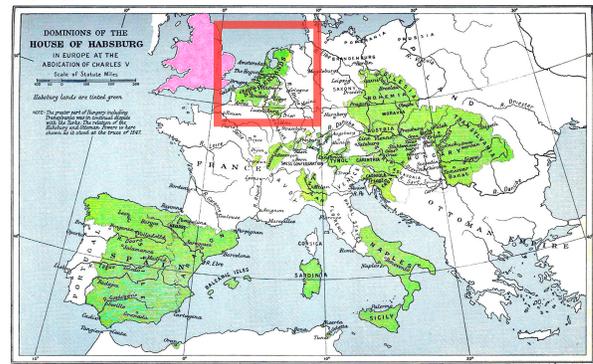
1. In 1534, the Lutherans of Paris put a poster against Catholics on the door of the king's bedchamber. This naturally scared the king, who ordered Lutherans persecuted.
2. A student of Lutheran beliefs, John Calvin, continued his religious studies in neighboring Switzerland, and he found that he disagreed not only with the pope, but with Martin Luther as well. He decided to create his own form of Christianity.
3. In 1536, Calvin published a book called the “*Institutes of the Christian Religion*,” which became the standard text of Calvinism.
4. From Geneva, which borders directly on France, Calvinist missionaries spread Calvinism into many places in France. (See map on the next page).

## G. France's Religious Civil War

1. When Calvinists tried to kidnap the king of France to force him to give official protection to Calvinists, the Catholic royal family began a civil war against them from 1562 until 1598.
2. Peace came when the new king of France Henry IV, who was a *Calvinist*, healed the division in the country.
3. Nobody thought that a French king could ever be anything but Catholic, so Henry converted to Catholicism.
4. However, to protect Calvinists, Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes in 1598, which made Calvinism a legal form of Christianity in France.

## H. The Netherlands and the Eighty Years' War (1568-1648)

1. Meanwhile, the Netherlands (located between France and Germany in northern Europe) had also been added to the Hapsburgs' lands by marriage.
2. Calvinism flowed down the Rhine river from Switzerland to Netherlands.
3. Alarmed by the spread of the Reformation to the Netherlands, the Hapsburgs tried to crush it, but only managed to spark a rebellion in 1568, which started an **eighty year** long struggle for independence from the Hapsburgs.



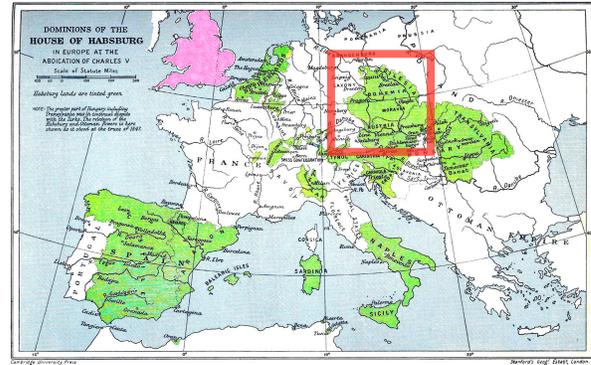
The Netherlands was part of the large array of Hapsburg lands that made up the “Hapsburg Sandwich.”

## I. The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)

1. On the other side of Germany, the people of Bohemia (now known as the Czech Republic) were also preparing a revolt.
2. Bohemia was one of seven powerful states in the Holy Roman Empire, whose rulers held the special privilege of electing German kings – whenever such an election was necessary. By 1618, three out of seven electors were no long Catholic. If just one more converted, Germany would get a non-Catholic king!
3. In 1618, the Calvinist lords of Bohemia signaled their intention to do just that when they “defenestrated” Hapsburg ambassadors (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, only ending in 1648.

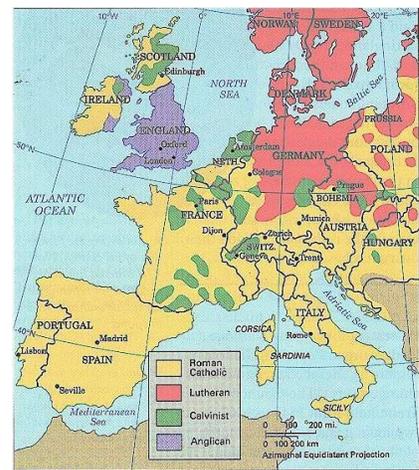
5. By this time, the Lutheran kings of Denmark and Sweden also feared Hapsburg aggression, so they joined in the war to prevent the Hapsburgs from destroying their fellow Lutherans.
6. At first, France did not enter the fight, but the “Hapsburg Sandwich” drove France to help the Lutherans and Calvinists even though France was Catholic.
7. France's help tipped the balance in favor of the survival of Calvinism and Lutheranism.



Bohemia (today the Czech Republic) was another major part of the large array of Hapsburg lands, but like the Netherlands, was a hotbed of Calvinism and rebellion.

### J. The Peace of Westphalia (1648)

1. In 1648, all the nations involved in the Eighty Years' War and Thirty Years' War sent ambassadors to a peace conference where they redrew the map of Europe, which now included two new countries: Netherlands and Switzerland. (Both were mainly Calvinist.)
2. 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.)
3. The pope was not consulted in the Peace of Westphalia. A new life was beginning where a single accepted form of Christianity could no longer be a way to unify Europe.



Lutheranism spread from Germany into northern Europe, whose kings viewed the long-running Hapsburg attempts to destroy Lutheranism in Germany as a threat to their own nations, and thus joined the **Thirty Years' War (1618-48)**.