From Renaissance Pluralism to 17th-c. Rationalism:
The “Wars of Religion” and the “Thirty Years’ War”

Week 9 – Lecture 1
2 November 2004

16th century second half:
Luther d. 1546
Loyola d. 1556
Calvin d. 1564
1555 --- Peace of Augsburg
1559 --- Elizabeth I: head Church of England
1598 --- Edict of Nantes
1603 --- Elizabeth I dies

17th century first half:
1618-1648: Thirty Years’ War
1648 --- Peace of Westphalia

Modernity: 17th-c. “Scientific Revolution”
• Old story:
  – superstitious darkness → “light” of science
• Religion: war and intolerance
  – darkness, prejudice, superstition
• Science: peace and tolerance
  – light, reason, secularism

New Story: scientific “modernity” is a traumatic act of repression:
repression of Renaissance ambiguities → invention of Rationalist certainties

16th century “Wars of Religion”:
“Civil Wars”
Reformation Stage II
THREE MAIN 16TH-C. INVENTIONS OF “SUBJECTIVE INDIVIDUALISM”:

- Lutheran
- Catholic
- Reformed
  [Calvinist]

 wars of Religion are wars over “mediation”

POLITICAL CAUSES/CONSEQUENCES OF THE “REFORMATION”

1. “Germany”
   Remember: there is no “Germany” until 1870.

   Instead: “Holy Roman Empire” with its Kaiser

   cf. Hitler = 3rd Kaiserreich

- “The Holy Roman Empire”
  - Inner federation of independent kingdoms, princedoms, city-states
- Charles V — “Holy Roman Emperor” Kaiser
  - Hapsburg family: Spain, Netherlands, southern Italy; Milan
  - dreams of united Europe as in antiquity
  - local secular rulers (e.g., Elector Frederick, protector of Luther); use
    Lutheranism to establish local independence
  - Charles needs Catholicism

St. Peter’s built with money from indulgences:
“…When the coin rings / Out the soul springs…”

Martin Luther and his protector:

Elector John Frederick of Saxony
German wars of religion:
Will there be a single pan-European “empire” united under Catholicism?
Or will the smaller principalities be independent (and free in religion)??

- 1555: The Peace of Augsburg: ends religious wars in “Holy Roman Empire”
- Principle of settlement: *cuius regio, eius religio*
  - “The religion of the ruler is the religion of the realm”

- Charles V forced to recognize local state churches
  - e.g., Brandenburg (Lutheran) vs. Bavaria (Catholic)
  - End of “empire” idea, i.e., multi-cultural loose association
  - Turn to modern “state” idea, i.e., modern nation-state [Spain as precedent]
  - “One people/one monarch/one religion/one language”

Cathedral of Cologne [Köln]
Ancient “free imperial city” of the Holy Roman Empire
Today:
- 49% Catholic
- 51% Lutheran
Majority pays for upkeep!

Causes/Consequences of “Reformation” in British Isles

Henry VIII [Tudor] 1491-1547

* Catherine of Aragon - divorced
daughter: Mary I
* Anne Boleyn - beheaded
daughter: Elizabeth I
* Jane Seymour - died
son: Edward VI
* Anne of Cleves - divorced
* Catherine Howard - beheaded
* Catherine Parr - survived
**Thomas More**
d. 1535

1534: Act of Supremacy -- declares self Head of Church of England

1535: Beheading of Thomas More

1536: Act of Union: England and Wales

1547: Henry dies

1547: Edward VI becomes king at age 9; removes his sisters Mary and Elizabeth from line of succession

1553: dies of tuberculosis at age 15; crown passes to Lady Jane Grey for 9 days

1555: Peace of Augsburg

**Queen Mary I, “Bloody Mary” 1553-1558**

Lord Mayor of London deposes Lady Jane Grey after nine days; proclaims Mary Queen; Catholicism becomes official religion

1559: E. declared head of Church of England

1559: Elizabeth I—1558-1603

William Shakespeare—1546-1616—*Hamlet*—published 1603


**Elizabeth I**
Reign: 1559-1603

“Bloody Mary” dies of cancer

1559; E. declared head of Church of England

“Golden” Elizabethan Age

- **Elizabeth I**—1558-1603
  - **William Shakespeare**—1546-1616—*Hamlet*—published 1603
  - **William Byrd**—1543-1623—*Latin Masses* — 1593-95—Latin Mass no longer in use in England; still, composed

Catholicism/ Eastern Orthodoxy

- Anglicanism [“high” and “low”]
  - James I (1603): “No bishop, no king.”
  - [Church of England; Episcopal USA]

- Lutheranism [“high”/ “low”]

- Methodism

- Calvinism—[Presbyterianism: Scotland/USA]

- Baptists

- Anabaptists

- Puritans/ Quakers

- Levellers

- Unitarians

- “Wars of Religion” are wars over “mediation”

- Priest? Bishop? Pope?

- King?????
James VI [Stuart] of Scotland becomes James I of England
Mother: Mary [Stuart], Queen of Scots
Reign: 1603-1625

1604: Against Puritans: “No bishops, no king.”
1606: Union Jack
1611: King James Bible [Authorized version]
James I ambivalently favorable toward Catholicism; increasing opposition of Puritans

Flag of the United Kingdom = “Union Jack”
Superposition of flags: St George (England), St Andrew (Scotland) and St Patrick (Ireland).

John Ogilvie, S.J. (d. 1615)

London 1644

France
Wars of Religion [civil war] begin 1560
1555: Peace of Augsburg; 1559: Elizabeth I

Hapsburgs to south and north [Spanish / Netherlands]
Calvin’s Geneva to east; cf. Lenin’s Moscow = exports revolution

Catherine de’ Medici
1519-1589
Mother of Margot
Pragmatic: first supports Protestants [Hugenots] to hold onto power; then Catholics
Catherine: arranges marriage of her daughter
Marguerite de Valois [“Queen Margot”] to
Henry of Navarre [Basque country; Protestant]
Marriage would cement alliance with Navarre
[ wedge between Spanish Castille and Aragon]

• August 24, 1572: St. Bartholomew’s Day
• Massacre:
  – Ordered? Or strongly suggested? By Catherine di Medici
    • Queen Mother / regent
    • Three neurotic sons
    • Struggle between these three sons mixed up in Reformation

St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre (1572) at Louvre Palace, Paris

• Coligny --- Calvinist advisor to weak king --- tossed out Louvre window
• 1589: Henry of Navarre becomes Henri IV
  - No blood relatives left
  - Civil War continues

• 1593: Henri IV decides that “Paris is worth a Mass.”
  - Abjures Protestantism and becomes Catholic

Henri IV: Pont Neuf (Paris)

1598 — Henri IV: EDICT OF NANTES

1) Establishes Catholicism official religion of France
2) Protestantism tolerated in certain areas (200 cities held by Huguenots, especially La Rochelle)

Henri IV assassinated 1610 by Catholic partisan

Reformation Stage III:
From civil wars to world war
1618-1648
1618-1648: Thirty Years’ War

Dutch Republic = Calvinist
Sweden = Lutheran
Hapsburgs = Catholic [blue]
Imperial Kaiser
Austria
Spain
Sp. Netherlands
France = Catholic
Who gets ports/ trade?
NB: Richelieu secretly funds the Dutch Protestants against Spaniards. Not simple confessional divides.

Bloodbath: by end of wars, up to 40% of population killed
Pre-and Post- Thirty Years’ War: Medieval Empire abandoned
“International System” of nation-states:
UNITY / PURITY: One king / one religion / one language / one “people”

1648: PEACE OF WESTPHALIA
Holy Roman Empire ended in all but name
End of multi-cultural “empire” idea / beginning of int’l states idea:
principle of state sovereignty: non-interference

“state” = “monopolization of the means of violence”

1648: Modernity
Era of the nation-states

1992: Post-modernity?
End of the nation-states?

--- President George W. Bush
THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY: A QUEST FOR CERTAINTY

- 1618-1648: “Slaughterhouse of Europe”
  - Context: chaos and devastation
  - leads to 17th-c. search for certainty / clarity
  - This “search for stability” is the “hidden agenda of modernity”
  - End of old fluidities

Shift from 1500s → 1600s
1348-1648: Renaissance fluidity  Post-1648: Rationalism / Absolutism

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Mary Douglas: “There is energy in margins and unstructured areas… purity is the enemy of change, of ambiguity of compromise… Holiness requires that things shall not be confused. Mixture = perversion.”

Shift from 1945 → 21st century? (i.e., post-1914-1945 thirty years’ war)

Colonial “modernity”  Postcolonial “post-modernity”

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Is post-modernity necessarily nihilistic?

SKEPTICISM
VARIETY
LOCAL/PARTICULAR
TIME-BOUND
MIXTURE

Mary Douglas: “There is energy in margins and unstructured areas... purity is the enemy of change, of ambiguity, of compromise” — [source]