

WC 427-440 PP: 455-456; 479-485: *Law of War and Peace of Ausburg*

### Chronology

1540-1555	Regional wars in Germany
1562-1598	French wars of Religion
1566-1609	Dutch Wars with Spain
1618-1648	Thirty Years War
1642-1649	English Civil War

<p><b>Star Terms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peace of Augsburg (1555)</li> <li>• William of Orange</li> <li>• Huguenots</li> </ul>	<p><b>Geog. Terms</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antwerp</li> <li>• Spanish Netherlands</li> <li>• Brandenburg-Prussia</li> </ul>
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#### A. Titan, portrait of Hapsburg Emperor Charles V (1548)



As Holy Roman Emperor, Charles called Martin Luther to the Diet of Worms in 1521, promising him safe conduct if he would appear. Initially dismissing Luther's theses as "an argument between monks", he later outlawed Luther and his followers in that same year but was tied up with other concerns and unable to take action against Protestantism. 1524 to 1526 saw the Swabian Peasants' Revolt and by in 1531 the formation of the Lutheran churches throughout northern Europe. Charles delegated increasing responsibility for Germany to his brother Ferdinand while he concentrated on problems elsewhere. In 1545, the opening of the Council of Trent began the Counter-Reformation, and Charles won to the Catholic cause some of the princes of the Holy Roman Empire. In 1546 (the year of Luther's natural death), he drove the League's troops out of southern Germany and at the Battle of Mühlberg defeated John Frederick, Elector of Saxony and imprisoned Philip of Hesse in 1547. At the Augsburg Interim in 1548 he created an interim solution giving certain allowances to Protestants until the Council of Trent would restore unity. However, Protestants mostly resented the Interim and some actively opposed it. Protestant princes, in alliance with Henry II of France, rebelled against Charles in 1552, which caused Charles to retreat to the Netherlands.

## B. Vrancx, Soldiers plundering a Farmhouse (c. 1610) oil on panel currently in Berlin



During the 16th century, Protestantism rapidly gained ground in northern Europe. Dutch Protestants, after initial repression, were tolerated by local authorities. By the 1560s, the Protestant community had become a significant influence in the Netherlands, although it clearly formed a minority then. In a society dependent on trade, freedom and tolerance were considered essential. Nevertheless, Charles V, and later Philip II, felt it was their duty to fight Protestantism, which was considered a heresy by the Catholic Church. The harsh measures led to increasing grievances in the Netherlands, where the local governments had embarked on a course of peaceful coexistence. In the second half of the

century, the situation escalated. Philip sent troops to crush the rebellion and make the Netherlands once more a Catholic region. The Dutch Protestants compared their humble lifestyle favorably with the supposedly luxurious habits of the ecclesiastical nobility. The Dutch Revolt (1566 or 1568–1648) was a successful revolt of the Protestant in the Low Countries against the ardent militant religious policies of Roman Catholicism pressed by Philip II of Spain. The religious 'clash of cultures' built up gradually but inexorably into outbursts of violence against the perceived repression of the Habsburg Crown. These tensions led to the formation of the independent Dutch Republic. The first leader was William of Orange, followed by several of his descendants and relations. This revolt was one of the first successful secessions in Europe, and led to one of the first European republics of the modern era, the United Provinces.