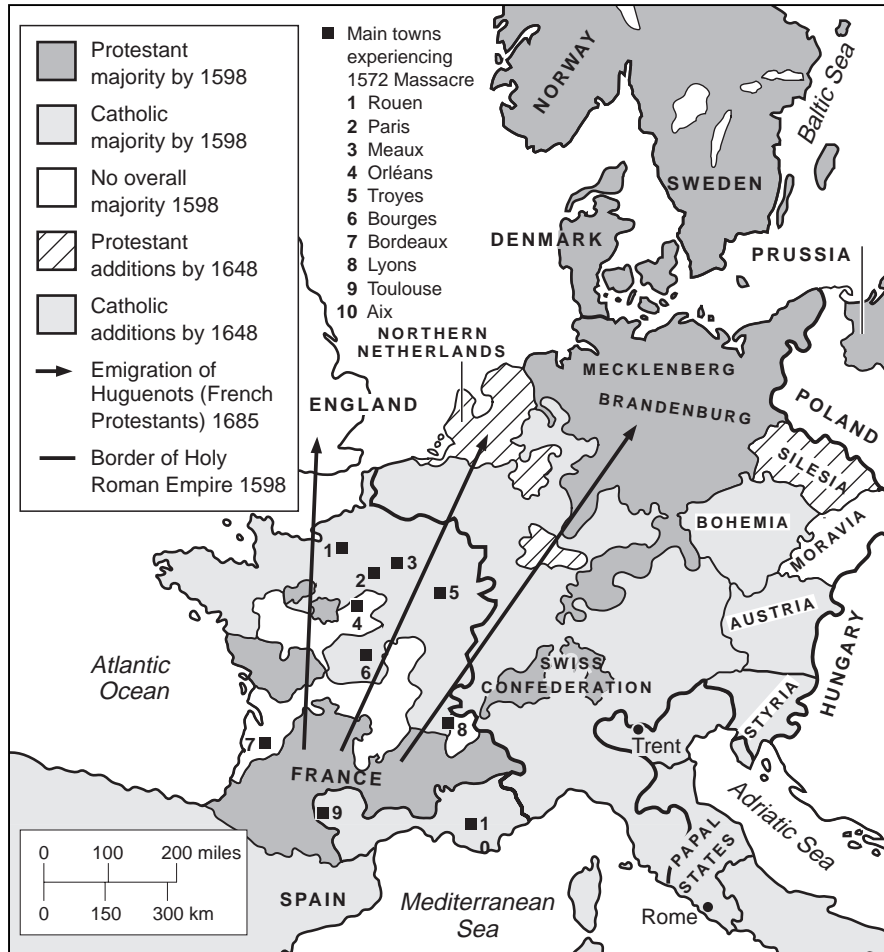


Early in the 16th century the Roman Catholic Church was facing a crisis as millions took up the new reformed (Protestant) religions of Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Ulrich Zwingli. By 1560 about 40 percent of Europe's population had become Protestant. The Catholic Church's attempt to reverse this trend is known as the Counter-Reformation. By 1650 Europe's Protestant population had reduced to 20 percent following reforms within the Catholic Church and years of religious conflict. Protestantism remained firmly established in northern European states.



EVENTS

- 1530
- 1534 Founding of Society of Jesus, later called **Jesuit Order**, by Ignatius de Loyola (Spanish nobleman). Jesuits are dedicated to protection of Catholic Church and follow a strict, monastic lifestyle
- 1540 Jesuit Order confirmed by Pope Paul III and made directly accountable to him
- 1542 Re-introduction of Inquisition. Catholic clergy (with Jesuit help) arrest and forcibly convert suspected Protestants
- 1545 **Council of Trent**. Pope Paul III calls meeting of all heads of Catholic Church. Aims to reform Church and meet Protestant threat
- 1562–1598 **Huguenot (French Protestant) Wars** against Catholics. End with **Edict of Nantes** granting religious freedom in France
- 1563 **Conclusion of Council of Trent**. Widespread reforms of Church hierarchy to encourage piety. Schools to be established by Jesuits to ensure clergy are properly educated. Doctrine of church is rigidly formulated in direct opposition to Protestant teaching
- 1564 Introduction of *index librorum prohibitorum* (list of books regarded as subversive by Catholic Church)
- 1568–1609 Rebellion of Protestant northern provinces of the **Netherlands** against Catholic Spanish control. King Philip II of Spain institutes a branch of the Inquisition in the provinces, enforced by a Spanish army of occupation
- 1572 **St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre**. Catholic riots following marriage of Henry of Navarre (Huguenot noble) in Paris leave many Protestants dead. Riots spread all over France
- 1618–1648 **Thirty Years' War**. Emperor Ferdinand II attempts to restore Catholicism to rebel Protestant principalities within the Holy Roman Empire by force. Austria, Bohemia, and Styria are re-catholicized but emperor fails to subdue the established Protestant states. Peace treaty (**Peace of Westphalia**, 1648) assures political equality for Protestant states within the Empire and independence for Protestant Dutch provinces and Swiss Confederation
- 1685 Revocation of **Edict of Nantes** by Louis XIV: Protestantism is banned in France. Around 200,000 Protestants emigrate to England, Brandenburg, and the northern provinces of the Netherlands
- 1690