

The Thirty Years

War 1618-1648

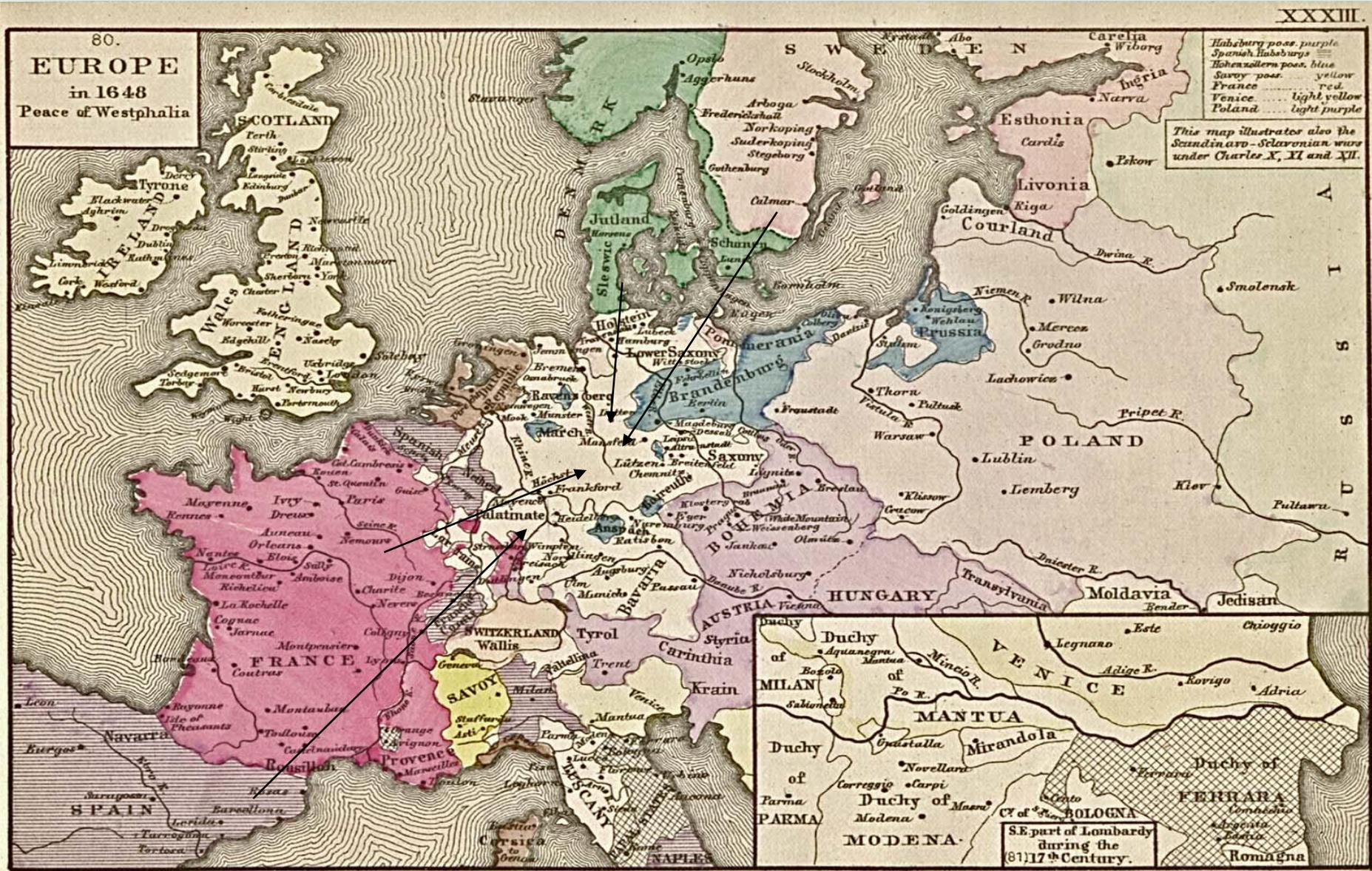
The Thirty Years War is complex. But the main conflict was between the different states who had religious differences.



It was a war over Catholic-Protestant Issues



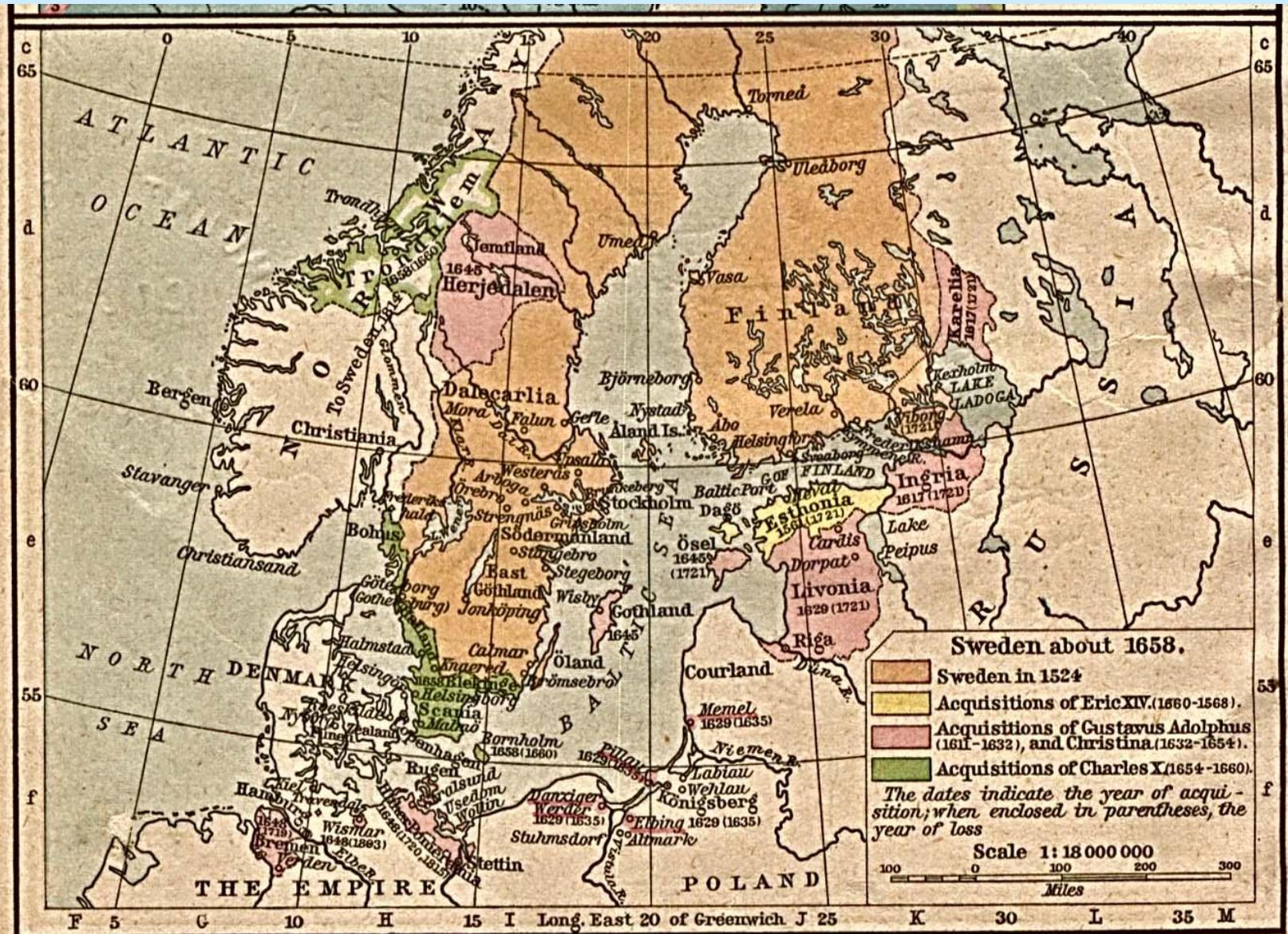
Various countries from outside the region interfered or actively fought in the war. Millions died in this war.



France supported the Protestant states in order to keep Germany weak, disunited, and weaken the Hapsburg Empire



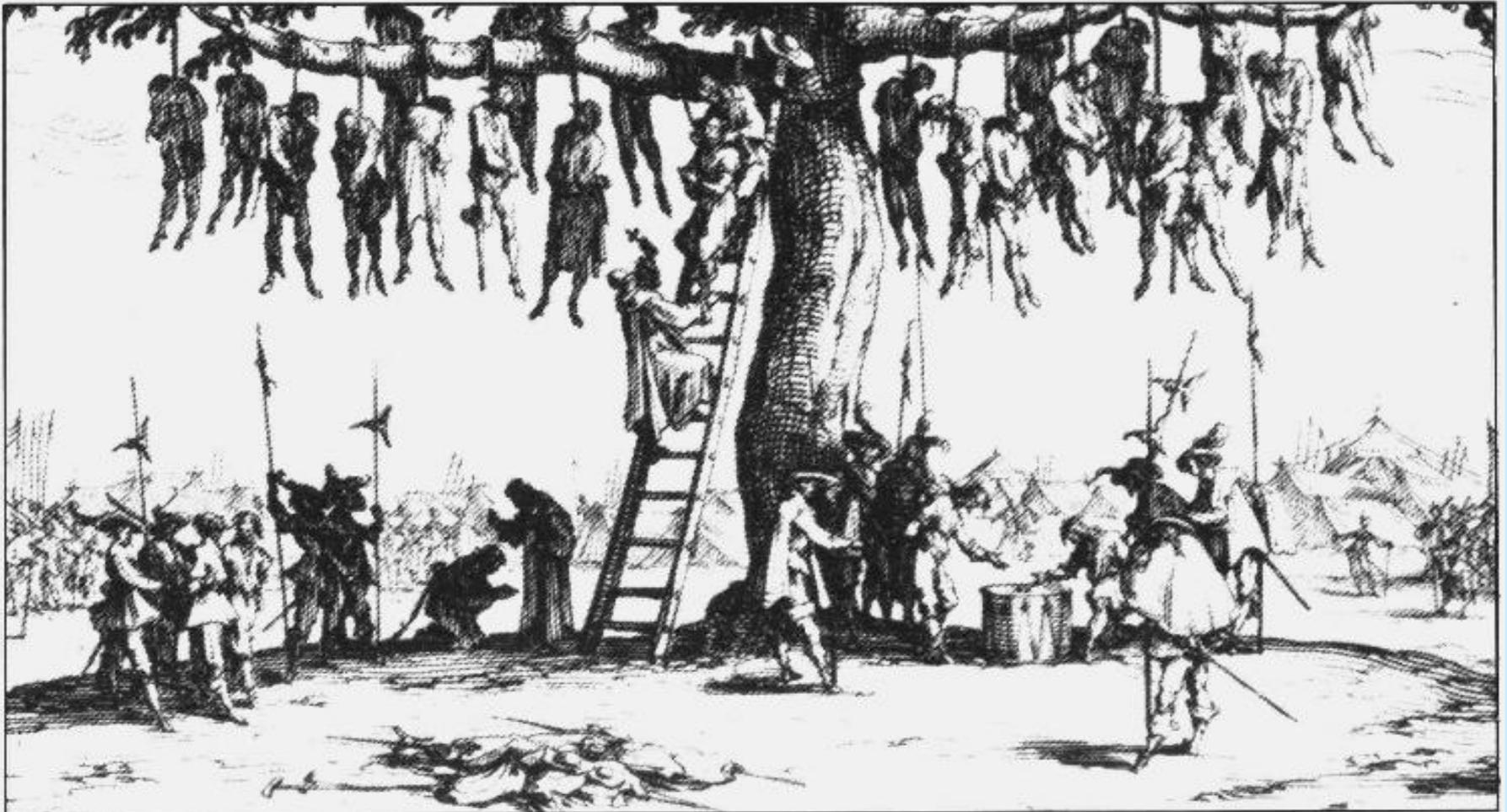
Sweden and Denmark fought to support the Protestant cause and to test their armies.



Mercenaries from all over Europe joined the different stages of the War.



The result was wide spread devastation and destruction—the most destructive war prior to the Napoleonic Wars.



A priest blesses hanging victims in this famous etching from the Thirty Years War. (By Jacques Callot, 1592–1635. Metropolitan Museum of Art.)

The war begins with the Defenestration of Prague, a very famous story! (1618)



The two Catholic emissaries were thrown out the window, when the Bohemian Protestants questioned their motives.



They land in
a manure pile



Defenester: To throw out window

- First Defenestration occurred when supporters of martyred Jan Huss threw out members of the council onto barbed pikes below. Several were killed. (1417)



Third Defenestration? (1948)



Fourth
Defenestration?

Sprague
Freshmen?



The new Holy Roman Emperor, Ferdinand, moves on Bohemia to restore order and authority. He is a devout Catholic.



Bohemia looks for help from the Protestant Elector Frederick V to defend their cause. Frederick will be up against the emperor, Ferdinand.





Frederick leaves his home in the Palatine (Rhineland) to help defend Bohemia!



Frederick was married to Elizabeth Stuart,
daughter of James I of England.



Frederick will flee after his defeat by the forces of Catholic Bavaria. He will be known as the *Winter King* for his short time in power, and his wife will be known as the *Winter Queen*.



Let's review
on the map
where
Catholic
Bavaria is in
relation to
Bohemia



After the defeat of Bohemia, Ferdinand re-
enforces his empire with Spanish troops.
The Spaniards flood into the Catholic
German States.





Stage 2: The Danish Phase (1625-1629)

- Ferdinand is elected as Holy Roman Emperor again.
- He confiscates the lands of the Bohemian nobles who had joined Frederick's cause
- Jesuits stream into Bohemia to re-convert the Protestants



King Ferdinand

The Protestant Cause will now be taken up by the King of Denmark, Christian, in 1625. It has now been seven years since the war began.

- He enters the fight with little aid from the Protestant leaders of England and Holland

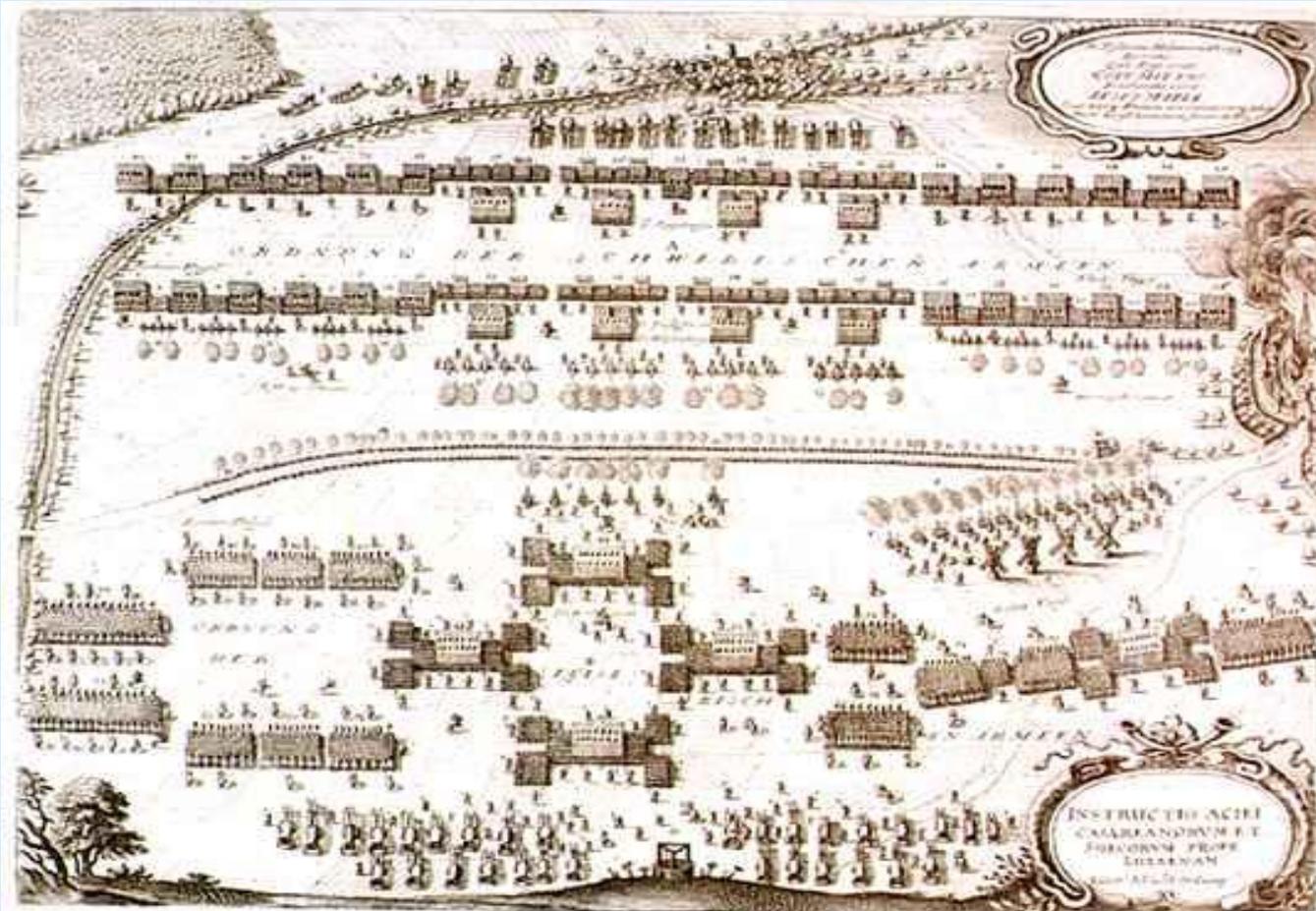




Ferdinand, a Catholic, appoints a new army to counteract the Danish threat. He appoints Albert of Wallenstein known as “Wallenstein.”



Wallenstein, a former Protestant, recruits and develops a professional army—answerable to him, only. He quickly defeats the Danish in 1629.



After the Danes are defeated, an **Edict of Restitution (1629)** is declared. This means that all church territories, that were allowed to be Protestant under the Peace of Augsburg (1553) are now Catholic again.

Phase 3: The Swedish Phase (1630-1635)

- After the Danish Defeat, the Catholics swarm over protestant Germany.
- The Augsburg peace is ignored
- It seems as if the Reformation will be undone.

Enter Gustavus Adolphus. . .

- Gustavus Adolphus was king of Sweden
- He was busy fighting Poland
- Cardinal Richelieu lures Adolphus into taking up the Protestant cause.





Richelieu sends money to Sweden

Gustavus is busy Fighting the Poles, but Richelieu persuades him To take up the Protestant Cause. He does.

Hence, Richelieu of Catholic France
aids Protestants against the Catholic
Holy Roman Empire



*Richelieu, you are the
consummate backstabber...*



Why thank you, Mrs. Olsen, but you see, I can get others to fight my wars for me, while I continue to strengthen France.

Gustavus Adolphus leaves his fighting in Poland and now takes the Leadership against the Catholics



Who was Gustavus Adolphus?

- He was a brilliant leader
- He was courageous
- He organized the most modern army of its time



Under his leadership, Sweden wins victories.



Sadly, Adolphus is killed at the battle of Lützen
in 1632.

Gustavus
Adolphus
remains a
great
historical
figure and
a Swedish
National
Hero.



After the Gustavus' death, this phase
weakens

- Wallenstein himself refuses to fight the Swedes because he is furious about the Spanish troops in Germany.
- He actually enters into secret talks with the Protestants.
- Wallenstein is a loose cannon, and his army will attack anyone he wants.

Wallenstein is assassinated by one of his
own men.



The Swedish French Phase, 1635-1648

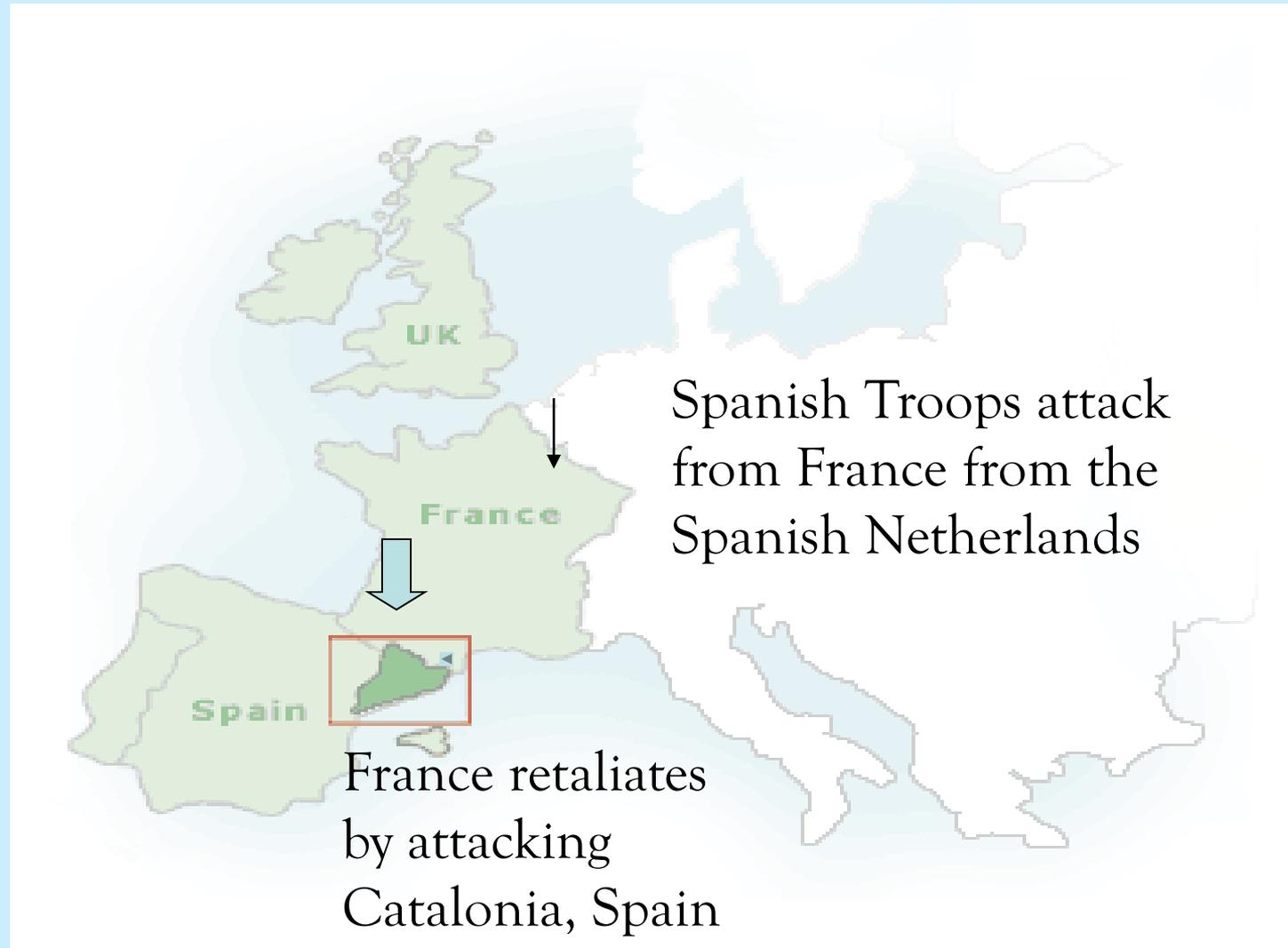
- This time, Richelieu comes out clearly on the side of the Protestants and supports the Swedes.
- France joins the Protestant cause.



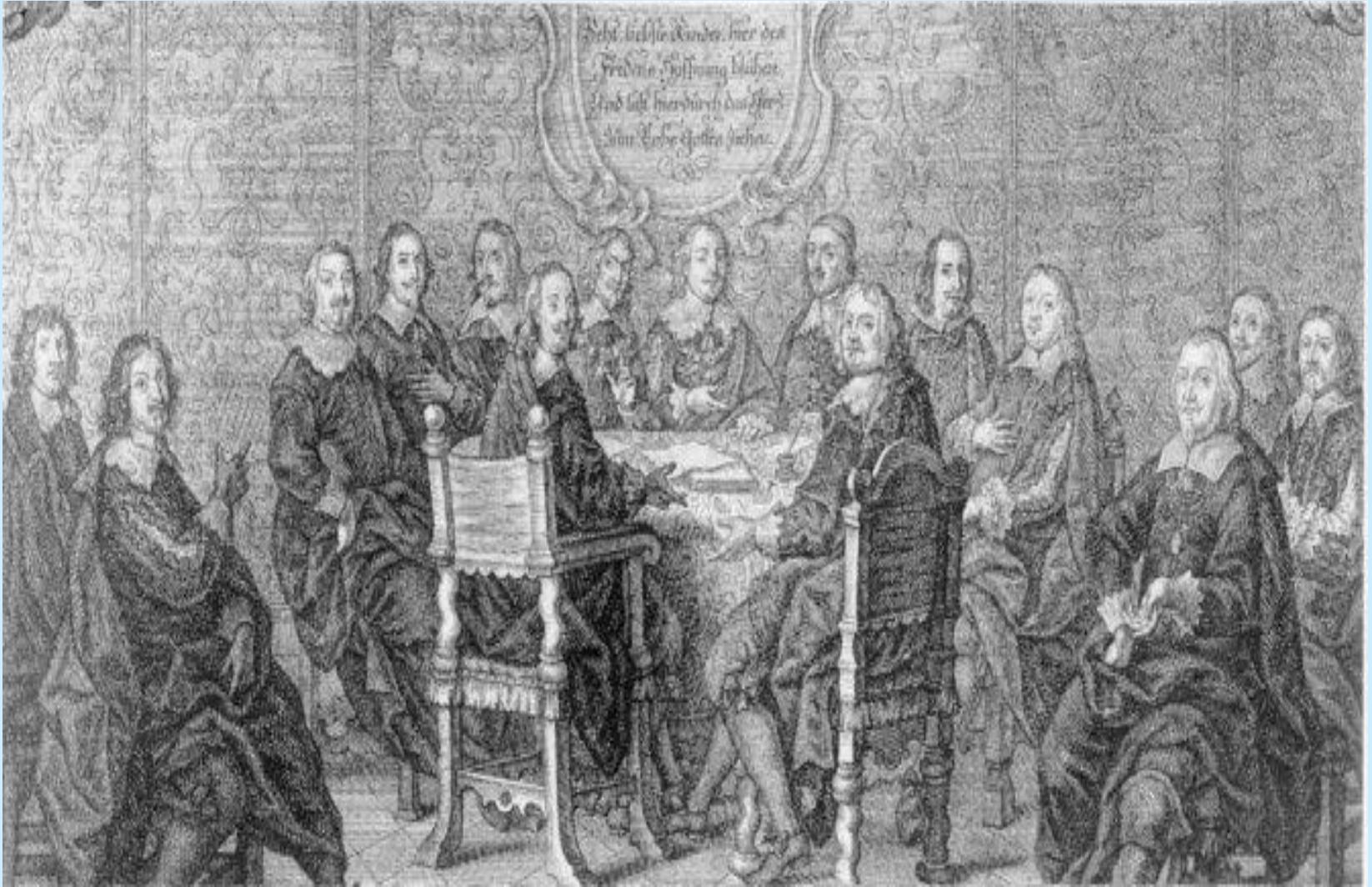
When France joins, the Spanish retaliate! They sweep down from the Spanish Netherlands and attack France!



When the Spanish attack, France moves toward Spain! French troops move into Catalonia spreading devastation--



Germans view all this interference from Spain, Sweden, France, and think: *Get Out!*

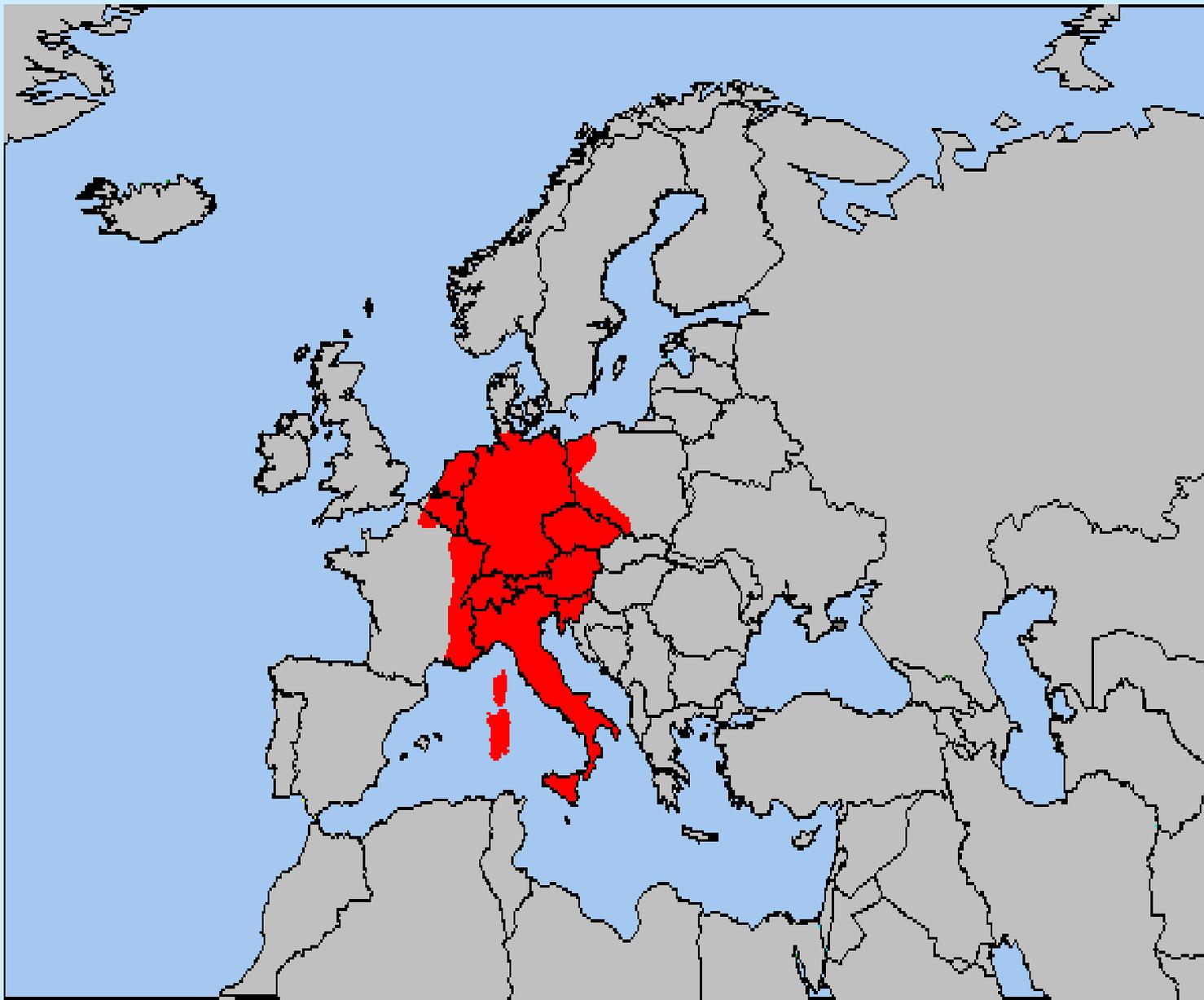


Peace talks begin in Westphalia

- This becomes a huge peace conference
- The church (pope) is not involved, nor does the pope sign the treaties
- Calvinism is added to the mix: now there is Lutheranism, Catholicism, and Calvinism



The Holy Roman Empire dissolves



States of Germany now have stronger individual rights: Germany remains weak and divided.



Germany was physically devastated



Between 3-7 million died in the
Thirty Years War



England, Holland, and France will take
the lead in European trade, culture and
politics



Germany's separate states will hinder trade and progress for many years. It will not fully unite until 1870.

