

CHURCH HISTORY 2

REFORMATION TO TODAY

August 9, 2013 – Orthodoxy, Rationalism & Pietism Lecture

Lakeside Institute of Theology

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Church History 2 (TH2)

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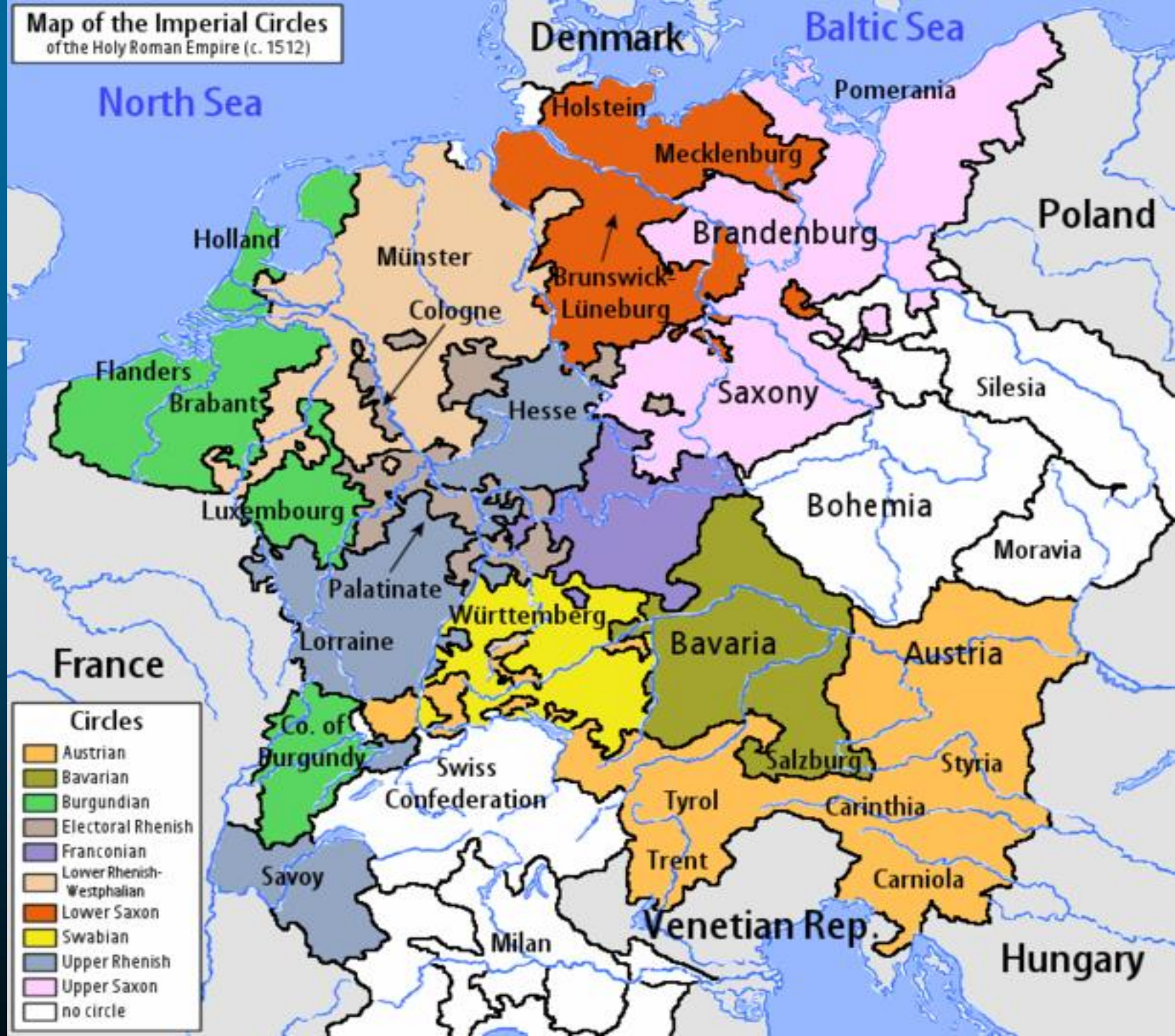
The Rise of Rationalism & Orthodoxy

- Throughout all the conflicts of the 16th Century the motivation of most in leadership (political and in the Church) was religious, and (for the most part) they subordinated political & personal ambition to that cause.
- But in the 17th century an increasing number of people did not share such religious enthusiasm, and many came to the decision that religious tolerance was a wiser policy.
- So the 17th & 18th centuries were characterized by increasing doubts of traditional dogmas, and a popular movement towards greater reliance on human reason.
- However, during this same time theologians zealously defended the teachings of the great 16th Century leaders in ways that became more rigid, cold and academic, with the goal being to defend what had been said previously.
- The result was a series of devastating religious wars.

The Thirty Years War — 1618-1648

- The 1555 Peace of Augsburg between Charles V and Protestant German princes had created a temporary peace by saying princes could decide religion in their own areas.
- But this gave Protestant only a Lutheran option – no Calvinists and no Anabaptists; and it said any areas that had been ruled by bishops stayed Catholic (the “ecclesiastical reservation”).
- In 1576 Rudolf II became emperor. He’d been raised by Jesuits in Spain and was not trusted by Protestants — but was weak.
- In 1606, after 30 years of relative peace, riots broke out in Donauworth, a Protestant city on the border of catholic Bavaria. A year later, Duke Maximilian of Bavaria brought a large army to Donauworth and started forcing people to convert to Catholicism.
- In 1608 Protestants responded by forming the Evangelical Union; against which a Catholic League was formed a year later.
- In Bohemia, German Calvinist immigrants had greatly increased the Protestant population. When Protestant objections to policies by (Catholic) King Ferdinand were not listened to, two of the kings advisors were thrown from a window – the *Defenestration of Prague*, which sparked the Thirty Years War.

Map of the Imperial Circles of the Holy Roman Empire (c. 1512)



The Thirty Years War – 1618-1648

- The Bohemian Protestants then asked Frederick, elector of the Palatinate, to be their king, as the Palatinate was mostly Reformed. Their rebellion spread east to Silesia and Moravia.
- New Emperor Ferdinand II (formerly king of Bohemia) called on Maximilian of Bavaria and the Catholic League to invade Bohemia, which they did – crushing the Protestant rebels and deposing Frederick both from thrones of Bohemia *and* the Palatinate. Persecution against Protestants began – a decree said anyone not converted to Catholicism had to leave Bohemia by Easter 1626. (Over 30 years of war the population of Bohemia declined by 80%.)
- Late 1625, England, Denmark and the Netherlands joined in a Protestant League, proposing to invade Germany and restore the Palatinate to Frederick (who was son-in-law to James I of England).
- Ferdinand then recruited a 2nd army, under Albert of Wallenstein, so that when Christian IV of Denmark invaded Germany he had to fight TWO armies – Maximilian's Catholic League and Wallenstein's. He soon came to a truce and left Germany – and thousands of forced conversions to Catholicism followed.
- In 1611, 17-year-old Gustavus Adolphus became King of Sweden.

The Thirty Years War – 1618-1648

- Gustavus Adolphus was an excellent ruler, reuniting his divided subjects and expelling Danes who had controlled much of Sweden.
- A staunch Lutheran, Adolphus felt he must intervene in Bohemia and Europe, both to defend Protestants and to limit the Hapsburgs.
- In 1630 Adolphus invaded Germany and fought and repeatedly defeated the army of the Catholic League, with little other support. Eventually, in part due to the respect Adolphus' soldiers showed the native people, the German Protestants started supporting him.
- Adolphus continued to win, while declaring his terms for peace – religious tolerance for all, restoration of Bohemia, return of the Palatinate to Frederick, and expulsion of all Jesuits from the empire.
- Ferdinand II recalled Wallenstein who began his attack on the Swedes. In Battle of Lutzen, Wallenstein's army was crushed, but Adolphus was killed. After this the war degenerated to skirmishes.
- Wallenstein was murdered when it was discovered he was negotiating for peace the Protestants. The Spanish Hapsburgs then sent an army to support their German cousins, which caused France to step up their support of the Protestants (even though France was then ruled by Cardinal Richelieu).

The Thirty Years War – 1618-1648

- Ferdinand II died in 1637 and his son Ferdinand III was more tolerant – especially since everyone was tired of war.
- 1648 – the Peace of Westphalia ended the Thirty Years War. All Catholics, Lutherans and Reformed could follow their own religion; all buildings and institutions reverted to whichever religious group had held them in 1624; and amnesty for all who had rebelled.
- But it was not that the Peace of Westphalia came out of Christian love and generosity, but rather out of growing indifference to the importance of religion, and a growing sense that religious commitment should be private, and NOT allowed into civil or political life of a nation.
- Many felt that any doctrine that led to such atrocities as the Thirty Years War could not be true or right.
- It was the beginning of the concept of the modern secular state.

The “Church of the Desert” (France)

- Henry IV, the French king who was thoroughly “modern” in his willingness to change religion repeatedly for political or personal reasons, was assassinated by Catholic fanatic Francois Ravallac on May 14, 1610 – which caused great concern to French Protestants who had benefited from his religious tolerance (Edict of Nantes).
- With new king Louis XIII only eight-years-old, his mother Marie de Medici became regent and confirmed the Edict of Nantes.
- But Marie had all Italian advisors who were Catholic and did not understand France. They favored the Spanish Hapsburgs, so the young king married the Spanish princess Anne of Austria, while his sister Isabella married the future King Philip IV of Spain.
- By 1622, as Marie de Medici was losing power, Cardinal Armand de Richelieu was ascending – the king’s trusted advisor, wily politician, and a man who favored political power over theological interests.
- This is how Richelieu could favor German Protestants against the emperor – even while determined to destroy the Huguenots in France, not for religious reasons, but because Henry IV had given them several fortified cities that made them a potential political threat.

The “Church of the Desert” (France)

- After destroying La Rochelle, the strongest Huguenot, other Protestants rebelled, but they were met with extreme repression until the last Huguenot fortress was taken in 1629, after which Richelieu no longer perceived them as a threat and left them alone.
- Richelieu died in 1642 and the king a year later, so the new king Louis XIV was only five years old. His mother Anne of Austria was regent, assisted by Cardinal Jules Mazarin, a disciple of Richelieu who also left the Huguenots alone.
- When Louis XIV (the “Sun King”) was 23-years-old Mazarin died and Louis did not replace him. This began a time of conflict between king and pope, as Louis demanded the “liberties of the Gallican Church,” and began to try to stamp out all dissidents – including the Huguenots.
- The process was called “reunion” – in which Protestants were pressured to confess “I reunite” with the Catholic Church. First persuasion and mild pressure; then offers to buy conversions, then use of violence by the army.
- 1685 the king issues Edict of Fontainebleau, abolishing Edict of Nantes and religious tolerance, making it illegal to be a Protestant.

The “Church of the Desert” (France)

- With the Edict of Fontainebleau there was a mass exodus of Protestants from France to Switzerland, Germany, England, the Netherlands and North America –an enormous economic loss to France (perhaps contributing to French Revolution).
- Officially no Protestants in France, but in fact many remained and met in private, in woods or open fields, especially at night – the “Church in the Desert” as the Huguenots now called themselves.
- If captured, pastors were executed, men sent to the galleys, women imprisoned for life, children given to Catholic families.
- A more radical, prophetic form of Protestantism arose, emboldened by the belief the Lord was preparing to return immediately (1689).
- But for all the persecution, few Huguenots recanted with “I reunite.”
- Eventually the more prophetic Protestantism turned to armed rebellion – the “army of the desert,” or “camisards,” which never numbered more than a few hundred, kept the king’s army of 25,000 very busy. The army started burning villages (500) and by 1709 had captured and killed all the leaders of the rebellion.
- Not until 1787 and Louis XVI was religious tolerance finally decreed in France, by which time the people were wholly tired of intolerance.

The Puritan Revolution (England)

- Queen Elizabeth managed to walk the line of balanced and stable tolerance throughout her life – Church of England had moderately Calvinist theology but high church worship and governance.
- Elizabeth died in 1603 without direct heir, but she had named James VI of Scotland (son of Mary Stuart) as her heir – James I of England.
- The English never liked James I or his plans to unite the two kingdoms.
- English Calvinists thought this was the time to push for a Reformed church in England more like what existed in Scotland. These more radical Protestants became known as “Puritans” – which were split between “Presbyterians” and “independents.”
- An independent leader, John Smyth, started an (illegal) independent congregation, which eventually fled to Amsterdam. His financier, Thomas Helwys, rejected Smyth’s increasing radicalism and in 1611 took followers back to England to found first Baptist Church there.
- Eventually Baptists split between those who held to Calvinist predestination (“Particular Baptists”) and those who followed Arminianism (“General Baptists”).
- Without Elizabeth’s moderation, Calvinists feared return to “Romanism.”

The Puritan Revolution (England)

- James I was the son of Mary Stuart and a Catholic, who sought an absolute monarchy, partly by strengthening the episcopacy. (“Without bishops, there is no king.”) Only Anabaptists were persecuted, though James had problems with Catholics (other loyalties), Presbyterians (prior problems in Scotland) – but he insisted on bishops.
- In 1604 Richard Bancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury, introduced laws saying the episcopacy was divinely ordained (like the king), and others aimed against Puritans.
- Parliament was in session (James needed approval of new taxes), and the House of Commons appealed to the king against Bancroft’s laws. At the resulting conference, when a Puritan made reference to a “presbytery” the king said there could be “no closer connection between the monarchy and a presbytery than between God and the Devil.” Effort at conciliation failed (but we did get the King James Bible, in 1611), and the gap widened between Parliament & bishops.
- 1605 – the Gunpowder Plot; a group of Catholics attempt to blow up the king and the Puritans in Parliament. (Guy Fawkes)
- 1606 – more anti=Puritan laws.

The Puritan Revolution (England)

- James did not want to call Parliament, but he need approval for new taxes, especially as the Thirty Years War had led to his son-in-law Frederick being deposed, and James wanted to support him.
- 1621 – Parliament is called, but they discover James is planning (unsuccessfully) to marry his son and heir to the Spanish Hapsburgs, so they complain – and James dissolves the assembly.
- 1624 00 they try again, but still a stalemate. Then James dies and Charles I (who had married the sister of Catholic French king Louis XIII) becomes king and allows his wife to continue Catholic Mass.
- Richard Montague is arrested by Parliament after publishing books supporting divine rights of kings and opposing Puritanism. Charles responds by making Montague his personal chaplain – therefore exempt from Parliamentary authority – and dissolves Parliament.
- Charles keeps trying to call Parliament to get funds then dissolves them when they instead want to talk about grievances. He names anti-Puritan William Laud to head a commission that virtually replaces the Archbishop of Canterbury, and awards lordships to supporters from House of Commons and concessions to the aristocracy, making life harder for poor people.

The Puritan Revolution (England)

- 1633 – William Laud made Archbishop of Canterbury and starts harsh measures against Puritans both in England and Scotland – including orders of death and mutilation.
- When Laud tries to impose English liturgy in Scotland, a riot turns into rebellion. Church of Scotland tries to limit bishop's powers, and is declared dissolved – but they refuse to go home, instead abolishing the episcopacy and reorganizing as Presbyterians.
- Charles calls Parliament to get funds to deal with the Scottish rebellion, only to find they side with the Scottish, so he dissolves the *Short Parliament*. This encourages the Scottish to invade England, driving Charles troops before them.
- Charles recalls Parliament, thinking they will support him against this invasion. But Parliament is fed up with Charles and the fact the country is in disarray. They repeal anti-Puritan laws, release and compensate Laud's prisoners, arrest and try ministers of the king, and – in 1641 – pass a law that the king cannot dissolve Parliament without their permission. Bishops are kept from attending Parliament.
- The king, meanwhile, is negotiating with the Scots, & encouraging (through his Catholic queen) an invasion by Catholic Irish.

The Puritan Revolution (England)

- Some Puritan members of Parliament want to try the queen for treason against England, and the king accuses them of treason and demands they be turned over for trial. The Parliament refuses, so the next day the king sends soldiers to arrest them – but the people of London step in to prevent the arrests.
- The king flees London and John Pym, a member of Parliament becomes "king without a crown." Parliament passes a law to exclude bishops from Parliament, and moves to exclude anyone who opposes Puritanism, and to create a militia for enforcement.
- The king responds by gathering his troops, and the civil war begins.
- Parliament took steps towards Presbyterianism – abolishing episcopacy (because they supported the king), and calling the Westminster Assembly – leading to the Calvinist Westminster Confession of Faith – a foundational Reformed document.
- 1644 – England and Scotland join in commitment to Presbyterianism through the *Solemn League and Covenant*. The next year William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, is executed.
- Oliver Cromwell, formerly an advisor to Henry VIII, rises to power. An avid Puritan, he recruits a corps of cavalry that inspires the Puritans.

The Puritan Revolution (England)

- The Puritan army under Cromwell crushes the king's forces at Naseby, and there they find proof of Charles efforts to get Catholic foreigners to invade England.
- Charles tries again to negotiate with the Scots, who instead capture him and turn him over to the English Parliament.
- Conflict arises between the Independents, who are the majority in the army, and the Presbyterians, who dominate Parliament, so that in 1646 Parliament tries unsuccessfully to dissolve the army. The army argues that they, not Parliament, has a sufficient cross section of population to represent the people.
- King Charles escapes and tries to negotiate with the Scots, the army and Parliament. He gained Scottish support by promising Presbyterianism in Scotland – but the Puritan army defeats the Scots, recapture the king and start a purge of Parliament. The remaining Puritan members (the “Rump Parliament”) try Charles for treason and – on January 30, 1649 – the king is beheaded.
- Chaos threatens the land, until Cromwell takes over as Lord Protector. He stamps out the Irish rebellion, then the royalist outbreak in Scotland. Then he locks Parliament out to prevent a power grab.

The Puritan Revolution (England)

- Cromwell sets out to reform the church and the state – while being fairly tolerant of religious differences.
- Cromwell ruled through his life, while always trying to get back to a working Parliamentary system. In 1658, shortly before death, he named his son Richard as successor – but that did not last.
- After Cromwell, Parliament was forced to recall Charles II as king.
- Charles reestablished the Church of England and the episcopacy in England, and tried unsuccessfully to do so in Scotland.
- Charles brother and successor, James II, tried to restore Catholicism as the state religion. After 3 years, the English rebelled, inviting James daughter, Mary, and her husband, William of Orange, to come and rule in England. James fled to France.
- Under William and Mary, tolerance was given to any who would swear to the Thirty Nine Articles of Elizabeth.