REFORMATION & CIVIL WARS OF RELIGION IN 16THC FRANCE

- Essential Questions:
  - What is the proper relationship between politics & religion?
  - How did they interact in 16thc France?
  - Where did the people of France look for meaning /belief?

- Are people willing to give up freedom of belief (thought) for civil order?
- What impact might 30+ years of religious civil war have on the above question?
16thc France-population 16 million (2x Spain, 4x England)
Legally & culturally distinct provinces, but that is changing-1539 Ordinance requires all gov’t docs in French
Printing press expands literacy, decreases local dialects
POWERFUL FRENCH MONARCHY

- French kings have power to tax their citizens (vs England)
- French kings can tax ecclesiastical benefices, & a say in church official appointments
- French Kings have history of power struggles w/ Popes

- Fontainebleau palace for Francis I
• 16thc expansion of priest & Catholic Church construction
• Most excommunications due to debt, no hurry to resolve unless person gravely ill
• People buy indulgences, worship @ shrines
• Cult of Virgin is popular
1519 Luther’s books arrive from Wittenberg
Many German students & profs @ French Universities
1521 Parlement bans sale & possession of Luther’s books
1520- Lefevre D’Etapes translates bible into French, by 1526 Parlement issues decree against reading scripture in French or questioning Catholic Faith
Reformation Europe (Late 16th Century)
Reformation

- Protestant movements active in 1520’s
- 1528 Radical Reformation in France, iconoclastic, deny cult status of Virgin & holy water etc
- Neuchatel Protestant & attacks on mass anger Francis I
- Calvin flees France
- 1545 French Army destroys 25 suspected villages
- Executions for heresy not uncommon

John Calvin
Protestant Churches in France (Late 16th Century)
1540’s-1550’s Despite Gov’t prohibitions ideas grow

1559 French Reformation is Calvinist, city centered, literate, highly skilled people in large numbers- educated university community members & nobility will join Huguenots (French Protestants)

Social & political Consensus dissolve

Tensions increase

1572 Wedding between royal Princess Margot (Catholic) & Henry of Navarre (Huguenot)
ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S DAY MASSACRE

- Huguenot leaders assembled in Paris for wedding
- Assassination attempt on Coligny (Huguenot)
- Tensions increase
- King orders his execution -- mob violence breaks out
- Murder of Coligny
ST BARTHOLOMEW’S DAY MASSACRE BY DUBOIS 16THC
OUTCOMES

- Henry of Navarre converts to Catholicism-
- ‘Paris is worth a Mass’
- ‘War of 3 Henrys’
- 90% of France Catholic
- 1598 Edict of Nantes allows degree of religious toleration for France
- 17thc portrait of Henry IV & family
- 17thc evolution of divine right & absolute monarchy