

key states of Hesse and Saxony. In rather rapid order Hesse was overthrown and Philip was imprisoned. Saxony was attacked, Wittenberg captured and John the Elector put in prison. It looked bad in Germany.

But at the height of his success, Charles V discovered dissatisfaction in Rome. In 1548 Pope Paul III withdrew the Italian troops and Charles was forced to set aside conquest plans for fear of an attack on himself by the Papal and French forces...and he had good cause to fear such goings on. The Augsburg Interim was put into force in 1548 leaving things in Germany as they stood at that time until the Emperor could return and settle them.

Paul III died in 1549 and his successor, Julius III, was elected in 1550. The Emperor hoped for more support for his project and in 1552 was back at war with the German states. But for some reason of which I am not completely possessed, Moritz, at the height of the conquest, turned against the Emperor. He had secured the help of Henry II of France and the French struck from the rear, as the defecting Moritz reversed his troops in the frontal portion. The attack was disastrous. Charles and his army were overwhelmed...he was nearly captured and only escaped in disguise. He retreated to Austria and at Passau, in August 1552, was forced to sign a treaty recognizing Germanic territorial rights. One element of the unpopular treaty allowed the Reichstag to settle the religious question. As hard as his lot was, Charles fared somewhat better than Moritz--the later dying in the fighting...and we will not soon know if he was a heel turned hero or a heel acting more like a heel.

The Reichstag meeting...Augsburg, 1555

The "Peace of Augsburg" was given in 1555 following the gathering of the Reichstag. Generally it called for charity and equal rights among Catholics and Evangelicals throughout the Empire in the German states. The special character of the territories or individual states would be as it had been in 1552 at the time of Passau. Charles could not accept this resolution and gave the power to arrange it to his brother, Ferdinand, who succeeded him on his abdication in 1556. The benefits of Augsburg were for Lutherans and Catholics, however, not for religious toleration in principle. So ended the immediate military complications of the Reformation but the end was not yet.