

English, for example, were hardly involved although off and on through the same period they had armed conflicts with the Dutch, etc., but the economic stress was clearly felt in England. What stuns us is the idea that this has been the century of warfare when, in the light of history, we discover that times of war have not been exceptional at all...it is the times of peace that are phenomenal and so are few and far between.

Summary of Causes

Causes

Lutheran Divisiveness

That part of the Germanic states would not be Lutheran became plain with the formation of the Heidelberg Catechism in 1562. It meant in effect that there would not be a political/theological solidarity of the Teutonic states. At the same time, the crypto-calvinist controversy haunted part of the Lutheran church proper and led to the formula of Concord in 1577 which effectively divided Lutheran sentiment from that of other bodies, most notably the reformed, but also from such other Lutherans as might have disagreements...and Schwenkfelders, et al. This gave Germany a "divided" appearance and certainly suggested that politically there could be a national change. The various parties in these religious affairs were often not at peace with one another but the apparent union of forces that had been true in the Schmalkaldic League was certainly no longer true and this invited military encroachments of an aggressive nature. Conquering by division is an old tactic and if the division is already made, the conquering is much easier.

Counter Reformation moves

In a nutshell it was like this: Bohemia was largely a protestant territory although it traditionally had Romanist rulers. Forcing added concessions from them, and then facing the repressions that the counter-reformation missionaries and forces brought on the populace, the Bohemian community was kept in perpetual upset. By 1619 the Bohemian citizenry had affected a revolution and taken a protestant king for themselves: Frederick V of the Palatinate (Heidelberg). This invited the armies of Maximilian of Bavaria who, representing the counter-reformation forces and with the blessing of Ferdinand II (emperor) invaded Bohemia and launched the initial thrust of the war. The underlying interest factors in this were the Jesuitic trainings of Ferdinand, et al, and