

the resultant ideology that no matter how many die, the trammeling of the protestant territories was necessary. This placed the Catholic League in opposition to the Protestant Union and regardless of relative strength, the two parties were destined to slug it out. The war accordingly moved through the Bohemian phase ('19-23), the Danish ('25-29), the Swedish ('30-35) and the French ('35-48).

Ecclesiastical Reservation

The idea propagated through many of the interims, etc., and carried by some of the official treaties as well, made a policy whereby the religious ideas of a community were set at a given historical time and could not be altered thereafter. The territory was "reserved" to a particular theological opinion and historically was supposed to abide by that. But with the passage of years, some of these had become definitely protestant. Under the influence of counter-reformers, the rulers of such territory were reminded of their duty to repress this heresy and in the period about 1600 a number of Teutonic states were suffering as minority rulers, with considerable military clout, subjugated masses of protestants (both Lutherans and Calvinists) in an attempt to compel them to return to the old order. This caused great uneasiness in other territories. For the general knowledge of the student it is noted that there were still more than 200 governmental units in the Teutonic countryside about this time. You can see how the pattern of confusion threatened.

The German Diet

The "easy" structure of the Diet was not the least of the causes as it allowed a great indecisiveness to weigh in the Teutonic territories. Only great impasses could move the totality of the territories and usually by the time that happened it was too late for peace. So all of these things together set the stage for the inflammation of the next period: the Thirty Years War.

The Thirty Years War: First Phase, 1618-1630

First Phase

The conflict began when Maximilian attacked Frederick V, recently elected king of Bohemia. The forces of Maximilian won quickly and Frederick fled after but a few months (he is known as the "winter king of Bohemia"). Maximilian sought to follow up his advantage by attacking the Palatinate with the aid of the imperial army under Baron Tilly. The Roman