

- 1562 1st religious war between Catholics and Protestants
- 90% of France was Catholic
 - 10% of France was Protestant
 - **Huguenots** = French Protestants

- August 24, 1572 **St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre**
- 6000 Protestants killed
 - Protestants became militant
 - Religious wars intensified

Religious wars were tearing France apart

- 1575 **Henry III** became king of France
- Catholic
 - Extended more freedoms to the **Huguenots**
 - Huguenots were given freedom of worship throughout France
 - Huguenots were given right to have own courts and judges
 - Developed a "**State within a State**"
 - Angered Catholics

- 1589 Henry III assassinated by Catholic monk, Jacques Clement

- 1589 **Henry IV** became king of France
- **Protestant**
 - Hard to rule Catholic majority of France

Politiques began developing in France

- They set aside religious and political differences for good of France
- "**France 1st**"

- 1589 Henry IV converted to **Catholicism** to save France
- Politique
 - "*Paris is well worth the mass*"

- 1598 **Edict of Nantes**
- Gave religious freedom to **Huguenots**
 - Ended religious wars

- 1610 **Henry IV** killed

- Louis XIII** becomes king
- 9 years old
 - Cardinal Richelieu was main advisor

Goals of Cardinal Richelieu

1. ESTABLISH AN ABSOLUTE MONARCHY
2. Reduce power of Huguenots
 - Opposed to “State within a State”
 - Allowed Edict of Nantes, but took away many political/military rights
3. Reduce power of Nobles
 - a. Used “Intendants” (police, judges, finances)
 - b. Destroyed Castles

1643 Louis XIII died

1643 **Louis XIV** become king

- 5 years old
- Cardinal Mazarin – Advisor

1648 **Fronde**

Riots against government

- Scared Louis
 - Lost faith in people and never trusted them again
 - Threat to development of Absolute Monarchy

1661 Cardinal Mazarin died - Louis XIV takes control of France – ALONE

Louis began to become an **Absolute Monarch**

- Ruled by “**Divine Right of Kings**”
 - viewed himself as the direct representative of **God**
- “**Sun King**” - chose the sun as his emblem, around whom the entire realm orbited
 - Louis remarked “L’État, c’est moi” -- “**I am the State**”
- Built **Versailles**
 - Thousands of nobles lived at Versailles (at their own expense), to prevent them from developing independent power
 - Nobles did not have to pay taxes
- Used “**Intendants**”

RELIGION

1685 revoked the **Edict of Nantes**

- **Huguenots** were a threat to political/religious/social unity
 - ▶ Military power
 - ▶ Economic power
- Thousands fled – hurting France’s economy

WAR OF THE SPANISH SUCCESSION

1702 Charles II of Spain died without a direct heir

- ▶ Throne left to Louis XIV’s grandson, Philip V
- ▶ Many feared it would create an alliance between Spain / France, offsetting the “Balance of Power”
- ▶ Grand Alliance (England, Netherlands, Austria) formed to prevent the alliance
- ▶ Treat of Utrecht
 - Philip V could remain king of Spain

LEGACY OF LOUIS XIV

- Made it one of the strongest countries in Europe
- Debt
 - Cost of building Palace of Versailles
 - Expense of wars
 - Nobles paid no taxes