

Chapter 14, Section 1 (Pages 454–457)

# Europe in Crisis: The Wars of Religion

## Big Idea

Religious and political conflicts erupted between Protestants and Catholics in many European nations. As you read, complete a chart like the one below comparing the characteristics of Spain, England, and France.

	Spain	England	France
<b>Government</b>			
<b>Religion</b>			
<b>Conflicts</b>			



## Notes

## Read to Learn

### Spain's Conflicts (page 454)

#### Drawing Conclusions

*Why did Protestantism as practiced by Elizabeth Tudor satisfy most people?*

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By 1560 Calvinism and Catholicism were highly **militant**, or combative, religions. The greatest supporter of Catholicism was King Philip II of Spain. Philip inherited Spain, the Netherlands, and parts of Italy and the Americas. To control them, he insisted on strict conformity to Catholicism. Spain led an alliance against the Turks and defeated them at the Battle of Lepanto in 1571. But his attempts to control the Netherlands caused opposition from the nobles. Philip sent many troops, but the struggle continued until 1609.

Elizabeth Tudor took the English throne in 1558. She was a Protestant and was named as head of both church and state. Her religion was moderate enough to satisfy most people. Elizabeth tried to keep the powers of Spain and France balanced by always supporting the weaker one in any conflict. Finally, in 1588, Philip sent an **armada**, a fleet of ships, to invade England. The English ships were faster and better and defeated the armada. It limped home, battered by storms. Spain was weaker by the end of Philip's reign in 1598. War had bankrupted it, its armed forces were out of date, and the government was inefficient.



# Read to Learn

## The French Wars of Religion *(page 457)*

### Determining Cause and Effect

*Why did Henry IV convert to Catholicism?*

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French kings were Catholic, and they persecuted Protestants. Between 1562 and 1598, the French fought civil wars known as the Wars of Religion. Huguenots were French Protestants influenced by John Calvin. They made up only about 7 percent of the population, but of the nobility, 40 to 50 percent were Huguenots. They fought with an extreme Catholic party known as the ultra-Catholics. Battles raged for 30 years. Finally, in 1589, Henry of Navarre succeeded to the throne of France. He became King Henry IV. He was also the Huguenot political leader and believed he would never be accepted by Catholic France. So he converted to Catholicism. When he was crowned king in 1594, the fighting came to an end.

Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes in 1598. The edict said that Catholicism was the official religion of France. However, it also gave Huguenots the right to worship and to enjoy all political privileges such as holding public offices.

