

FOXES AND DEVILS

A megagame of the dynastic and religious conflicts
of the early sixteenth century



BACKGROUND HANDBOOK

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THE SITUATION AT THE START OF THE GAME

The objective is to try and convey some of the flavour of the period, the style of diplomacy and alliances along with some of the background to the relationships which exist at the start of the game. The *Gazetteer* contains a listing, alphabetically by state, of the various families and characters, their relationships and age at the start of the game.

THE REFORMATION

Once the universal Church, widespread corruption (such as the selling of indulgences) and the poor quality of many clerics caused the church to lose influence and it has found it difficult to actively oppose the rising tide of criticism and the fragmentation of the church which has occurred since the controversy started by Martin Luther and others (usually referred to as the Reformation) in 1517.

There have been previous religious movements challenging the Catholic Church, notably that of Jan Huss during the fourteenth century. There was widespread concern about abuses in the church (such as the sale of indulgences, the corruption and holding more than one bishopric) and it has been said that “in Germany there was little intellectual opposition to the doctrines and theology of Rome but that their hold on the reason and conscience of men was slight and easily shaken”. The renaissance has proved vigorous in Germany with new intellectual life and a number of universities founded, notably at Wittenburg in Saxony. A monk, Martin Luther, had been developing his views on religion and the church. The most important of these was the concept of justification by faith alone and that salvation could only come through faith. One of the greatest theological differences with the Catholic Church was that by this doctrine of justification by faith alone, there was no need for the mediation of priests, since salvation was a matter between God and the individual. The priest’s main job was thus to preach the Word; all the ceremonial of the church was irrelevant. Luther is convinced that the church has lost sight of the central truths of Christianity.

In 1517 the Prince-Bishop of Mainz obtained a papal bull which would allow him to sell indulgences in Germany. The concept of indulgences is that they draw on the storehouse of merit produced by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. They grant full or partial remission of punishment for sins. While they were mainly granted after the person has confessed and received absolution, they could also apply to the dead in purgatory. It has come to be the case that an indulgence can be obtained for a payment of money. Johan Tetzel was commissioned by the bishop of Mainz to raise funds by the sale of indulgences. Luther found this most objectionable and wrote 95 theses against indulgences and other faults in the church and published these in Wittenburg in 1517. Luther also wrote to the bishop of Mainz who firmly rejected his views. Interest in the controversy mounted very rapidly. A large body of public opinion in Germany welcomed such an attack on the church. The Elector of Saxony, proud of his university and its teachings and convinced of the need for reform in the church, sheltered and protected Luther.

A nerve must have been touched for Luther was summoned to Rome to recant. After some negotiations it was agreed that Luther would meet with Cardinal Cajetan, the papal legate, who called on him to repent. Luther would not be swayed by the arguments of the cardinal of the need

for obedience to the church which, by virtue of its divine institution, had access to truths other than those contained in the bible and had been entrusted with the guidance of the Christian world. For Luther, all that is needed is faith and scripture.

Luther suggested that a disputation be arranged at one of the great universities. So in 1519 a disputation was arranged at Leipzig between Luther and the catholic scholar Johann Eck. During the debate, where Luther would not acknowledge the infallibility of the pope, Luther was forced to admit a similarity between his views and those of Jan Huss who had been condemned and burnt as a heretic (Hus had challenged the church's teachings on the Eucharist and condemned indulgences). Luther put forward his views in his pamphlet, *Sermon on the Mass*, in which he insisted that Christ's sacrifice on the cross had been made once and for all and that it could not be re-enacted as a priest claimed to do during mass. Priests made their communion with God by bread and wine while the laity was restricted to bread alone. Luther declared that anyone who had faith was a priest and therefore entitled to take the sacrament 'in both kinds'. His heresy was now confirmed in many eyes by three books which Luther wrote: *An Appeal to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*, *On the Liberty of Christian Men* and *On the Babylonish Captivity of the Church*. These contained all the main points of Luther's views: the exclusive authority of the scriptures; the direct access of the believer to God without the necessity of intervention by the Church; the reduction of the sacraments to three (Eucharist, baptism and confession); the hostility of the Roman church to the best interests of the German people. A quote sums this up: "if the pope acts contrary to the scriptures we are bound to stand by the scriptures". Luther also denied transubstantiation (that during the Eucharist the bread and wine became the blood and body of Christ).

In 1520 the pope issued a bull of excommunication and forty-one opinions of Luther were condemned as heretical. Luther's books were ordered to be burnt and Luther to recant or be condemned as a heretic.

An attempt was made to resolve the issue at the Imperial Diet held at Worms in 1521. This was Charles V's first visit to the empire. There were other issues to be dealt with but the religious question over-shadowed everything else. Luther was given a safe conduct by the emperor. Though of firm religious opinions and ready to stamp out heresy the emperor decided to give Luther a chance to recant. Luther however declared that he would retract nothing unless convinced "by the testimony of scripture or evident reason". The emperor in turn declared: "A single monk, led astray by private judgement, has set himself up against the faith held by all for a thousand years and more, and impudently concludes that all Christians up to now have erred. I have therefore resolved to stake upon this cause all my dominions, my friends, my body and my blood, my life and my soul". In the Imperial edict of Worms Luther was denounced and placed under the imperial ban. Luther was thought to be in danger of arrest at Worms. Many remembered that Jan Huss had come before an imperial diet under a safe conduct but had been arrested and burnt at the stake all the same. Charles V kept his word and Luther was allowed to leave and he then disappeared. In 1522 he reappeared at Wittenburg but the authorities made no attempt to arrest him. Indeed the new religion was being adopted there. Since then Lutheranism has spread across Germany with several princes and cities adopting the new religion.

With the reformation have appeared a number of splinter groups, the foremost of which are the Anabaptists. They believe that baptism is only valid when the person is an adult. Anabaptists condemn oaths, will not bear arms, will not hold office and believe that civil officers have no

authority over believers. Anabaptists are usually executed and as a result some have become violent. Outbreaks of Anabaptism occur seemingly at random.

Although the number of Lutheran states is small at the start of the game (1524) there is a strong missionary element which could spread Lutheranism widely. While the Emperor is set against the new religion, his power to intervene is dependent on agreement by the Electors and other German Princes. Other matters also require his attention – the menace of the Ottoman Empire and the struggle with France which is usually referred to as ‘The Italian Wars’.

The Italian Wars

A year by year chronology is perhaps the best way to summarise the twists and turns of this conflict which is still in progress as the game starts:

- 1494 Charles VIII, King of France, invades Italy in pursuit of his claim to Naples. He is encouraged to do so by the Duke of Milan who is in dispute with Naples.
- On his way, Charles forces the pope, Alexander VI, to renounce his claims to Naples.
- Charles takes Naples and leaves a garrison.
- 1495 Ferdinand of Aragon (who has his own claim to Naples), the Emperor Maximilian and the Venetians form the League of Venice to oppose Charles and drive him from Italy. Alexander VI joins. The Duke of Milan, concerned now by the claim of Louis of Orleans to his dukedom, also joins. On his way down the peninsula Charles deposes the Medici in Florence and the grateful republic becomes an ally. After refilling his treasury with the taxes made each spring in Naples, Charles moves north and the rivals meet in battle at Fornovo (near Genoa). The French army easily scatters its opponent but continues back to France allowing both sides to claim victory.
- 1496 The French garrison in Naples makes itself unpopular with its exactions. Ferdinand of Aragon takes the opportunity and offers to send troops to support the Neapolitans. His forces are victorious at the battle of Atella. The Spanish place Federigo, grandson of the last Neapolitan king, on the throne.
- 1498 Louis of Orleans, now Louis XII, returns to Italy to pursue his claim to the Duchy of Milan. Unpopular due to his previous support for the French, no one moved to assist Duke Lodovico and the French take Milan. They soon prove unpopular there and Lodovico attempted to regain his duchy but the Swiss in his army agreed not to fight the Swiss in the French ranks and the French re-took Milan.
- 1500 Louis and Ferdinand agree a division of Naples, with Louis to become king. As soon as Federigo was defeated the allies fell out. The Spanish victories at Cerignola and Garigliano against the French settled the matter and by 1503 Naples was firmly under Ferdinand's control.
- 1508 Ferdinand, Louis and Maximilian unite their forces against Venice. Louis had inherited the Milanese claims to Venetian territory in the Po valley, Maximilian

wanted the restoration of Trieste and Fiume and Ferdinand wanted the return of some ports in Apulia which the Venetians had taken during the 1494 campaign. Louis' army won a victory at Agnadello and the Venetian forces withdrew to the lagoon. The allies then fell out over the division of the Venice's former mainland territories. Pope Julius II took advantage of this dispute and formed the Holy League in which Venice, Spain, the Empire and the Swiss were opposed to France – clearly alliances are very fluid and change rapidly!

- 1512 The French win a famous victory against the Spanish forces at Ravenna but their commander is killed and the French are unable to hold their ground. Lodovico's son, Massimiliano, was restored to Milan by his Swiss allies and the Medici were restored to power in Florence.
- 1513 France and Venice now ally against Milan. The Swiss, operating in support of Milan, defeat the French forces at Novara.
- 1515 The new king of France, Francis I, leads a new army into Italy and the Swiss suffer a rare defeat at the bloody battle at Marignano when the Venetians arrive in support of the French. France regains Milan and agrees the treaty of Noyon with Spain by which each guarantees the other's rights in Milan and Naples. The Medici pope, Leo X, secures Medici rule in Florence and in return agrees the Concordat of Bologna which confirms the right of French kings to make appointments in the church in France. The Swiss agree the perpetual peace of Freiburg by which they agree to only fight for France in future.
- 1521 The election of Charles V as Holy Roman Emperor renews the hostility between Valois and Habsburg. The French and their Venetian allies were decisively beaten at the battle of Bicocca in 1521 when the Swiss mercenaries had insisted on attacking a strong Imperialist position. The French withdrew, leaving Milan in Imperialist hands.
- 1523 The various French troops in Italy were withdrawn to France. Venice made peace with the emperor. The withdrawal of French forces made it possible for the anti-French faction in Genoa to gain power with Imperial support. A new French army is reportedly being raised...

The Ottoman menace

For many years the Ottoman Empire has focused on the east, with campaigns against Persia, Syria and Egypt. The Ottoman Empire now extends along the North African coast to Algiers. These years saw the effort in the west mainly at sea.

Since the accession of Sultan Suleiman, however, the focus has shifted to the west with the successful siege of Belgrade (opening the path to the west through Hungary) and the equally successful siege of Rhodes which forced the Knights of St John to surrender a vital base in the Eastern Mediterranean. It is not clear where the Ottomans will strike next.

The Historical Background of the Played States

DENMARK



The thrones of Denmark, Norway and Sweden had long been united but Sweden was established as an independent kingdom in 1521 after a revolt. The king, Christian II, was largely blamed for provoking this by his massacre of more than eighty leading lay and ecclesiastical aristocracy and then failing to deal with the subsequent revolt. He had also alienated much of the Danish nobility. He was deposed in 1523 and his uncle Frederick, the Duke of Schleswig and Holstein was elected to the throne. Christian is now in Exile in the Netherlands. Frederick was among the first to tolerate and then support Lutheranism.

ENGLAND



England settled into a period of peace under the new Tutor dynasty and its first monarch, Henry VII, after the struggles between the houses of York and Lancaster. Henry had secured his claim to the throne by marrying Elizabeth of York, daughter and heir of Edward IV. Henry's policy was to maintain peace and create economic prosperity. He developed very efficient methods of taxation and curbed the power of the nobility. He agreed a treaty with France in 1492 which ceded claims to Brittany in return for a subsidy and the French withdrawing their support for pretenders such as Perkin Warbeck.

In 1489 Henry negotiated a treaty with Spain and agreed that his son, Arthur, should marry Catherine, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, the Spanish monarchs. Another treaty with Scotland saw his daughter Margaret married to King James IV. In 1494 a treaty was agreed over the wool trade with the Netherlands which has significantly increased prosperity.

In 1502 Arthur died leaving his younger brother Henry as heir to the throne. Henry VII was reluctant to loose the link with Spain so he petitioned the Pope to grant a dispensation which would allow Prince Henry to marry Catherine (this would normally have been a degree of relationship which would have precluded a marriage in the Roman Catholic Church).

In 1509, Henry died and was succeeded by his son, now Henry VIII. The marriage with Catherine was then conducted. There is concern about the succession as no male heir has yet been born. The only child is a daughter, Mary, born in 1516.

In 1511, Henry joined the Holy League, organised by the Pope against France. In 1513 Henry invaded France and was victorious at the 'Battle of the Spurs'. His brother-in-law, James IV of Scotland, invaded England as an ally of France but was defeated at the battle of Flodden, during which the Scottish king was killed. He was succeeded by his infant son as James V. The Duke of Albany rules as regent.

England and France negotiated a treaty of friendship in 1518 and met in great splendour just outside of Calais at an event known as the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520. Little came of this and by the following year Henry had joined the League of Cambrai against the French king.

In 1521 Pope Leo X granted Henry the title of 'Defender of the Faith' for his counter-blast against the works of Martin Luther with his book, *Defence of the Seven Sacraments* which defended the sanctity of marriage and the pope.

FRANCE



France emerged from the Hundred Years War as a kingdom where many of the members of the royal family were used to a great degree of independence in their own territories. Louis XI, a great schemer who was never the less fortunate in some of his opponents being particularly stupid or obliging in dying early, brought the kingdom under a much greater degree of central control.

The main struggle had been against the Dukes of Burgundy and came from the enmity which arose during the Hundred Years War during which Burgundy had at various times allied with England. By marriage the duchy had also acquired the territories of Flanders, Artois and Franche Comte. The acquisition of Luxembourg led to a murderous rivalry between the two houses of Burgundy and Orleans. The contest between Louis and Charles the Bold swayed from Charles isolating the French king when he organised the League of the Common Weal to Charles being isolated in turn when Louis organised an alliance of the emperor, Lorraine and the Swiss. Charles perished in battle against the Swiss at Nancy, a battle that helped cement the Swiss reputation as the best infantry in Europe. The Duchy of Burgundy reverted back to the French crown. Charles' widow, Margaret of York, married Maximilian, (later the Holy Roman Emperor) and thus France Comte, Flanders and the Netherlands became part of the Habsburg inheritance.

On the death of Louis XI, Louis of Orleans schemed for the throne but had to give way to Louis XI's son Charles VIII. Charles had inherited the claims of the Duke of Anjou to the Kingdom of Naples and in 1494 had pursued his claim with an invasion of Italy (chronicled above). His brother and heir, Louis of Orleans, had also inherited the Visconti claims to the Duchy of Milan.

On the death of Charles, Louis had ascended the throne as Louis XII and he continued the pursuit of French claims in Italy. His son, Francis I, continues to do so in turn.

The focus of the struggle for dominance in Italy has been to avoid the perceived encirclement by the Habsburgs whose possessions of Spain and the Netherlands dominate two of France's borders. France cannot afford to have the Habsburgs poised on the Italian border as well.

THE HABSBURGS

Germany, like Italy, does not exist as a national entity in the sixteenth century. Germany is a collection of some three hundred-odd states, approximately one sixth belonging to the church, and independent free cities. They are ruled, more in theory than practice, by the Emperor. His power varies with his personal power. He is elected, according to the terms of the Papal Golden Bull of 1356, by seven electors: The Prince of (electoral) Saxony, the Margrave of Brandenburg, the Prince Elector of the Palatinate, the King of Bohemia (who is also currently the King of Hungary) and the Prince Bishops of Mainz, Trier and Cologne. These, along with other rulers, regarded themselves as sovereign princes and were often reluctant to see the emperor able to exert much influence.

In theory the position carries the title of King of the Romans until crowned as emperor by the pope in Rome. The emperor Maximilian broke with this tradition in that he was never crowned by the pope (due to poor relations between the two, not unusual between popes and emperors). The Archdukes of Austria, the Habsburg family, have held the position of emperor many times since the thirteenth century.

It is important to note that the Empire includes territories other than those in Germany, such as Bohemia and Milan, but a personal possession of the emperor (such as Spain) does not make it part of the empire. Some, but not all, of the states of the Netherlands are part of the empire. The Helvetic Confederation is nominally part of the empire but it has effectively secured its independence.



The current Habsburg emperor, Charles V, brings with him an unprecedented accumulation of personal power. By marriages and inheritances, he rules the Habsburg lands in Austria, the Netherlands and Franche Comte as Duke of Burgundy and is King of Spain. His father Maximilian had Charles elected King of the Romans, effectively anointing him as his heir. On the death of his father in 1517 he was the main candidate along with Francis I of France. Another possibility was the Elector of Saxony but he stood aside. It is rumoured that considerable bribery took place but eventually Charles was unanimously elected.

THE ELECTORS OF THE EMPIRE

Saxony



Prince Frederick III is one of the pre-eminent electors and would have been a popular candidate in the last election in 1517 had he wished to stand. He is a very religious man with a huge collection of relics. Like most of the electors he is very concerned about sovereignty of the states relative to imperial authority. He is married to Elizabeth of Bavaria. Their son John Frederick is an early convert to the Lutheran cause. Although Frederick remains a catholic, he has supported Luther (who was based at Wittenburg in Saxony)

It is worth noting that there is Electoral Saxony (ruled by Duke Frederick) and Ducal Saxony, ruled by Duke George (see below). Saxony was divided in 1485 between the Ernestine (Electoral) and Albertine (Ducal) lines of the Wettin family

Brandenburg



Margrave Joachim is a catholic though his wife, Elizabeth of Denmark, is a Lutheran. His family is well connected; his cousin Albert is the Grandmaster of the Teutonic Knights and his brother Albert is Prince Bishop of Mainz. Another cousin, George, is Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach.

Palatinate

Prince Louis V, Elector of the Palatinate, is a member of the Wittelsbach family, as is Duke William IV of Bavaria. There was a succession dispute in the family over the lands of Bavaria and the Palatinate which led to fighting. This was resolved in 1505 with Louis V becoming elector of the Palatinate and Duke William becoming ruler of Bavarian possessions. During the dispute, The emperor had placed the Elector under the Imperial Ban; this was only removed by the newly elected Charles V in 1518. Louis voted for Charles in the imperial election. Louis is a catholic. He has a brother, Frederick, but no children. He is married to Sibylle, daughter of late Duke Albert IV of Bavaria.

Bohemia

The position of King of Bohemia is elective, along with that of Hungary. King Ladislav of Bohemia was elected to the throne of Hungary as well, thus linking the two kingdoms. On his death in 1516, his son Louis was elected to both thrones. Only seventeen, Louis is married to Mary of Habsburg, sister of Charles V. His sister, Anne, is married to Ferdinand of Habsburg, Charles's brother. They have no children.

At the time of the election, the other main candidate was John Zapolya, Vivode of Transylvania who also hoped to marry Anne.

In the last century Bohemia was the centre of the Hussite Wars and is still strongly Hussite (which can be regarded as an early form of Lutheranism), though much of the nobility is Catholic. Louis is tolerant of both faiths.

Prince Bishop of Cologne

Hermann of Wied became Prince Bishop in 1515 though he does not enjoy the best of relations with the papacy due to his belief in the need for reform within the Catholic Church.

Prince Bishop of Trier

Richard Greiffenklau zu Vollraths became elector in 1511. In 1522, Trier was attacked by rebellious knights of the empire but the attack was repulsed. His assistant, John Eck, acted as the representative of the empire to ask Luther to recant at the Diet of Worms.

Prince Bishop of Mainz



Albert became elector in 1514 and was made a cardinal in 1518. As the Prince Bishop of Mainz he is the *Chancellor of the Empire*, the main link between the electors and the emperor.

The cost of his new position has however caused him financial problems. He attempted to resolve these by gaining permission from the pope for the sale of indulgences (these offered redemption for those in hell and in theory involved good acts but notoriously could just involve the payment of money). It was the enthusiastic selling of indulgences by his agent, John Tetzel, which caused Martin Luther to write his theses and start the reformation.

OTHER GERMAN PRINCES

Baden



A Catholic German duchy, Ruled by the Margrave, Christopher. His sister is about to marry the Duke of Bavaria.

Bavaria



Ruled by Duke William IV, a member of the Wittelsbach family. William is married to Marie of Baden. There have been disputes with the other branch of the Wittelsbach family over the rule of various lands, including the Palatinate, but these have now been resolved (see the entry for the Palatinate).

Duchal Saxony



Ruled by Duke George, who is married to Barbara, daughter of the King of Poland. His sister, Christine, is married to the Margrave of Hesse. A catholic duchy.

It is worth noting that there is Electoral Saxony (ruled by Duke Frederick) (see above) and Duchal Saxony, ruled by Duke George. Saxony was divided in 1485 between the Ernestine (Electoral) and Albertine (Ducal) lines of the Wettin family

LUTHERANS

Brandenburg-Ansbach



George, the Margrave, also controls Upper Silesia. Related to the Hungarian court through his mother, Sophie, the late king Ladislas received him as an adopted son. His family is well connected; his younger brother Albert is the Grandmaster of the Teutonic Knights and his cousin Albert is Prince Bishop of Mainz. Another cousin, Joachim is Margrave of Brandenburg. George is a recent convert to the cause of Lutheranism. He is not married.

Hesse



Margrave Philip, the Magnanimous, is a recent convert to the Lutheran cause. He is married to Christine of Saxony (of the ducal Saxony line rather than the electoral Saxony line). They currently have no children.

Anhalt



Wolfgang, Prince of Anhalt, is an early convert to Lutheranism. He is not married.

ITALIAN STATES

The Republic of Florence



Ruled by Alessandro de Medici. Florence is nominally a republic but its rule lies largely in the hands of the Medici family. Cosimo de Medici had established his personal authority in the middle of the fifteenth century and made the organs of government responsive to his wishes without raising significant opposition. Florence became an international centre for artists, scholars and poets of the renaissance. His grandson Lorenzo was much less cautious in his display of power and his adoption of the airs of a prince caused offensive among the republican-minded citizens. His son Piero proved even less capable and

aroused particular opposition from the zealous monk, Savonarola. When the French invaded in 1494, the citizens, led by Savonarola, took the opportunity to depose Piero, support France and restore the republic. Savonarola's popularity proved short lived when he started to criticise all of the citizens of Florence and not just the Medici. Florence continued to ally with France and paid the price when the French lost their hold on Italy in 1512. The Medici were restored to power by the victorious Holy League in return for their promise of opposition to France, with Giuliano de Medici as the ruler. Medici power in Florence was greatly aided by the election of Giovanni de Medici as Pope Leo X in 1513. Unsurprisingly, Florence has subsequently sided with the papacy. Another Medici, Giulio, became pope as Clement VII in 1523.

The Duchy of Milan



Ruled by Duke Francesco Sforza. The duchy has had a very chequered history in recent years though it remains a thriving commercial centre. As a duchy it is claimed as a fief of the Empire, a claim which is rather more substantial than many made in this period. Until the middle of the 15th century Milan was ruled by the Visconti family. When the last Visconti died in 1447 Milan was taken over by Francesco Sforza, a mercenary captain (condottiere) who had been hired to defend the city. His reputation was not sufficient to gain command and his rule depended on the backing of his own mercenary captains. Peace brought trade and wealth so the population bear the high taxes that the military forces cost.

Francesco died in 1480 leaving his young son Gian Galeazzo in the care of his brother Lodovico (known as Il Moro, the moor). Lodovico effectively assumed control.

Trouble arose with the marriage of Gian Galeazzo to Isabella of Naples. This was intended to strengthen the alliance with Naples but Isabella was unhappy about Lodovico's assumption of power and appealed to her father for support. Lodovico saw a way out of his troubles when Charles VIII began to consider making good his claim to Naples. Lodovico encouraged the invasion but came to regret it when Louis, Duke of Bourbon, began to exert his claim to Milan (his grandfather had married Valentina Visconti). When Louis became king he launched a second invasion in 1498 and conquered Milan. French rule proving unpopular, Lodovico attempted to regain his position but his army was defeated at the battle of Novara.

Despite their victory against the Holy League at the battle of Ravenna in 1512, the French were unable to retain possession of Lombardy and Lodovico's son, Massimiliano, was placed on the throne by the Swiss (who were hoping to extend their influence outside of their own lands). Fortunes changed again with the subsequent French victory over the Swiss at Marignano in 1515. Lodovico ended his days a captive in France and his claim was taken up by his other son Francesco. When the French were forced to abandon Milan in the manoeuvring prior to the battle of Bicocca, Francesco regained his duchy where he now rules.

The Most Serene Republic of Venice



Ruled by Doge Andrea Gritti. Venice has a reputation for well-ordered government. A group of the leading families has a monopoly of political power and from them is elected the doge and the 'Council of Ten'. The rulers are sufficiently skilful in government that the material benefits of their rule are distributed to all. Taxation is low as the customs duties on the flow of goods through the city are substantial. A large and powerful fleet guards their interests at sea. Venice has a chain of possessions across the Mediterranean. At various times Venice has gained possessions on the mainland to the extent that it now extends from the Habsburg lands in the Tyrol to the Duchy of Milan. This has aroused some jealousy in her

neighbours.

When France invaded in 1494, Venice joined with the Emperor, Spain and the Papacy to oppose them. In 1508 however, Venice became the target of a new alliance. France, with its conquest of Milan, had inherited Milanese claims to Venetian mainland territory. The Emperor wished to make good his claims to Trieste and Ferdinand of Spain wanted to recover the Neapolitan ports which the Venetians had gained during the chaos of the 1494 invasion. Venice was forced to withdraw to the safety of the lagoon, protected by her fleet. Her enemies fell out over the division of the spoils. 1511 saw the ever fluctuating alliances change once again and Venice became part of the new Holy League against France and now allied with the emperor and Spain. The restoration of a Sforza to the rule of Milan brought new problems and in 1513 Venice found itself allied with France. A joint French-Venetian army defeated the Swiss at Marignano in 1515 and Venice was restored to her frontiers of 1494. Venice is still allied with France as the next phase of the Italian Wars commences.

As a city, which trades across the Mediterranean to the ports of the Levant, relations with the Ottoman Empire are obviously crucial. A peace treaty in 1479 freed the Turks to attack and temporarily occupy Otranto and to besiege Rhodes unsuccessfully. War broke out again between Venice and The Ottomans in 1499; this lasted till 1503 when Venice seceded several bases in the Aegean.

Ottoman Empire



Ruled by Suleiman the Magnificent, Lord of the Lords of this World, Allah's Deputy on Earth, the Giver of the Laws. Ottoman expansion in the last century has been rapid. In 1354 they first invaded Europe, occupying much of the Balkans. This left Constantinople isolated between the Rumelian and Anatolian provinces of the empire. Without aid from the Christian west the city inevitably fell to the onslaught led by sultan Mehmed II, in 1453; the city is now the economic and political centre of the empire.

Expansion continued. The last Genoese and Greek colonies around Anatolia and the Crimea were taken; in 1458 the Ottomans took further parts of Greece, Serbia in 1459, Bosnia in 1464 and Albania in 1479. The capture of the dockyards at Constantinople prompted the construction of a fleet which resulted in a war with Venice.

The pace slowed when Bayezid came to the throne in 1481. With his brother Jem in European hands, Bayezid was wary of Jem raising a rebellion while he was embroiled in campaigns. With the death of Jem he pursued a campaign against Venice and invaded and occupied Moldavia. The Venetians were aided in the later stages by Spain and the Pope but lost their possessions in Greece.

This was seemingly insufficient for Bayezid's sons who desired a more aggressive policy. After a short civil war in 1511, Bayezid was deposed and Selim took the throne after disposing of his rival brothers.

Selim immediately marched through Anatolia suppressing revolts by Shiites (the Ottomans are Sunnis) then advanced into Persia where the Shah Ismail had been persecuting his Sunni subjects and encouraging the Shiites within the Ottoman Empire to rebel. The Ottomans were victorious at the battle of Tchaldiran and the Persians were little trouble for some time after.

Selim then turned his attention to the Mamluk rulers of Syria and Egypt. He defeated their army at Marj Dabak in 1516 and then launched a gruelling campaign across the desert to Egypt, taking Cairo and deposing the Mamluks. Syria was incorporated into the empire and Egypt became a tributary under an Ottoman Pasha. With Egypt came the guardianship of the holy places at Mecca and Medina. The Ottomans were now pre-eminent throughout Islam.

A major difficulty to Ottoman navigation was the presence of the Knights Hospitaller on the island of Rhodes. Selim died before he could pursue this option but it was taken up by his successor, Sulieman and Rhodes was successfully besieged in 1522.

The success of the Ottomans is not only due to the failure of the Christian west to unite against them. They are a warrior race who live for fighting and plunder. Seemingly inured to climate, their taste for rice and use of camels for transport enabled them to operate over great distances. Their armies are largely composed of cavalry but have a core of artillery and regular infantry, the Janissaries. The latter are recruited as children from the Christian population within the empire and raised as Moslems and soldiers. Numbering some 12,000, they are maintained on a permanent basis. The empire is little troubled by revolts as it is a tolerant empire in many ways though capable of great cruelty. Christians are tolerated, both Roman and Greek Orthodox. Even the *devshirme*, the levy of young boys as recruits to the Janissaries, is viewed as an opportunity for advancement. The *spahis*, the landowners, are interested in money taxes and feudal dues so many peasants are better off than under their former masters. They are also the heirs to Arabic and Persian culture combined with the acquisition of Greek science and philosophy.

PAPACY



His Holiness Clement VII was only recently elected pope after the short pontificate of Adrian VI. He is a member of the Medici family of Florence. He was the principal minister and confidant of Pope Leo X (1513-1521), another Medici.

The main problem facing the papacy is, of course, the spread of Lutheranism. In 1517 the monk Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the church door at Wittenberg, mainly aimed at reforming the church and perceived abuses.

Luther was summoned to appear at Rome in 1518 but this was revoked to permit him to appear before the Diet of Augsburg in October 1518 to meet the papal legate, Cardinal Cajetan, who was attending the imperial diet convened by the emperor Maximilian to impose the tithes for the Turkish war. Luther would not be swayed by the cardinal's arguments, nor by the papal bull of the 9th of November requiring all Christians to believe in the pope's power to grant indulgences.

In the following year, Luther produced many new pamphlets, which increased the controversy. A further papal bull of 1520 condemned forty-one propositions extracted from Luther's teachings. Luther responded by publicly burning the papal bull at Wittenberg. Leo X then formally excommunicated Luther. In 1521 the emperor signed the edict of the diet of Worms, which placed Luther under the ban of the Empire.

In 1521 Henry VIII of England sent to Leo his book against Luther on the seven sacraments. The pope then conferred on the king of England the title "Defender of the Faith". Neither the imperial edict nor the work of Henry VIII halted the Lutheran movement, and Luther himself, his whereabouts unknown, continues his heresy.

Lutheranism is now spreading across Germany and the rulers of Anhalt, Brandenburg-Ansbach and Hesse have all adopted it as the state religion.

Relations between the papacy and the emperor are often troubled with the two being often on opposite sides of the Italian Wars.

The Papal States are the territories around Rome which are under Papal rule: Romagna, Ancona, Spoleto and Rome.