



Charles I
1600-1649 A.D. King of England, Scotland, and Ireland. His tyrannical reign was riddled with conflicts of power with Parliament, resulting in the English Civil War. After being defeated, he was tried for treason and executed.



Peter Paul Rubens
1577-1640 A.D.
Flemish painter whose art generally represented allegorical, religious, and historical themes. He also executed many portraits and landscapes. Accomplished in the baroque style, he was known for his artistic enthusiasm and proficient use of color.



Oliver Cromwell
1599-1658 A.D. English general as well as political and religious figure. Leading the Roundhead army, he was victorious over Charles I in the English Civil War. Key in the abolishment of the monarchy, he became lord protector over England.



King Gustavus Adolphus
1594-1632 A.D.
Swedish king and strong military leader. Known as the "Lion of the North," he was a protector of Protestantism in Germany and Sweden. Due to the Edict of Restitution, struggles commenced between the Catholics and Protestants. Although victorious in most battles, he died in the Battle of Lutzen, leaving his army weakened without his direction.



Edict of Nantes
1598 A.D. A decree declared by King Henry IV at Nantes to reestablish internal harmony in France after the conflicts caused by the Wars of Religion. The edict identified the civil and religious rights guaranteed to all French Protestants (known as Huguenots). However, the edict was revoked by Louis XIV in October of 1685, claiming he would no longer suffer any Huguenots in his kingdom unless they convert to Catholicism. This led to heavy and brutal persecutions, causing the Huguenots to flee.



Richelieu
1585-1642 A.D. French prelate and statesman. As leading minister of Louis XIII, he reinforced authority of the monarchy, managing French political involvement during the Thirty Years War.



The Spanish Armada
1588 A.D.
A fleet of 130 ships sent by Philip II of Spain, charged with the invasion of England in the attempt to overthrow Queen Elizabeth I, and thus establish the throne for himself. Due to weather conditions and keen naval campaigns by the English, the Armada was battered and forced to scatter. Only half of the fleet reached Spain.



The St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre
August 24, 1572 A.D. The murder of French Protestants (Huguenots) in Paris that rekindled the hostility between Protestants and Catholics, resuming civil war. It was advanced by an attempt on the life of Huguenot leader Admiral Coligny by Catherine de Medici. However, due to its failure, a plan was organized for an overall massacre. Although many Huguenots fled, over 70,000 were killed.



Rembrandt van Rijn
1606-1669 A.D. Dutch painter and master of chiaroscuro, unequaled in his depiction of human feeling and emotion in his art. Best known for his religious and historical scenes, he was also famous for his series of self-portraits.