



NGMUN IV

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JCC: Catholic Church, 1533



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Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to NGMUN 2022! In our third installment of the conference, and our first installment to be held for a second consecutive year, we have developed some of our most ambitious—dare I say thought-provoking—committees to date. You must remember that you are representing the views of your country or your character, not yourself. This will be imperative as you debate issues, especially if you are advocating for a side of the conflict which you yourself do not believe in. We hope to see controversy presented with respect in committees such as UNHRC: Gay Rights or in the Arab League—in other words, we hope to see true diplomacy.

The Nobles MUN club has been one that has grown and developed significantly in recent years. NGMUN started as an idea between two dedicated members of the club, Will Whalen (N' 19) and Julia Temple (N' 20), before my time at Nobles, and NGMUN I was held my freshman year. Since then, though NGMUN's leadership has separated from the MUN club's leadership, our secretariat and daises have grown significantly with regards to their experience and their enthusiasm. The Nobles MUN club has outperformed our wildest expectations since my freshman year, with one of our recent accolades including Best Large Delegation at Harvard MUN 2021. Many of the award winners from that conference and from various others will be chairing committees for NGMUN this year; in other words, our staff is extremely driven, so you should trust their decisions in committee and you should feel free to raise any questions with them or ask for advice at any time.

I would briefly like to touch on our expectations for this conference. Firstly, position papers will be required for any delegate seeking an award at the end of the one-day conference. Not only will position papers expand your own knowledge of the issue and your delegation's stance, they also show your chair and co-chair(s) that you take your position at this conference seriously. Secondly, by all means you should be excited to debate and resolve conflicts, but if discourse between you and other delegates gets too heated, remember that this conference is a simulation. You should exhibit diplomacy, not hostility. Even if you are assigned to a specialized committee where fights and arguments are in the name, there will be no tolerance for directly disrespecting the character of any of your fellow delegates. With that being said, may this conference bring growth for us all. Thanks for opting to spend your weekend with us!

Sincerely,
Ryan Sanghavi
Secretary-General
rsanghavi22@nobles.edu

Letter from the Chair

Welcome Delegates! My name is Chris Tillen and I am beyond excited to be your chair for JCC: Catholic Church alongside my excellent co-chair Simon Juknelis. I cannot wait to meet all of you in committee and I hope to make our session captivating and fun. I am currently a junior at the Noble and Greenough School and I enjoy playing the piano, running cross country, and performing theater. While I do not have a fun pet that I could talk about in this letter, I do have three younger brothers who feel pretty similar to golden retrievers.

I attended my first Model UN conference my freshman year and immediately fell in love with it. I was drawn to all the unique and creative solutions that delegates put forward, and I was equally enthusiastic about making new friends. I've participated in both general assembly and crisis committees, and while both are amazing for different reasons, I am extremely excited to chair this crisis committee. I think crisis is uniquely important because it teaches delegates to think on their feet as they hurdle through a constantly changing situation, and I've witnessed some extremely creative ideas, such as George Washington turning into the Hulk. In either GA or Crisis, I believe that the best part about MUN is learning and growing with your peers, and I am looking forward to seeing how you all learn from each other and grow throughout this conference.

This joint crisis committee will focus on the Catholic Church at the height of the Protestant reformation. As it is a joint crisis committee, we will be working alongside another JCC committee that will center around the Church of England. This period was a tumultuous time for Europe, as religious strife plagued the entire continent. Both the Holy Roman Empire and the Catholic Church were struggling to regain political and religious unification, as many reformative movements were beginning to gain traction. This background guide will cover the history of both the Holy Roman Empire and the Catholic Church, as well as the background of famous protestant movements like Lutheranism and Calvinism. It will also discuss corruption within the Catholic Church, a root cause for the religious fractures throughout the church. Furthermore, the background guide will illustrate the current situation (in 1533) that this committee will begin in. While this background guide is designed to be as helpful as possible, I strongly encourage you to do additional research in order to jump-start your preparation. I also urge you all to think outside the box! The historical context is important, but your unique ideas will make this committee vibrant and fun!

I would also like to stress that MUN is a privilege that not all people get to enjoy. As we all have this opportunity, I ask that you all are extremely respectful and kind in committee. While bringing your own ideas to the table is a huge part of MUN, listening to your peers and working together is equally important.

Lastly, please reach out with any questions! Additionally, Please Send position papers to ctillen23@nobles.edu. I'm looking forward to meeting you all, good luck with your preparation!

Sincerely, Chris Tillen, Chair JCC Catholic Church
ctillen23@nobles.edu

Committee Background

Committee Outline

Spurred by Henry VIII's abuses of the Catholic Church in England, delegates are meeting on March 31st, 1533 to debate the future of the Catholic Church. Delegates will be taking on the roles of key figures throughout 16th century Europe, and all these people have separate motivations and priorities in relation to the Catholic Church. As you do your research on your specific character, search for the character's goals regarding the catholic church. Please note that this committee is not meant to mirror history - the historical context is merely a starting point.

General Procedure

Committee will follow traditional parliamentary procedure, meaning that it will mainly consist of moderated caucuses, unmoderated caucuses, and directives. Meanwhile, each delegate will write crisis notes throughout the committee (see below for more specifics on crisis notes). In order to succeed, a delegate must be a leader in both the general flow of committee and in the backroom.

Directives

Directives are one of the most essential parts of the flow of debate as they address problems head-on. Delegates will work to pass many directives, with varying themes that will follow the changing circumstances. Delegates are encouraged to work collaboratively on each directive. Unlike resolutions, directives are shorter and do not require preambulatory clauses. That being said, they should still be written in clause format. The committee as a whole will vote on directives, and for one to pass, a simple majority is required. The exact number of sponsors and signatories, and what a simple majority is will be determined at the start of the conference.

Crisis Updates

Crisis updates will strongly influence the flow of debate, and they will often prompt the writing of directives. Crisis updates are influenced by the crisis notes that delegates themselves write, as well as outside factors decided by our Crisis Director and Crisis Staff.

Crisis Notes

Crisis notes are the heart and soul of the backroom, and they are instrumental in each delegate's crisis arc. While directives are designed to address the larger issue as a team, crisis notes should be utilized to accomplish a personal goal. Each crisis note should be formatted as a letter written from the point of view of a delegate. When writing crisis notes, make sure to be specific so that the crisis staff knows best how to execute your wishes. Additionally, crisis notes should employ each delegate's portfolio powers. These are powers that your character has based on their unique position or occupation. Moreover, joint crisis notes can be passed. Joint crisis notes are written by two or more delegates and should employ the portfolio powers of all parties.

Communiqués

Communiqués are a way for delegates to address institutions or entities not present in the committee. They can request special information, individual meetings with bodies outside of the committee room, or certain resources. These must be within the realm of a delegate's portfolio powers and written as a formal letter. Write them with as much specificity as possible, otherwise the backroom will make up any detail that is not included.

Press Releases

Press releases allow the committee to express sentiments or inform the public, they are similar in procedure to directives. Keep in mind that they are not very impactful in the flow of committee.

Historical Background

History of the Holy Roman Empire

The Holy Roman Empire is a gargantuan figure in European history, with its control lasting nearly 1000 years (962-1806.) The Holy Roman Empire is central to this committee as prior to the Protestant Reformation, the Holy Roman Empire was entirely Catholic.¹ In such, the wide reaching control of the Roman Empire aligned with the grips of the Catholic Church. However, the Roman Empire was not a single state but a larger collection of many smaller territories. This would indeed be a weakness to the Roman Empire as those many territories all had different beliefs and practices from each other. Religion was the unifying aspect across the many different factions, and the Roman Empire worked hard to preserve Catholic faith.² This background guide will cover the complete history of the Holy Roman Empire, but it will give brief context on some historical events relevant to this committee.

Concordat of Worms

While the Roman Empire was completely Catholic, a debate arose in the 11th century over who had more power: the pope or the emperor? The Concordat of Worms (1122) answered this question and limited the religious powers of the emperor, restoring the pope as leader of the catholic church.³

The Habsburg Dynasty

The Habsburgs ruled the Roman Empire from 1452 until its downfall in 1806, and they were in power for some of the most brutal conflicts in European history. Most notably, the Habsburgs were devout Catholics. The Habsburgs took the throne in 1452 through the election of Frederick III⁴. Frederick III then formed an alliance with Charles the Bold in order to solidify Habsburg control over the Holy Roman Empire. After Frederick III ruled the empire, Maximilian I took the throne. Maximilian I was Charles V's father, and Charles V is the empire at the time of this committee. In addition to Charles V religious struggles, he was facing military pressure from France and Turkey throughout his rule.⁵

Holy Roman Empire and the Catholic Church

In 1527, Pope Clement VII enlisted the help of Francis to resist Charles' influence over the papacy and the Church. In the ensuing wars, the alliance failed, the Papal States were

¹ History of the Habsburgs ." History World ,
<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?ParagraphID=ins>.

² Duits, Simon. "Holy Roman Empire." World History Encyclopedia, World History Encyclopedia, 1 Jan. 2022,
https://www.worldhistory.org/Holy_Roman_Empire/.

³ Ibid.

⁴ History of the Habsburgs ." History World ,
<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?ParagraphID=ins>.

⁵Ibid.

invaded, Rome was sacked, and the pope was taken prisoner by Charles' soldiers. From this moment on, Charles held effective control over the Church through the pope.

History of the Catholic Church

Prior to the Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church was the dominating control over all of Europe. At the beginning of the 16th century, Catholicism was the only legal religion in Europe. The leadership of the Catholic Church functioned with the Pope as the head authority. The Church was organized into dioceses, where each was led by a bishop.⁶ On a larger level, important territories were controlled by archbishops. Bishops and archbishops were named by the Pope. On the smallest level, every church was run by a priest. The government of the pope is headed by Cardinals, all of whom live in Rome.⁷

Corruption in the Catholic Church

The 16th century was characterized by religious reformation, all of which stemmed from corruption in the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church claimed that catholic faith was the only way to heaven in an attempt to convert all of the European population.⁸ This led to deification of priests, as many peasants saw the priest as their only way to ascend to heaven. While deification of a human is potentially harmful, Corruption truly lies within the financial aspects of the Church. Rich families were able to pay for positions in the church, essentially inserting themselves at high levels with no qualifications.⁹ In most wealthy families, the first born son would inherit the family name and estate. The younger sons would then be bought positions in the church. Additionally, Peasants needed to pay for baptism as baptism was a requirement to go to heaven. Marriages and burials also cost peasants. In addition, peasants were expected to work on Church land for free throughout the year.¹⁰ Most heinously, peasants were expected to hand over a tenth of their annual income to the church in exchange for salvation.¹¹

The church acquired revenue through three other methods. The first was relics, which were items sold to the public that were supposedly connected to Jesus.¹² The Church claimed that these relics would bring citizens closer to the Lord. Secondly, the Church received money through Indulgences. Indulgences were highly criticized throughout the reformation, and these were an exchange of money for forgiveness.¹³ Citizens could pay the church in order to be absolved from their sins or the sins of a relative. The third method was pilgrimages, as the

⁶ "Roman Catholic Church: Organization of the Church." *Infoplease*, The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 2012, <https://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/religion/christian/branches/roman-catholic-church/organization-of-the-church>.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Trueman, C. N. "The Roman Catholic Church in 1500." History Learning Site, 17 Mar. 2015, <https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/the-counter-reformation/the-roman-catholic-church-in-1500/>.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ Ibid

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

Church saw financial growth due to trade throughout the journeys.

History of Papacy

As the head of the Catholic Church and Vatican City, the pope resided in Rome and enjoyed significant power in both religious and political fields. Throughout the 15th and 16th centuries, popes enjoyed luxuries. Pope Alexander VI (who served as pope from 1492-1503) commissioned art where he was adorned with capes and precious jewels, in a manner similar to a king. Pope Alexander VI also engaged in sexually promiscuous acts.¹⁴ Following Alexander VI, Julius II took the papacy from 1503-1513. Pope Julius II was known as the warrior pope, as his primary goal was to take more and more territory in order to expand the Papal states¹⁵. Julius II brought glory to the Papal States and also was patron of many great artworks. On the flip side, Julius II also had multiple illegitimate children, which went against the beliefs of the Catholic Church. After Julius II died, Leo X became Pope and ruled from 1513-1521. Leo X was a strong supporter of indulgences because the money from indulgences siphoned into his back pocket. Leo X employed this money to create Church St. Peter, an extravagant display of wealth.¹⁶ In all three of these cases, the Popes sparked outrage over their destructive actions. After a short reign for Adrian VI (1522-1523), Clement IV took the papacy in 1523.

The Great Schism of 1378

The Great Schism of 1378 occurred as multiple people claimed that they were the pope simultaneously. Despite the Pope traditionally living in Rome, the papacy had switched to reside in Avignon, France from 1309-1377.¹⁷ However once Gregory XI (the last Avignon Pope) died in 1378, the people rioted and demanded a Roman pope, not a French one. Urban VI was elected pope in Rome, yet his temper and rude temper prompted the cardinals to elect Clement VII instead. In Rome, Gregory XII took the papacy after Urban VI. Meanwhile, Clement VII reestablished the papal court in Avignon, leading to the later election of Benedict XIII as pope in Avignon.¹⁸ These divisions rocked the church as while there had been rival popes before, this rival pope was appointed by the cardinals.

At this point, there was now a line of Roman popes and a line of Avignon popes. The Cardinals met in Pisa (1409) in order to discuss solutions, however, these cardinals ended up electing a third pope. First, Alexander V briefly reigned and was then replaced by John XXIII.¹⁹

¹⁴ Murphy, Francis Xavier. "Alexander VI." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Alexander-VI>.

¹⁵ Atacador, Jenny. "Why Is Pope Julius II Important?" Vatican Tours, Vatican Tours, 25 May 2020, <https://www.vaticancitytours.it/blog/why-is-pope-julius-ii-important/>.

¹⁶ Gallaher, John C. "Leo X." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Leo-X>.

¹⁷ Trueman, C. N. "The Roman Catholic Church in 1500." History Learning Site, 17 Mar. 2015, <https://www.historylearningsite.co.uk/the-counter-reformation/the-roman-catholic-church-in-1500/>.

¹⁸ "The Catholic Church." *Boundless World History*, Lumen, <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/boundless-worldhistory/chapter/the-catholic-church/>.

¹⁹ Ibid

John XXIII himself caused a council to order in 1414 with the purpose of solving the issue of the three popes. This council ended with the resignation of John XXII and Gregory XII and the ex-communication of Benedict XIII.²⁰ Martin V was finally appointed to rule over the Catholic Church as one pope.

Monarchs and the Catholic Church

Throughout the 15th and 16th centuries, Monarchs were attempting to centralize their kingdoms. Religion arose as a major roadblock and ally. In some cases, monarchs competed with the Pope for power within their nation. In other cases, religion was used as a tool to unite the kingdom's citizens under one faith. This background guide will discuss two examples; France and Spain.

France

King of France Francis I (1515-1547) faced competition from the Catholic Church. In order to combat this, Pope Leo X and King Francis I made an agreement known as the Concordat of Bologna. The Concordat allowed the pope to collect certain french taxes and in return permitted Francis I to appoint bishops, archbishops, and priests.²¹ The pope still had to ordinate the appointees of Francis I, allowing the Pope a chance to veto any of the king's decisions.²² The Concordat of Bologna resulted in increased revenue for the church in exchange for slight power to the king.

Spain

On the other hand, Spain was extremely catholic and allied with the Church. Ferdinand and Isabella married in 1469, which joined their two separate kingdoms into what is now known as Spain. Throughout their rule (1475-1504), Ferdinand and Isabella employed religion to unify their citizens under one faith.²³ This specifically materialized in the Spanish Inquisition. The Spanish Inquisition traveled through Spain converting citizens to Catholicism. The Inquisition used brutal torture methods on Muslim and Jewish people living in Spain, all of which culminated in the Alhambra Decree (1492).²⁴ The Alhambra Decree expelled all Jewish people from Spain and mandated Catholicism.²⁵

History of Protestant Movements

The Protestant Reformation rocked Europe to its core and attacked the complete control

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ "Concordat of Bologna in 1516." Henry VIII, the Reign, <https://www.henryviiihereign.co.uk/1516-concordat-of-bologna.html>.

²² Ibid.

²³ "Spanish Inquisition." *Spanish Inquisition - New World Encyclopedia*, https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Spanish_Inquisition.

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ "Spain Announces It Will Expel All Jews." History.com, A&E Television Networks, 12 Nov. 2019, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/spain-announces-it-will-expel-all-jews>.

that the Catholic Church once held. This committee takes place amidst the Protestant Reformation, as many of these growing movements were starting to take form and gain traction. The Protestant Reformation began with Christian Humanism. Christian Humanism was a movement that criticized the Catholic Church but did not actually break away and form a protestant faction. The key belief of Christian Humanism was an emphasis on the Bible's authority instead of the Pope's.²⁶ Additionally, Christian Humanists exposed the hypocrisy within the Catholic Church and sought to teach Catholics how to live as Christ intended. Christian Humanism was mainly spearheaded by Thomas More and Desiderius Erasmus. Thomas More was a priest and chancellor to Henry VIII, and he was famous for writing *Utopia*.²⁷ *Utopia* decapitated a perfect world in comparison to the Catholic Church in order to criticize corruption. Desiderius Erasmus was also a priest, and he wrote *In Praise of Folly*. This novel used satire in order to uncover the church's greed and hypocrisy. In addition, Erasmus translated the Bible to many languages in order to make it more accessible.²⁸

Lutheranism

While Christian Humanism began calling for change, Lutheranism was the first religion to actually break away from the larger Catholic Church. Lutheran beliefs centered around faith, and focused more on spirituality rather than finances. Where Roman catholicism preached that citizens needed to work off their sin through good actions, Luther stated that only faith was necessary.²⁹ Lutheran practices endorsed only two of the seven sacraments present in the Catholic Church (Baptism and communion). Communion is the bread and wine being the body and blood of Christ. Furthermore, Luthern sermons were conducted to mirror the language of the congregation. In comparison, the Catholic Church held sermons in latin.³⁰ Lutheranism began with Martin Luther's 95 Theses criticizing the church in 1517. Following these, the Pope sent John Eck to debate Luther in 1519. In this debate Luther outlined how he valued the bible over the pope.³¹

Diet of Worms

In response to Luther's proclamations, Charles V called Luther to worms in 1521 in

²⁶ "Christian Humanism." *Christian Humanism - New World Encyclopedia*, https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Christian_Humanism.

²⁷ "History - Historic Figures: Thomas More (1478 - 1535)." *BBC*, BBC, https://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/more_sir_thomas.shtml.

²⁸ Rummel, Erika, and Eric MacPhail. "Desiderius Erasmus." *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, Stanford University, 14 Oct. 2021, <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/erasmus/>.

²⁹ "Lutheran Origins, Lutheran History, Lutheran Beliefs." *Patheos*, Patheos Explore the World's Faith through Different Perspectives on Religion and Spirituality! Patheos Has the Views of the Prevalent Religions and Spiritualities of the World., <https://www.patheos.com/library/lutheran>.

³⁰ "Lutheran Church." *Lutheran Church - Ohio History Central*, https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/Lutheran_Church.

³¹ "Lutheran Origins, Lutheran History, Lutheran Beliefs." *Patheos*, Patheos Explore the World's Faith through Different Perspectives on Religion and Spirituality! Patheos Has the Views of the Prevalent Religions and Spiritualities of the World., <https://www.patheos.com/library/lutheran>.

hopes that Luther would stop attacking the Catholic Church. Luther refused to do so, and as a result he was excommunicated. In addition, Charles V condemned Luther by putting a wanted claim on him.³² In 1526, German leader Ferdinand I publicly sided with Luther and protested against the Catholic Church in the diet of Speyer.

Diet of Augsburg

The diet of Augsburg was spurred from the Augsburg Confession in 1530, which pushed for the reunion of the Catholic church with the rebelling reformers. Charles V called on the pope to fix the religious revolution, and as a result the pope gave the protestants a deadline by which they needed to convert back to catholicism. Additionally, Lutheranism was outlawed.³³ This did nothing to stop the spread of Lutheranism, and only served to spark a military presence associated with Lutheranism. In response to the Diet of Augsburg, the Schmalkaldic League was formed in 1531. This was a defensive alliance composed of all protestant territories in the Holy Roman Empire headed by Philip the Magnanimous of Hesse and John Frederick I of Saxony.³⁴

Roots Calvinism

Calvinism was another prominent protestant religion, however it did not take flight until after this committee. However, Ulrich Zwingli created the notions of Calvinism in 1519. Zwingli clashed with Luther over the definition of holy communion, where Luther claimed it was literal and Zwingli believed it was merely a representation. This conflict led to the creation of two separate reformist movements rather than one unified one.

Wars of Kappel

Zwingli gained a large following in Switzerland, however, there were also many Catholic provinces. Zwingli created an alliance with two cities (Konstanz and Strasbourg) which prompted the Catholic territories to form an alliance with Ferdinand I of Austria. Furthermore, executions of both protestant and catholic priests rose throughout the region.³⁵ This all culminated in the first war of Kappel (1529), yet this war ended without any actual battles being fought. The treaty that ended it did push the Catholic provinces to dissolve their alliance with Ferdinand, thereby removing their connection to the Habsburgs.

Yet in 1531, the second war of Kappel broke out due to the lack of true resolution from the previous conflict. The Catholics firmly won this war, and ultimately killed Ulrich Zwingli.³⁶ For the purposes of this committee, we are acting as if he wasn't killed in battle. The result of the second War of Kappel was the destruction of the protestant alliance. Roman Catholicism was

³² "Lutheranism." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Lutheranism>.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ "First War of Kappel." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 19 Aug. 2021, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_War_of_Kappel.

³⁶ "Second War of Kappel" Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 12 Jul, 2021, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_War_of_Kappel.

restored as the leading religion in Switzerland, however, territories that had converted to Protestantism were allowed to remain protestant.³⁷ This actually led to religious coexistence in Switzerland for a brief period of time.

How has the Church handled past issues?

I wanted to end this background guide with an example of the Church's success in handling a reformist. Born in 1372, Jan Hus outwardly spoke against financial, sexual, and substance abuse within the Papacy. Hus opposed indulgences and wished for the church to be more accessible, in a manner very similar to Martin Luther. Hus was quickly dealt with, however, and he was immediately excommunicated. He was not allowed to defend himself or his beliefs and his punishment was to be burnt at the stake in 1415³⁸.

³⁷ Ibid

³⁸ "The Moravian Church: John Hus (Jan Hus)." Hus, <https://www2.kenyon.edu/projects/margin/hus.htm>.

Current Situation

Henry VIII Seeks an Annulment

In 1527, King Henry VIII of England sought a papal annulment to his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. The official basis he presented to Pope Clement VII was that the marriage was “blighted in the eyes of God” as Catherine had been Henry’s brother’s wife, and Leviticus 20:21 declared that “if a man shall take his brother’s wife, it is an impurity: He hath uncovered his brother’s nakedness; they shall be childless.” The marriage only happened in the first place because it had been approved by special papal dispensation. While Henry and Catherine had several children, only one daughter survived past infancy, so Henry had no male heirs. Henry believed a male heir to be vital for the sake of his legacy and the orderly transfer of power.³⁹

The pope refused to grant the annulment, officially citing the prior dispensation.⁴⁰ In reality, this was done on the orders of the pope’s captor, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, who was Catherine’s nephew. The purpose of Charles’ reign, characterized by military expeditions to every edge of his territory, was to “establish a universal empire” under Habsburg rule.⁴¹ Through Catherine, it was possible that England could become yet another Habsburg land.

More’s Chancellorship Falls

In 1529, Thomas More acceded to the post of Henry’s Lord Chancellor. This made More Henry’s chief advisor and therefore a powerful official. A devout Catholic, More aggressively attacked Protestantism, which was now threatening to make its way into England.⁴² He worked to prevent the import of English-language Bibles into England⁴³ and advocated for heretics to be burned at the stake.⁴⁴

However, the English Parliament also supported the stability that could come from Henry having a male heir and began supporting Henry over the pope. In 1529, it re-established the crime of praemunire; this had originally been created by the 1353 Statute of Praemunire but had fallen into disuse since then. Praemunire was an act of treason that consisted of asserting papal authority over that of the King of England.⁴⁵

³⁹Elizabeth, et al. “Why Did Henry VIII Seek an Annulment of His Marriage to Catherine of Aragon?” Royal Central, 21 Apr. 2014, <https://royalcentral.co.uk/interests/history/why-did-henry-viii-seek-an-annulment-of-his-marriage-to-catherine-of-aragon-2-28373/>.

⁴⁰Caridi, Cathay. “If the Pope has never Permitted Divorce, Why did Henry VIII Expect the Pope to Give Him One?” Canon Law Made Easy, 23, Jun. 2016, <https://canonlawmadeeasy.com/2016/06/23/church-never-permitted-divorce-henry-viii/#forward#forward>

⁴¹“Charles IV.” Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Charles-IV-Holy-Roman-emperor>.

⁴²“Thomas More.” Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Thomas-More-English-humanist-and-statesman>.

⁴³MacCulloch, Diarmaid (27 September 2018). Thomas Cromwell : a life. pp. 160–162. ISBN 978-1-84614-429-5.

⁴⁴Ackroyd, Peter (1999). The Life of Thomas More. New York: Anchor Books..

⁴⁵“Definition of ‘Praemunire’ in English Law.” Luminarium, <http://www.luminarium.org/encyclopedia/praemunire.htm>.

In 1530, Henry and Parliament used the threat of praemunire to force most English notables into signing a letter of support for Henry in his feud with the pope over the annulment. More refused to sign this letter.⁴⁶ In 1531, Henry ordered that all clergy take an oath to respect him as the “Supreme Governor of this Realm [...] in all Spiritual or Ecclesiastical things or causes.”⁴⁷ More made clear his discontent with this oath. Though Henry still personally appreciated More, More’s office had become untenable, and he resigned in 1532.⁴⁸

Attacks on the Church

The Catholic Church had several ancient legal privileges under the English constitution. All Catholic clergy were free from paying taxes and immune from lawsuits. The clergy could directly pass laws concerning families.⁴⁹ In ecclesiastical matters such as heresy, the Church had its own court system staffed by priest-judges.⁵⁰

While the English monarchy battling the Church over their legal privileges was nothing new, it was kicked into high gear with the English Reformation. Along with the oath the Catholic clergy swore to Henry, an act known as the Submission of the Clergy declared that all Church law would forever be inferior to Parliamentary law. This set a new standard that the English government could revoke or restrict the Church’s prerogatives whenever it wanted.⁵¹ Delegates in this committee should be particularly concerned with maintaining these powers, as they are some of the few ways in which the Church retains direct authority in England.

Cranmer’s Rise to Power

In 1532, the Archbishop of Canterbury William Warham died.⁵² The Archbishop of Canterbury was de facto the most influential member of the English Clergy. The same year, Thomas Cranmer was appointed to that post on the recommendation of Anne Boleyn and her

⁴⁶ “Thomas More.” Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.,

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Thomas-More-English-humanist-and-statesman>.

⁴⁷ Roy, Author. “Oath of Supremacy 1535 (Actual Text/ Sir Thomas Audley).” Queen Anne Boleyn, 26 Feb. 2020,

<https://queenanneboleyn.com/2012/02/25/oath-of-supremacy-1535-actual-text-sir-thomas-audley/>.

⁴⁸ “Thomas More.” Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.,

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Thomas-More-English-humanist-and-statesman>.

⁴⁹ Lindsay, Mark. “Anthony Milton (Ed.), the Oxford History of Anglicanism. I. Reformation and Identity, c. 1520–1662 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), Pp. XXVI + 500. ISBN 9780199639731 (HBK) £95.00.:

Journal of Anglican Studies.” Cambridge Core, Cambridge University Press, 17 Oct. 2018, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/journal-of-anglican-studies/article/anthony-milton-ed-the-oxford-history-of-anglicanism-i-reformation-and-identity-c-15201662-oxford-oxford-university-press-2017-pp-xxvi-500-isbn-9780199639731-hbk-9500/BF2443172826F16392C4CB9BDC95F97C>.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ “Submission of the Clergy.” Oxford Reference,

<https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803100539868>.

⁵² “Thomas Cranmer.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 10 Dec. 2021,

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Cranmer.

family, and he was consecrated in March 1533. Pope Clement allowed Cranmer's appointment in the hopes that he would appear to be deferring to English wishes. Unbeknownst to him, however, Henry and Anne Boleyn had been secretly married in January 1533.⁵³

As of March 31, 1533, the most powerful bishop in England owes his position to the Queen Consort of England, and all of the Church's privileges are essentially hanging on a knife's edge. The Catholic Church's standing in England is now more precarious than ever.

What comes next?

I hope that this background guide was informative and interesting! Simon and I worked to provide you with all the necessary information to get started. Next, I encourage you all to do your own research on your character in order to get a complete sense of their motivations and portfolio powers. You should come to committee with two goals in mind; the first one being a general solution to the crisis facing the Catholic Church and the second one being your personal crisis arc. As you think about your character's stance on the Catholic Church's situation, here are some questions to consider:

- Should the Church try to force Henry and Lutherans to conform or should it try to appease them?
 - If the Church should force Henry and the Lutherans to conform, what methods can be employed to do so?
- Should the pope's influence be the same when independent as when under a king's control?
 - What are the limits of the Pope's power? What should be the limits of the Pope's power?
- Is the Church obligated to pull breakaway groups back under its control?
- How does the church combat corruption in its own past?
- Which is more important: political motives or religious motives?

There is a mix of delegates loyal to the Catholic Church, delegates loyal to the Holy Roman Empire, and delegates loyal to Protestant movements. Each political faction will have different goals and priorities in committee. We've outlined some potential blocs but do not feel constrained by them! They are an inspiration and a starting point, not a requirement.

⁵³ Ibid.

Potential Blocs

George of Austria, Bernardo Clesio, William IV of Bavaria, and Ferdinand I, Archduke of Austria

This is the Holy Roman Empire (HRE) bloc. Mostly, they would like to see the Church regain its supreme status in England, as Catholicism and the continued existence of Henry's marriage to Catherine are pathways for England to become part of Habsburg-controlled territory. To ensure that this work actually benefits the Habsburg cause, keeping the pope as Charles' prisoner is a priority for this bloc.

Pope Clement VII, Francis I of France, James V of Scotland, and Odet de Coligny

This is the papal bloc. Like the HRE bloc, they support Catholicism again becoming the dominant force of English politics. However, that would mean nothing to this bloc if the pope remains under Charles' control, so they would like to either see the pope restored as an independent ruler or be passed over to either Francis or James. Alternatively, Charles could be somehow removed or weakened.

Frederick I of Denmark, Christian II of Denmark, Ulrich Zwingli, and Phillip the Magnanimous of Hesse

As three Protestant religious and political leaders, this bloc would like to see more tolerance of Protestant beliefs throughout Europe. A Protestant England under Henry could greatly help Protestant rule become more commonplace. In committee, this bloc will need to move towards this goal carefully, though, lest they get overthrown by other members.

Depending on how willing the papal bloc is to compromise, Desiderius Erasmus could fall into either the papal bloc or the Protestant bloc.

Delegate List

Pope Clement VII

Born Giulio de' Medici, Clement VII rose to the papacy in 1523.⁵⁴ He formed an alliance with Francis I of France known as the League of Cognac against Charles and lost⁵⁵, resulting in the 1527 Sack of Rome and him being taken prisoner by Charles. The pope's authority is now under question, seeing as he may just be a vessel for Charles' political moves.⁵⁶

James V of Scotland

In 1526 at the age of fourteen, James was deemed to be an adult and so fully became the King of Scotland, though he was taken prisoner from 1525 until 1528. He has cracked down on Protestants in Scotland through heresy laws and burnings at the stake.¹⁶ Despite this, he has had to rely on levying taxes on Catholic clergy to fund his government; for James' service to the Church, Clement specially allowed this.⁵⁷

George of Austria

George is an influential bishop in the HRE and the uncle of Charles. He is also the illegitimate son of the former Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I.⁵⁸

Bernardo Clesio

Clesio is the Prince-Bishop of Trent within the HRE, making him the ruler, under Charles, of a significant part of the HRE. He was also one of the high aides to Charles. He was created a cardinal by Pope Clement after the pope's imprisonment by Charles.⁵⁹

William IV, Duke of Bavaria

William became the Duke of Bavaria within the HRE in 1508. He is very opposed to Protestantism and has cracked down on it in Bavaria. Pope Clement appointed him one of the key leaders in the Catholic movement against Protestantism in 1524; notably, this was before the pope's imprisonment.⁶⁰

Francis I of France

⁵⁴ "Clement VII." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Clement-VII-pope>.

⁵⁵ Ibid

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ "James V of Scotland." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 22 Dec. 2021, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_V_of_Scotland.

⁵⁸ "George of Austria." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 17 Sep, 2021. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_of_Austria.

⁵⁹ "Bernardo Clesio." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 5 Nov, 2021. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bernardo_Clesio

⁶⁰ "William IV Duke of Bavaria." Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 28 Nov, 2021. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_IV,_Duke_of_Bavaria.

Francis became King of France in 1515 through his marriage to the daughter of the late King Louis XII. He is widely considered Charles' main rival, even competing with him in the election of the Holy Roman Emperor. He formed the League of Cognac with Pope Clement (see above). While Catholic, Francis has been somewhat tolerant of Protestantism in France in a bid to win support from HRE rulers opposing Charles' hardline stance.⁶¹

Frederick I of Denmark

Frederick became King of Denmark in 1523 and King of Norway in 1524. He has the right to appoint Catholic bishops in Denmark over the wishes of the pope, one of the powers currently being sought by Henry. While Catholic, he has used this power to implement some Protestant-seeming policies, including supporting the printing of a Danish-language Bible.⁶²

Christian III of Denmark

Christian is the eldest son of, and heir apparent to, Frederick, as well as the ruler of Holstein and Schleswig in Denmark. Upon hearing Luther at the Diet of Worms, Christian openly became a Lutheran, though this brought him some trouble with his more wary father. In 1528, he made Lutheranism the official religion of Holstein and Schleswig.⁶³

Ulrich Zwingli

Zwingli is a Swiss priest and reformer whose views, in some ways, reflect those of Luther. He advocated politically for the cantons of Switzerland to become Protestant and formed alliances between those that did. He headed negotiations with Lutheran regions of the HRE (though these were ultimately not successful), and he led his Protestant alliance through a series of wars and other attacks on Catholic cantons of Switzerland.⁶⁴(For the purposes of this committee, we will consider Zwingli not to have died in 1531.)

Ferdinand I, Archduke of Austria

Ferdinand became the Archduke of Austria, one of the largest units of the HRE, in 1526. As Charles' brother and with his political status, he serves as one of Charles' closest allies. Similarly to Charles, he has not tolerated Protestantism in the lands under his control.⁶⁵

Desiderius Erasmus

⁶¹“Francis I.” Biography, <https://biography.yourdictionary.com/francis-i/>

⁶²“Frederick I of Denmark.” Wikipedia, Wikimedia Foundation, 17 Dec. 2021, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_I_of_Denmark

⁶³Susan, and Susan. “Christian III, King of Denmark and Norway.” Unofficial Royalty, 9 July 2021, <http://www.unofficialroyalty.com/christian-iii-king-of-denmark-and-norway/>.

⁶⁴“The Life and Thought of Zwingli: Christian History Magazine.” Christian History Institute, <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/urban-reformation-the-life-and-thought-of-zwingli/>.

⁶⁵“Ferdinand I.” Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ferdinand-I-Holy-Roman-emperor>.

Erasmus is a Catholic priest and advocate for Christian Humanism. He is notable for the influence of his writings. Despite his views, he has never questioned papal authority, and he continues to believe in the existence of free will, which many Protestants had disavowed. In both respecting the supremacy of the Catholic Church and calling for change within it, he follows a life path he referred to as “Via Media,” or the middle road.⁶⁶

Phillip the Magnanimous of Hesse

Phillip acceded to the title of Landgrave, or ruler, of Hesse in the HRE in 1518, though his mother’s influence significantly limited him until 1525. Phillip fully believes in the Protestant cause and sees it as a tool to seize power from Charles and establish his own sovereignty. In 1531, he formed the Schmalkaldic League of Protestant states in the HRE in opposition to Charles’ Catholicism.⁶⁷

Odet de Coligny

De Coligny was installed as a cardinal in 1533 at the age of sixteen due to his family’s connections to the pope. He is a strong supporter of the pope and Catholicism as they are his way to future power.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ McLean, John. “Western Civilization.” *Lumen*, <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/atd-herkimer-westerncivilization/chapter/erasmus/>.

⁶⁷“Philipp I, Landgrave of Hesse.” *Reformation 500*, 6 Sept. 2017, <https://reformation500.csl.edu/bio/philipp-i-landgrave-of-hesse/>.

⁶⁸“Odet De Coligny, Cardinal of Châtillon.” *Musée Protestant*, 14 Dec. 2020, <https://museeprotestant.org/en/notice/odet-de-coligny-cardinal-de-chatillon/>.

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