



The Eighty Years War and the Dutch Republic

Europe in 1555



Background Info

- The Netherlands was a wealthy area within the Holy Roman Empire
 - It was a rich trading center
 - A key region in the manufacture of textiles
 - A large banking and insurance center
 - Had lots of shipping and dominated the global “spice trade”
- Charles , the Holy Roman Emperor, granted them significant regional autonomy within the HRE to keep them happy (his hands were full with a lot of other troubles)
- When Philip II took over as King of Spain in 1556 he also took over the “Spanish Netherlands”, which included the whole region

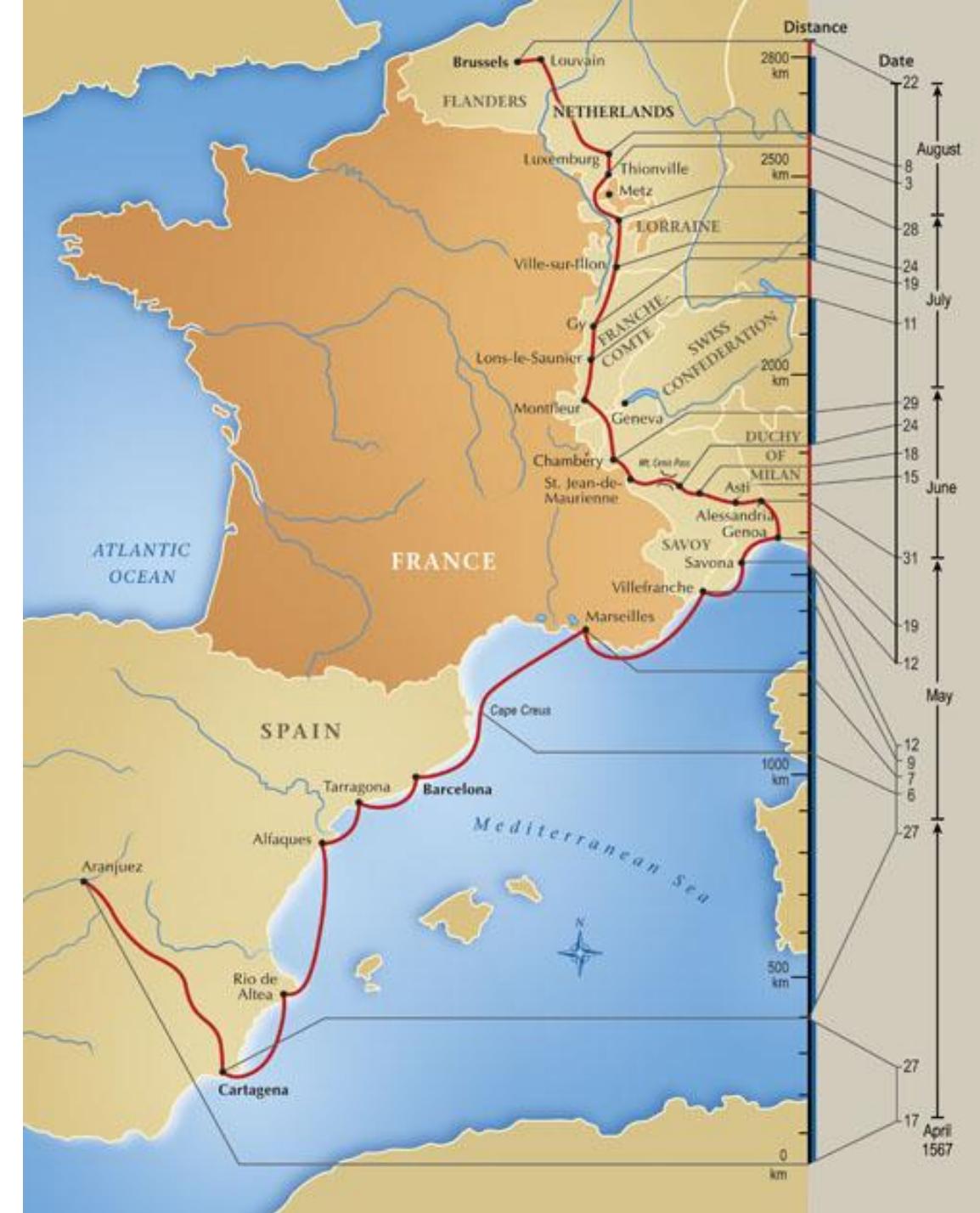


Causes of the Revolt

- Philip II was a devout Catholic - and Protestantism had been creeping into the Netherlands (the region as a whole was fairly religiously tolerant)
- Philip II moves harshly to crush all forms of Protestantism within the Netherlands using the Inquisition and military control
 - Even the Catholics revolt initially fearing a loss of their local control - and they also were more laid back Catholics than the Inquisition wanted...
 - Protestant Iconoclasts started busting up Catholic churches which Philip didn't like, it also concerned the Catholic Netherlanders...
- Philip sent the Duke of Alva and a large military contingent to regain control - Alva's attempt to do so was heavy handed and in many ways backfired

The Spanish Road

- The Duke of Alva's 1567 march to Brussels with his 10,000 troops along the "Spanish Road" shows some of the difficulty Spain had in taking control of the region by force
- The total trip is about 1,700 miles (roughly the distance from Seattle to Minneapolis)



The Revolt Grows

- 1568: The drive for independence is born
- William of Orange, Stadholder of many Northern provinces, returns from exile and leads an army to take on the unpopular Spanish Alva's forces
- The war is brutal, entire cities are slaughtered by the thousands (by both sides) over the coming decades
- Spain was unable to win due in part to the many wars of Philip II and a lack of money despite the wealth coming in from the Americas
- The Dutch navy was also better than the Spanish so any attempt at resupplying the military had to be done over land through the heart of Europe



The Drive for Independence

- Two competing sides within the Netherlands emerge
 - The Northern regions (largely Protestant, the Union of Utrecht) under the leadership of William of Orange
 - The Southern regions (largely Catholic, the Union of Arras) who remain loyal to Philip II of Spain
- In 1581 the Northern Provinces passed the “Act of Abjuration” declaring their independence
- In 1584 William of Orange is assassinated following a bounty being placed on his head by Philip II, but the war continues (Maurice of Nassau, Prince of Orange takes over the leadership)



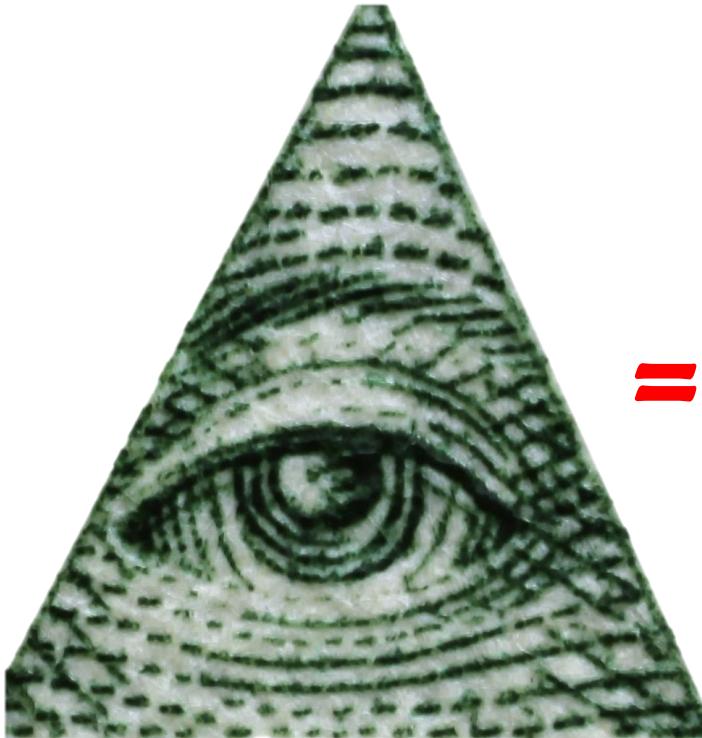
How to remember 1584?

$$15 - 8 = 7$$

$$7 - 4 = 3$$

What has 3 sides?

= ILLUMINATI CONFIRMED



1584 to 1621

- The War continues on and off, Spain attempts new invasions, massacres ensue, counter attacks, naval attacks
- In 1609 Spain realizes the division of the region into two states is unavoidable, and they are broke
- Starting in 1609 a “truce” ensues and there is hope for a lasting peace (it lasts 12 Years)
- Both sides restock their treasuries, rebuild their forces and await renewed hostilities if no lasting peace can be found



The End and Independence for the Dutch Republic

- When hopes for a peace treaty broke down war returned
- From 1621 to 1648 the Dutch took commanding control of the seas defeating the Spanish decisively and ending them as a major sea power
- In the Netherlands the land war proved indecisive for both sides - both essentially retaining the same land they had in 1609
- By 1648 Spain, in the course of the settlement of the 30 Years War, was forced to recognize the independence of the Dutch republic
- Within 4 Years the Dutch would again be at war, but this time against England
- Post 1648 the Dutch enter their “Golden Age”

Celebration of the Peace of Munster - 1648



Europe in 1648

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EUROPE IN 1648

AFTER THE TREATIES OF WESTPHALIA

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The Dutch Golden Age 1648 to 1720

- The United Provinces were a federation: limited central government with regions retaining significant control
- The Federation met in the “States General”
- The leading figures of the House of Orange were **STADHOLDERS** not Kings, and had limits on their authority
 - The House of Orange frequently made attempts to take more power, but with the departure of William III and Mary II to England
- The Key to their success: **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
 - Dutch outpaced all of Europe in economic development
 - Massive ship building and commercial transportation
 - Amsterdam became a critical banking center of Europe

Economic Expansion

- Clearing and draining new land helped expand the Dutch agricultural industry providing more food to feed a growing population
- Building canals to help ease transportation of new consumer goods to urban areas throughout the United Provinces
- The Dutch East India Company founded in 1602 became a critical part of the Dutch success
- Shipbuilding boomed -- new techniques and ship designs allowed the Dutch to build sturdy ships quickly and at a reduced cost relative to their competitors
- Some times things got out of hand, e.g. the Dutch Tulip Boom of 1637

Dutch Toleration and Culture

- The Dutch were a much more open society in terms of religious toleration; they took in prosperous refugees from across Europe (Jews, Huguenots, Lutherans, Quakers and other puritan groups from England)
- Dutch painting reached its peak during this “Golden Age”
 - Key Artists: Vermeer and Rembrandt
 - Many of the works depicted every day scenes
 - Additionally much of the art depicted naval scenes and interesting landscapes

The Decline of the Dutch Republic

- The decline driven in part through conflict with other rising powers in Northwest Europe especially England and France
- Conflict with England and France was expensive and drained away precious resources
- England took territory in North America from the Dutch and the French at one point took over most of the Dutch provinces, but were soon forced back out

