



Outline: CHWNE Module 2 Lesson 4: The King's Ransom, Vandalism, and the Placard Affair

1525-1526, 1529 - Louise of Savoy and the Catholic nobles ruled France in Francis' absence.

The King's Ransom

1523: Francis 1 demanded that Charles de Bourbon return (supposedly) inherited lands; Bourbon joined the army of the HRE, Charles V.

1525: Francis captured (Claude died), Louise of Savoy allowed Parlement and Catholic nobles freedom to persecute Protestants; Charles V set harsh terms for Francis' release - including his sons held as hostages (Francis II and Henry II).

- Term 1
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- Term 3
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January 1526: French ambassadors negotiated the harsh Treaty of Madrid

1530: Francis I was married to Eleonora, sister to Charles V, but largely ignored her. She raised her stepdaughters, Madeleine and Margaret.

1531: Louise of Savoy died of plague.

1533: Francis I oversaw the marriage of Henry II to Catherine de Médicis, the niece of Pope Clement VII.



--Vandalism Of The Statues

1526 - 1528: Francis' support for Protestants began to dwindle.

- **King's ransom:** 2,000,000 gold crowns + harder stance on 'heresy'
- **Spring 1528:** Vandalism of two statues

The Placards Affair

- **1534:** Anti-Catholic, anti-Eucharist posters printed by **Antoine de Marcourt** in Switzerland, distributed throughout Paris and other main French cities
- Protestants fled
- **1535:** Second wave of printing led to banning of printing and burning of heretics (18); Francis later reversed his policy
- **March 1536:** John Calvin published an open letter "**Institutio Christianae Religionis**" (**Institutes of the Christian Religion**), defending the Christian faith, addressed to Francis I

1540: The Edict of Fontainebleau labeled Protestant belief as "*high treason*"

