



Outline CHWNE Module 4 Lesson 1: **Henry II (1547 -1559) and The Women In His Life**

Let's look at Henry's Early Years

- Henry was born at Chateau St. Germain en Laye in **1519**. The second son of **Francis I** and **Queen Claude**. He had 7 siblings but only 2 survived past the age of 30.
- **King's Ransom** from **1526 to 1530**.
- In **1533** Henry married **Catherine de Medici**

Let's look at Catherine de Medici's Early Years

- Catherine was born in **1519** and died **1589**.
- Francis promised **Pope Leo IX**, authority of the Vatican over the Catholic Church in France while Leo promised support for Francis' claim to **Naples**.
- **Pope Leo IX** died, another relative **Giuliano de Medici (Pope Clement VII)** took her to be raised in the **Palace Medici in Florence**, until she was about 8 years old.
- **Pope Clement VII** appealed to **Charles V** for help.
- In the first 8 years of her life, **Catherine** was raised as a staunch Catholic. After her release from the convent she was sent to Rome



- Catherine did not conceive for 10 years.
- **In 1536, 3 years after the marriage**, Henry's older brother (**Francis II**) **passed away unexpectedly at 18 years old. Henry II became the heir apparent.**
- It was during this time that Henry took mistresses, the most important of them being **Diane de Poitiers.**
- Eventually, **Catherine and Henry had 10 children.** Their first son Francis II was born in **1544** and their last child was born in **1555. Of her 10 children, only 6 survived to adulthood.**
- **King Francis I died in 1547**, Catherine became Queen consort and was crowned in **1549.**
- Henry died in **1559** because of a jousting accident.

Henry and Diane de Poitiers

- **Diane** was born in **1499** and died in **1566.** She had become lady-in-waiting for **Louise of Savoy** and for **King Francis' first wife - Claude**
- **In Module 1, we learnt that Diane de Poitiers**, like **Louise of Savoy** (Henry's grandmother), was also trained by **Anne de Beaujeu.**
- Diane had been tutored in what was considered '**Renaissance Humanism**'.



- In **1514**, she was also **married at age 15** to a nobleman in King Francis' court . He was **Louis de Breze**;
- In **1526** the boys became pawns in the ransom arrangement for their father **Francis I** Diane was chosen to accompany the boys to the exchange location
- In **1530**, his infatuation with Diane came to fruition. She had become a widow in **1531 when she was 32 years old.**
- Henry married Catherine de Medici in **1533**. It is believed, based on their correspondence, that **Diane de Potiers** became his mistress in **1534**.
- Diane was given the responsibility of educating Henry's children until **1551**.
- Henry preferred his mistress above Catherine and did not want Catherine involved in palace politics.
- In **1548**, Henry bestowed on her the title of **Duchess of Valentinois**. In **1553**, she was made **Duchesse d'Etampes**.
- Diane also became lady-in-waiting for **Eleanor of Austria, Francis' second wife and sister to Charles V**

Henry's Death

- In **1559**, Henry signed a peace treaty (**Treaty of Cateau-Cambrésis**) that signaled the end of the Italian Wars which began in **1521**.
- He made alliances with the Ottomans and the Lutheran Princes of Germany which forced **Charles V to abdicate his rule as the Holy Roman Emperor.**



- This treaty was sealed with two more marriages of convenience. **Henry's sister Margaret Duchess of Berry married Philibert Duke of Savoy, and Henry's daughter Elizabeth of Valois married Phillip II, son of Charles V.**
- **On June 30, 1559**, Henry participated in the celebratory games which included jousting. He was pierced through his eyeball with a broken lance, with splinters penetrating his brain. By July 10 he was dead.
- **Henry II ruled for 12 years (1547 - 1559).**