



## Outline: CHWNE Transcripts Module 4 Lesson 4: Catherine, Henry III, Francois (Duke of Alencon) and Henry III of Navarre

### Henry III (1551-1589) Duke of Anjou

- In 1574 Charles IX died. Henry Duke of Anjou (her favourite son) came to the throne as King Henry III (1574 -1589 15 years). He had inherited a kingdom of divided loyalties.
- Just as the Malcontents believed in toleration of the Protestants, King Henry III wanted a monarchy marked by tolerance for Protestantism. Willing to sign the Protestant-friendly Edict of Beaulieu proposed by his brother Francois of Alencon.

Both King Henry III of France and Henry III of Navarre were 1st cousins.

### Remember the timeline: 1568-1572

- In 1568, Jeanne d'Albret took Henry III of Navarre and his sister to the safety of La Rochelle
- 1569 Henry III (as Henry Duc D'Anjou) had supported his brother Charles IX in the wars against the Protestants. He successfully fought in the battles of Jarnac and Moncontour.
- In 1570, France had no more money to fight. A peace treaty designed by Catherine de Medici was signed at St Germain en Laye. Protestants gained control of four fortified cities for two years; freedom of worship and freedom to hold public office again. Henry III of Navarre to marry Marguerite of Valois (Catherine's daughter) as a trade-off.



- **August 1570 St Germain en Laye Treaty** was signed by **Charles IX** for the Catholics and **Gaspard de Coligny** for the Protestants.

The year 1572 was pivotal:

- In spring of 1572, **Jeanne D'Albret** died.
- In summer of 1572, **Henry III of Navarre** married **Marguerite of Valois**.
- In summer of 1572, the **St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre** began a killing spree that continued into the **fall of 1572**. Protestants flocked to the city of La Rochelle for safety.
- In 1573 (after the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre), Henry III, *in support of his brother Charles IX*, led the military assault on La Rochelle.
- In June of 1573, he hastily (?) negotiated a peace treaty most likely because during the siege he was approached by the Lithuanian ambassador to be their king. **Henry III, as Duc D'Anjou, was crowned King of Poland/Lithuania**
- In 1574, on the death of Charles IX, Catherine begged **Henry III (Duc D'Anjou)** to come back to France, telling him that his country needed him. **He abdicated the Polish/Lithuanian throne** in favour of the French throne.
- In February of 1575, he was crowned **Henry III** King of France; married **Louise Duchess of Lorraine-Vaudemont** the day after his coronation. They failed to produce heirs.



- **In May of 1576**, (one year after he came to the throne) **Francois Duke of Alencon**, **Henry's youngest brother**, allied himself with the Malcontents against Henry's crown. Paris besieged. Francois negotiated **The Edict of Beaulieu** gave sweeping concessions and rights to the Protestants.
- The right to public worship throughout France except at the court and in Paris, The official name of their religion was the **religion prétendue réformée ("supposed reformed religion")**, the right to build and own churches, the right to hold consistories and synods, the right to occupy eight fortified towns equal representations of Protestants and Catholics sitting on eight of the local tribunals of Parlements, compensation for families who suffered loss from the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre and returned to their positions of prominence.
- **The Catholic League**, led by **Henry Duke of Guise** (and other Catholic) protested the fact that **an official name was granted to the Protestant** organization, and they thought that these concessions were excessive.
- **Henry III** called a special meeting of the Parlement to sign and ratify the Protestant-supporting **Edict of Beaulieu**.
- The local government of Blois rebelled against the edict, sparking another outbreak of war led unsuccessfully by **Henry III of Navarre**.



- In 1577- The **Treaty of Nerac** was signed as the first step in another edict - **Edict of Poitiers** which was only **finalized in 1579**. Concessions granted in the **Edict of Beaulieu** were rescinded. ***Protestants were still free to practice their religion in specific towns, in towns currently occupied, and in towns where Protestantism was practiced before the outbreak of war.***
- In **1578**, Catherine travelled to the south of France for 18 months, pacifying the Huguenots' leaders with face-to-face meetings.
- Leading Catholics, led by the **Henry Duke of Guise**, continued to promote the formation of **Leagues** to protect their religion. **By 1579**, Catherine warned **Henry III** that he was on the eve of a revolt.
- In **1584**, Francois Duke of Alencon (presumptive heir) died, **ending the support of the nobility for Protestantism**. Because of **Henry III's** lack of an heir, **Henry III of Navarre** automatically became presumptive heir.
- **Henry Duke of Guise** declared as leader of **The Catholic League** attempting to block **Henry of Navarre** from becoming a **French Protestant King of France**. He and all the Catholic princes, priests and nobles sign a secret treaty - **The Treaty of Joinville** with Spain, to **'wage war on the heretics'**





## Under this Treaty of Joinville 1584:

- Spain promised to give the Catholic League \$50,000 crowns per member to wage war.
- **Charles de Bourbon (brother of Antoine de Bourbon)** was recognized as the rightful heir to the throne. Promised that when he eventually ascended the throne, he would reconfirm the treaty **Henry II** had made with Spain (**The Treaty of Cateau-Cambresis**); Catholicism would be the state religion - death to all Protestants; **The Council of Trent** from the Roman Catholic Church would be enforced; All areas in the Netherlands which the 'heretics' had given to France would be returned to Spain.
- The effect of **The Treaty of Joinville** was basically to cancel all previous edicts, all religious and political concessions revoked; all subjects had to convert to Catholicism or be expelled from France; all 'heretics' were dismissed from official office; all ministers of any other religion were banned
- **Queen Elizabeth** saw the **Treaty of Joinville of 1584** as a threat if France and Spain joined forces with the Catholics in her kingdom against her.
- **In 1585**, Elizabeth helped the Protestants of the Netherlands rebelling against Spanish rule and triggered the war between Britain and Spain, resulting in the sinking of the **Spanish Armada in 1588. (See M4 L6)**





- The Catholic League took control of many cities in Northern France (Brittany). **Henry III** declared himself Leader of the League - to control it.
- *In 1585, Henry III signed the Treaty of Nemours, gave in to all of the League's demands, including paying their troops.*
- *In 1587, England chose to financially support Henry of Navarre, rather than Henry III, in this final war in the French Wars of Religion. This was a move against the Catholic League. Henry of Navarre also received support from the German princes (who were defeated).*
- *In 1587, Mary Queen of Scots was beheaded by Queen Elizabeth 1. This did not help the tensions as the Catholic vs Protestant backlash exploded all across Europe. Spain prepared to invade England, while The League took control of northern cities in France to prepare ports for the Spanish Armada.*
- *May 1588, Henry of Guise took control of Paris. King Henry III was forced to accept the terms of Henry the Duke of Guise - The Act of Union, which declared that Henry of Guise was Lieutenant General of France. It also said that no 'heretic' would be allowed to ascend the throne of France.*
- *In September 1588, when the court assembled for a meeting of the Estates, Henry III dismissed all his ministers without warning.*



- In **December of 1588**, **Henry III** invited **Henry Duke of Guise** to meet with him at the **Chateau de Blois**. His most trusted bodyguards '**The Forty-Five**' all plunged their knives into the Duke. He died at the foot of Henry's bed.
- *Eight members of the Guise family, including the Cardinal, were rounded up and hacked to death in the palace dungeon.*
- **Charles of Guise (Henry's son)** became the new leader of **The League** and Parlement issued murder charges against **King Henry III**.
- **King Henry III** set up the **Parlement of Tours** with his faithful supporters and **Henry III of Navarre**, with the intent of taking back Paris.
- In **Charles Of Guise's** march toward Tours, the allied forces of **King Henry III** and **Henry of Navarre** drove them back to Paris, laying siege to Paris. Three armies (**the Germans, Henry III and Henry of Navarre**) closed in on Paris, to the doom of the League.
- In **1589**, **King Henry III** was assassinated by a monk who pretended he had some papers for the King and a private message. On drawing close to whisper in the King's ears, he drove a knife into his abdomen, killing him. The monk was immediately executed on the spot by the King's guards.



(see story of Ehud: Judges 3:12–4:1)

- From **1589 until 1594** after **Henry III of France** was assassinated, **Henry III of Navarre (who became Henry IV of France)** and supporters **continued to meet at Tours**. This Parlement was known as **The King's Parlement** as opposed to the **Catholic League's Parlement**.
- **King Henry IV (of Navarre)** literally had no contenders for the French throne.
- After four more years of fighting, **Henry IV** converted to **Catholicism** to bring peace to his realm. **Charles of Guise** made peace with Henry IV after he converted, ending the Wars of Religion.

### Read:

- **Christopher Marlowe**, *The Massacre at Paris* (1593).
- **George Chapman**, *The Tragedy of Bussy D'Ambois* (1607).
- **George Chapman**, *The Revenge of Bussy D'Ambois* (1613).
- **John Dryden** & **Nathaniel Lee**, *The Duke of Guise* (1683).

