

didn't they also want stability?

DBQ

After the era of the religious wars people in Europe realized they didn't all want to follow Catholicism, some wanted to be Lutheran or Calvinist. But the following? of new religions wasn't always tolerated by leaders, kings and other figure heads. While some strove for religious toleration, others were completely opposed and some searched for a compromise of religions.

why?

William of Orange and Archduke Matthias of Hapsburg, <sup>①</sup> religious leaders of the Netherlands, looked for religious toleration. In their proclamation to the people of the Netherlands in 1578, they wrote "if we do not grant members of the Reformed church freedom to exercise their religion... then our common enemy will find it easier to harm us." This document was written during the time of the Dutch revolt against Spain, the two men who wrote it were of different political parties and they saw that if they put religion aside and accepted each other they could be united in fighting Spain and have a much stronger army and nation. In England as well people wanted religious toleration. In a pamphlet, written by a group of English levelers during <sup>②</sup> the time of the English civil war, it was stated that, "nothing having caused more distractions and anguish in all ages than persecution and molestation for matters of conscience in and about religion." As levelers, the men pushed for social and religious reform. seen as very radical during the time of the English civil war, <sup>③</sup> in the pamphlet they also pushed for the abolishment of laws putting penalties and restraints based on religion. They came about at a time of turmoil in England and were able to air their ideas of toleration and reform b/c people were willing to listen as the political structure of their country was changing.

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Although some sought reform, many were also opposed. Paul Hay du Chastelet of France wrote, "Fellow subjects who pray to God in the same church and worship at the same altar will rarely fight each other." He said that one religion would lead to the stability of the nation and that it was the Rulers job to secure religious uniformity in the nation. du Chastelet's opinions on the matter of religion make sense b/c he was

<sup>nice</sup> (4) French and wrote this during the time of Louis XIV's rule. Louis XIV was an absolutist who was opposed to religious toleration. In Louis XIV's Edict of Fontainebleau, he actually revoked the Edict of Nantes, written by <sup>nice</sup> (5) Henry IV, that provided religious toleration in France. "We forbid our subject of the Protestant religion, to meet any more for the exercise of the said religion in any place or private house, under any pretext whatsoever." With the banning of Protestantism and forced conversion to Catholicism, Louis expanded his rule over France. Subjects could no longer choose a religion and Louis, as an absolutist, gained power by taking that choice away. He wanted all the power of France to be his and taking power away from the lower class gave him just that. Unlike the Netherlands, who saw religious toleration as a way to political stability, the French saw one religion as the way to political stability.

<sup>nice</sup> (2) Others in Europe neither opposed nor embraced religious toleration and sought religious compromise. In a contract between the Catholic church and municipal council of the town of Bautzen, Saxony, Lutherans were able use the church to practice their religion but rules were placed on to when they could hold communion and funerals. The purpose of this document was to

control any conflict between the Catholic and Lutheran church. The contract states, "the well intentioned church chapter," and, "to maintain good neighborly relations." This shows that the Catholic Church wasn't looking for religious toleration but instead a way to look good to the town and the Lutherans, and a way to avoid conflict over religion. In Amsterdam churches also sought compromise, in a contract w/ the city of Amsterdam and the Franciscan friar Egidius de Glabbais. Glabbais was authorized to open a Catholic church. Although, the church was to be placed in an alley "where it is less offensive" and rules were placed on how the Catholics would act upon entering and leaving the church. Because this document is a contract, it was likely to be read by officials of the city and the political heads in the area, because the rules for the Catholics were explicitly stated in the contract the church would be under control and no conflict would arise between the Catholics and Protestants in the area, b/c Amsterdam was a Protestant dominant city.

During the era of religious wars, people fought to practice their religion and to expel the religion. The struggle for religious balance and toleration in the 16th to 18th century is much like that of the religious wars. Some wanted toleration while other did not just like some wanted to practice a religion that others did not want them to practice. In the struggle for religious toleration the many different ideas of how it should play out led to toleration in some areas and opposition in others but they overall were related to the balance of power in Europe. Some countries strove for toleration in order to give them stability and power while others

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gave opposition for stability and power but each group was trying to gain power over the others. Sometimes it was to be able to practice their religion and other times to gain power over their country and others.