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AP Euro Period )

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**LEQ Outlin: Essay #6**

**Question:Analyze and discuss how conflicts among religious groups overlapped with political and economic competition within and among states**

**Intro:**

**Contextualization**: In the 16th century, many religions emerged and different religious groups began to take power among different areas. In France, the Calvinist ideas started to attract many French Nobles and one-tenth of the France’s population became Calvinists, also known as Huguenots. Also the Holy Roman Empire consisted of numerous principalities, duchies, and independent cities, where the prince would determine the religion of the area to be Catholic or Lutheran.**Restatement:**  Among religious groups, the conflicts overlapped with political and economic competition with and amongst the states:X: The conflicts overlapped with political competition for different people had gained power within the different religious groups and the division of power of the state was affected directly. Y: The conflict between the religious groups also overlapped with the economy, affected by different aspects of the war.

**Body:**

During the French Wars of Religion and the Thirty Years’ War, there were political overlapping of the religious groups.

1. **Example:** Throughout the French Wars of Religion, Calvinists began to grow and gain a strong position in France, influencing a tenth of the population to become Huguenots. It appealed to the Nobles for it provided a way for them to express their opposition towards Valois King, the ruler.

**Analysis:** Politiques supported a strong monarchy and official recognition of the Huguenots white French King Charles IX and his mother Catherine de’ Medici killed thousands of Huguenots in Paris as celebration of wedding of Margaret of Valois to Huguenot leader Henry of Navarre. The violence spread to the provinces and up to 20,000 Huguenots were killed (St. Bartholomew’s Day massacre). This lead to a bloody civil war between the Catholics and the Huguenots which lasted for 15 years.

1. **Example:** During the Thirty Years’ War, in the HRE, there existed 300 small principalities, duchies, and independent cities. Each region’s religion was determined by the German prince, either Catholic or Lutheran. Calvinists were unrecognized despite the Peace of Augsburg and Protestants and Catholics formed different leagues to defend their interests. The Peace of Westphalia ended the HRE and hopes to restore Catholic faith .

**Analysis:** Due to the numerous areas with differing religions, the Austrian Habsburg wanted to reverse Protestant gains and build a stronger monarchy while German principalities and independent cities were jealous of their rights and resisted to attempt centralization. At the end of the Thirty Years’ War, Europeans finally recognized Calvinism as a politically accepted faith and it also marked the decline in papacy political influence. After the Peace of Westphalia, the empire was even more fragmented into number of virtually independent state.

Also during the French Wars of Religion and the Thirty Years’ War, there were economic competition that overlapped with the differing religious groups.

1. **Evidence:** The civil war in France caused devastation in French agriculture and commerce. The Nobles were appealed by Calvinism, leading to almost a half of nobility becoming Calvinists.

**Analysis:** Small group of moderate Catholics and HUguenots realized that disorder and destruction had to be stopped or France would collapse (politiques). Nobles were standing up to kings for French rulers gained the right to appoint all French bishops and abbots.

1. **Evidence:** The goal of France was to weaken Habsburg and keep the HRE weak and divided. The civil war was between Catholic League and Protestant Union, which devastated the German economy and decimated the population, ridding a third of the people by disease, famine, and combat.

**Analysis:** The war Germany’s long-term commercial growth suffered for the Treaty of Westphalia gave control of the mouth of the Rhine River to Dutch. In France, the Thirty Years’ War lead to a dramatic increase of the army size with required a more complex bureaucracies and an increase in taxes to fund the enlarged military establishments.

**Conclusion:**

**Restate:** The conflict of the different religious groups were clearly overlapping with the political and economic competition within and amongst the states. The Thirty Years’ War and the French War of Religions caused many changes in politics as of who had power and the unity of the state (for HRE) and both wars had devastating results of the economy, making it more difficult to centralize or be stabilized due to the disruption in commerce and such.

**Synthesis:** Like the Hundred Years’ War, where the French and the English were fighting for the succession of the French throne, the political aspect of the Thirty Year’s War and the French War of Revolution revolved around the goal of controlling the land. However, the latter had more religious factors involved, such as the papacy and the emperors, kings, or princes of differing religions.

**NOT a good example. Better for synthesis if you discuss the HRE and what were the political and economic issues for the nobles/Lutherans**