

THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR

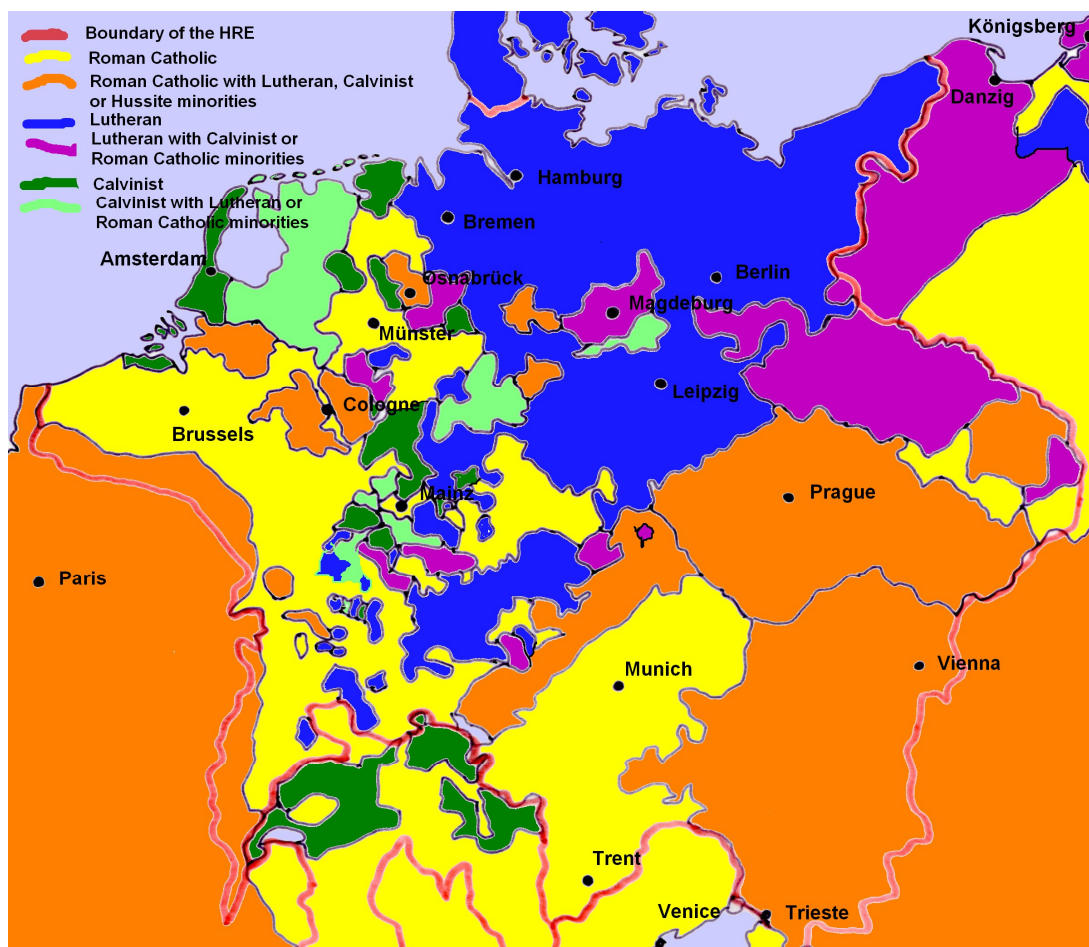
TASK 1: *What reasons usually lead to a war?*

Would any of your suggested reasons and factors be relevant for the Thirty Years' War?

What factors can lead to prolonged fighting lasting several years?

Which developments of the sixteenth century contributed to the outbreak of the war?

TASK 2: *Europe 1618. Study the political and religious maps of Europe and answer the following questions.*



- *Which European countries played the role of superpowers at the beginning of the sixteenth century?*
- *What was the source of their wealth?*
- *Which royal families were the most influential? Did they face any major problems?*
- *What way were the problems between various confessions solved in the past?*
- *Was there any conflict between any countries that was not solved by 1618?*

The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)

The historians usually divide the conflict into four phases:

- **The Bohemian and Palatinate War (1618-1623)** Some historians divide this phase into two parts – Bohemian War and Palatinate War
- **The Danish War (1625-1629)**
- **The Swedish War (1630-1635)**
- **The Franco-Swedish War (1635-1648)**

The Bohemian and Palatinate War (1618-1623)

TASK 3: *What conflicting issues between the Habsburg kings Rudolph II, Matthias and the Czech Estates played an important role in the growing tensions 1608-1618?*

The Uprising of the Czech Estates

- March 1618 – Prague, meeting of the non-Catholic Czech estates – protest against the breaking of ⇒ King Matthias forbade any future meetings of non-Catholics
- 21 May 1618 – Diet of the non-Catholic estates
 - Main leaders: **Václav Vilém z Roupova, Jindřich Matyáš Thurn, Albrecht Jan Smiřický, Václav Budovec z Budova, Jáchym Ondřej Šlik**
- 23 May 1618 – **Defenestration** of the two regents (**Jaroslav Bořita z Martinic, Vilém Slavata**) both survived



TASK 4: *The defenestration was a clear sign of the breach with the Habsburgs, though Matthias was still respected as king. Try to suggest what system of government for the Czech lands the Czech estates introduced.*

The Czech (Bohemian) uprising found support only in **Silesia** and **Lusatia** in 1618 - **Moravia** remained neutral.

The situation dramatically changed in 1619. **Matthias** died and the Czech estates refused as his successor. Moravia (under Ladislav Velen ze Žerotína) and Hungary (under Gabor Bethlen) joined the rebellion and a real war started.

Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Lusatia declared **Confederation** and accepted a constitution enabling the estates to freely elect a King.

The newly elected king was (1619-1620)

TASK 5: *Why did the estates choose Frederick? What possible advantages could this choice bring?*

The war was quite indecisive for most of 1619 and 1620, but the army of the Confederation was defeated in one decisive battle at lasting only about two hours 8 November **1620**. Frederick fled and Czech lands were again under Habsburg rule. The war continued in the Palatinate and some more German states. It ended as a complete Habsburg victory.

The alliances of the first phase:

Habsburgs (**Ferdinand II**) + Spanish army and money
 of **Bavaria + Catholic League**
 Imperial generals **Buquoy, Tilly**

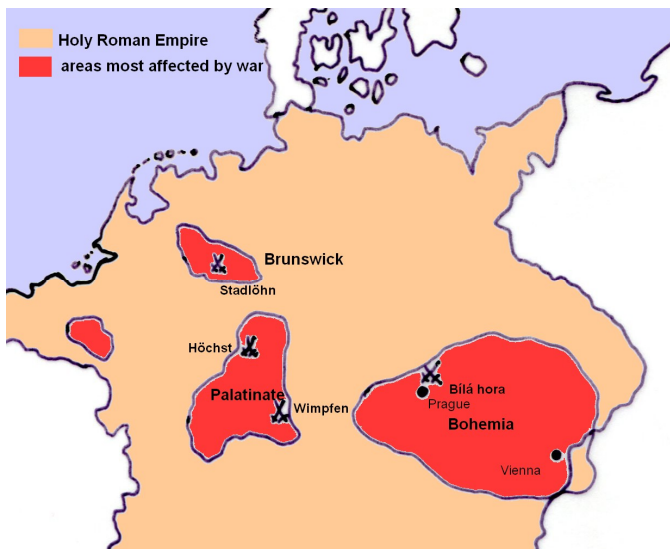
Frederick of Palatinate

some Dutch and English support
 generals **Mansfeld, Thurn, Christian of Anhalt**

Czech Estates

21 June 1621 **execution of 27 members of Czech estates** (3 lords, 7 knights, 17 townspeople)

TASK 6: Find out who were the executed nobles. Were there any other interesting characters? What happened to the heads of the executed?



Large scale confiscations of property followed and many nobles left our country.

1622 Financial consortium (Karel z Lichtenštejna, Albrecht z Valdštejna, Jan de Witte) rented the right to mint coins – minted bad quality coins and led the kingdom to bankruptcy in 1623. This led to an unbelievable fortune gathered in the hands of a few chosen ones including Liechtenstein and Wallenstein.

1627 Renewed Constitution was issued for the Lands of the Czech Crown. It introduced three main changes:

- Habsburgs became hereditary kings of Bohemia
- Catholicism was the only allowed religion
- the German language was made equal to the Czech language

This constitution caused a second wave of emigration.

TASK 7: Can you name any famous Czech emigrants of this period?

The Danish War (1625-1629)

TASK 8: Why were the Danes interested in joining the war against Habsburgs? Think of political and religious reasons. Were there any other countries interested in limiting the Habsburg power?

1625 Hague Coalition against the Habsburgs formed (**Denmark, United Provinces, Saxony**, support of France and England, sympathy of Hungary (Bethlen) and Ottoman Empire)

Main leaders:

Christian IV. of Denmark

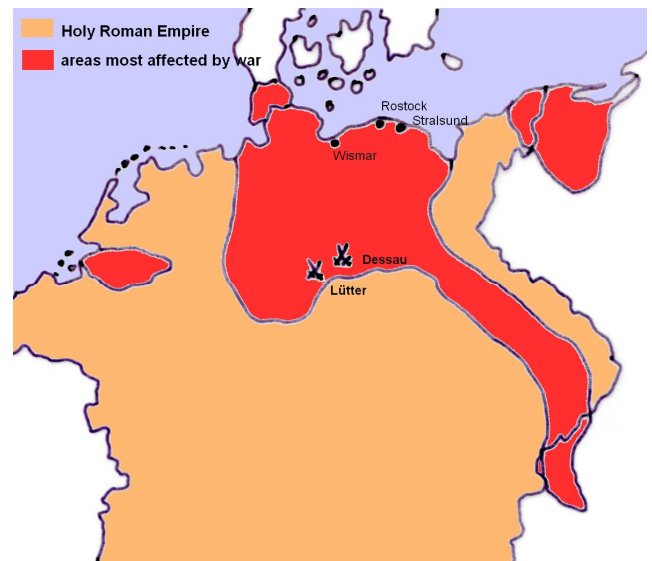
Tilly

General **Mansfeld**, Christian of Brunswick

Wallenstein

Albrecht of Wallenstein (1583-1635)

- born in a poor knightly family
- Educated in a Brethren school
- Converted to Catholicism due to his marriage
- Married a wealthy wife (Vsetin, Lukov)
- Became incredibly wealthy thanks to confiscations, financial speculation after Bila hora
- Built his private well-trained and disciplined army
- 1624 made supreme commander of the imperial armies



Important battles:

1626 Dessau, Wallenstein defeated Mansfeld

1626 Lützer, Tilly defeated Christian of Denmark

Wallenstein and Tilly then swept north and invaded Denmark

1629 Treaty of Lübeck Christian kept Denmark but had to give up all claims to North German Bishoprics

Climax ofpower – total victory

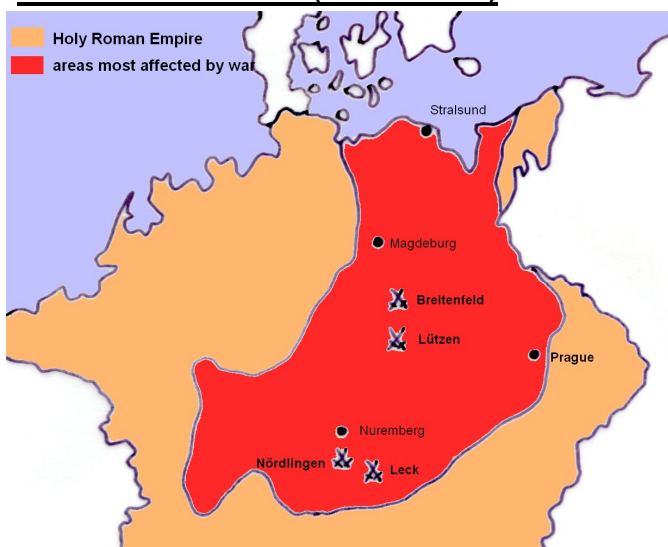
Wallenstein became Duke of Mecklenburg and Admiral of Imperial Fleet, Lord of the Atlantic and the Baltic

Ferdinand II. Issued **Edict of Restitution (1629)**, Protestants ordered to return all property seized from Catholics since 1555 (9 bishoprics, over 500 monasteries and nearly 1000 churches)

This Edict faced strong resistance and even Wallenstein refused to enforce it with his army

1630 Diet of Regensburg, refused to grant help in Spanish Habsburg campaigns against the Netherlands and in Northern Italy, made Ferdinand dismiss Wallenstein as German Nobles were worried and envious of his growing power.

The Swedish War (1630-1635)



July 1630 King of Sweden and his troops invaded Pomerania.

TASK 9: *Why were the Swedes interested in joining the war against Habsburgs? Think of political and religious reasons.*

New coalition against Habsburgs: **Sweden, the Netherlands, Saxony (John George)**

1631 Battle of **Breitenfeld**, Swedish victory

1632 Saxons invaded Bohemia and seized Prague, some emigrants returned to Bohemia

1632 Battle of **Lech**, Swedes defeated Tilly and occupy Bavaria

Ferdinand appointed **Wallenstein** again as a supreme commander, this time the emperor fully covering Wallenstein's expenses, army. Moreover, Wallenstein was entitled to negotiate peace.

May 1632 Wallenstein recaptured Prague

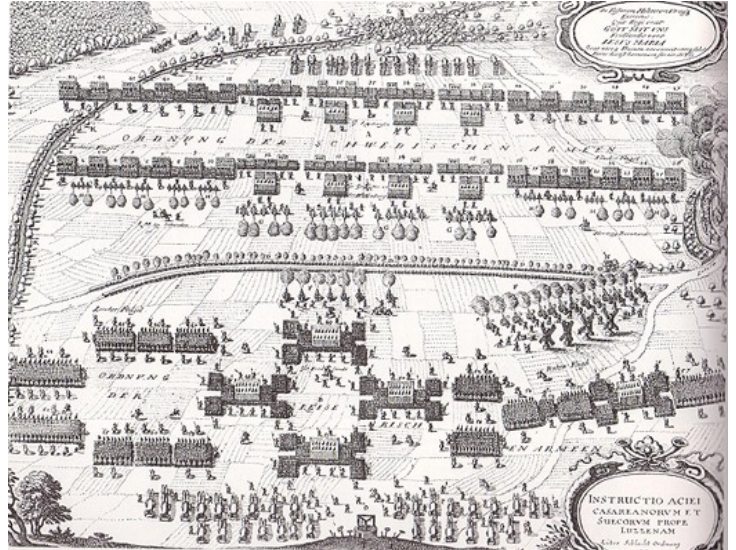
November 1632 Battle of, a draw, Swedes closer to victory, but Gustavus Adolphus died in the battle together with about 15,000 of his soldiers

Wallenstein then continued in his campaigns and entered peace negotiations with Sweden. By doing this he had to face opposition of the German Nobles, lost support of the emperor and finally in **1634** was **murdered in** by officers of his army.

1634 **Battle of Nördlingen**, Swedes defeated by imperial forces

1635 Peace of Prague, Edict of Restitution repealed, Saxony got Lusatia, what was Catholic in 1627 should remain or be returned to Catholics

TASK 10: Compare the terms of this peace with the terms of the Treaty of Lübeck 1629.



The Franco - Swedish War (1635-1648)

TASK 11: What reasons made France join the war? Was it still a war fought for religious reasons?



This phase was fought on the biggest territory, was the longest and the most destructive. Armies were marching through Europe bringing destruction and despair to local people. There was a little difference for the ordinary people whether their village was raided by Imperial or Swedish troops.

TASK 12: Read the extracts the teacher will provide and list examples of brutality of the soldiers and the peasants.

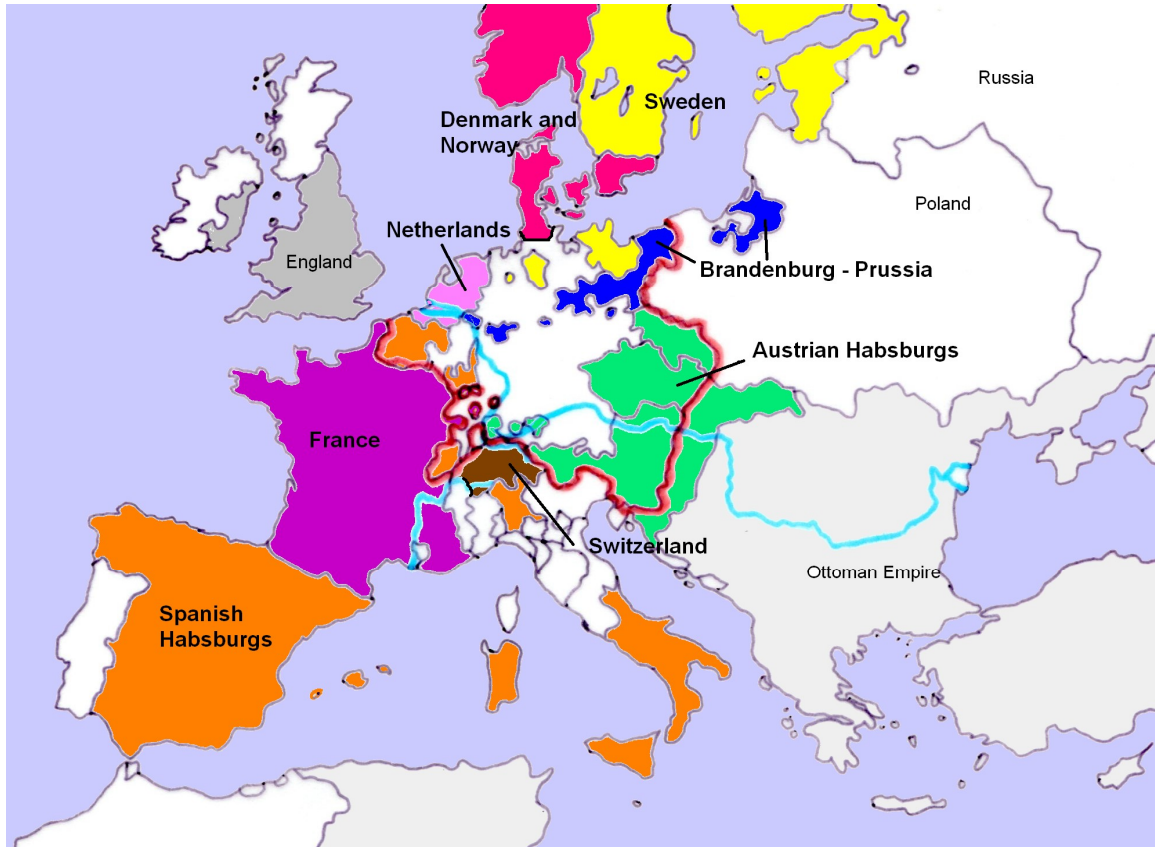
The Swedish armies again invaded Europe and won several important battles (1636 Wittstock, 1642 Breitenfeld, 1645 Jankau and Nördlingen)

For the Czech lands and especially Moravia the campaigns of the Swedish general **Lenart Torstenston** were the most important. He conquered Olomouc in 1642, but failed to gain Brno, which made Brno the only capital of Moravia. In 1648 Swedish troops occupied Prague Castle, but not the Old Town. They looted the castle and were responsible for the disappearance of the famous art collection of Rudolph II.. The Swedes stayed in our lands (Olomouc) till 1650.

The Peace of Westphalia 1648

France and Spain were not prepared to sign peace (they did so only in 1659) and so the peace negotiations concerned mainly the Austrian Habsburgs. There was not one treaty but three separate treaties.

- **Münster** – between Spain and the Netherlands
- **Osnabrück** – between Sweden and the Emperor
- **Münster** – between the Emperor and France

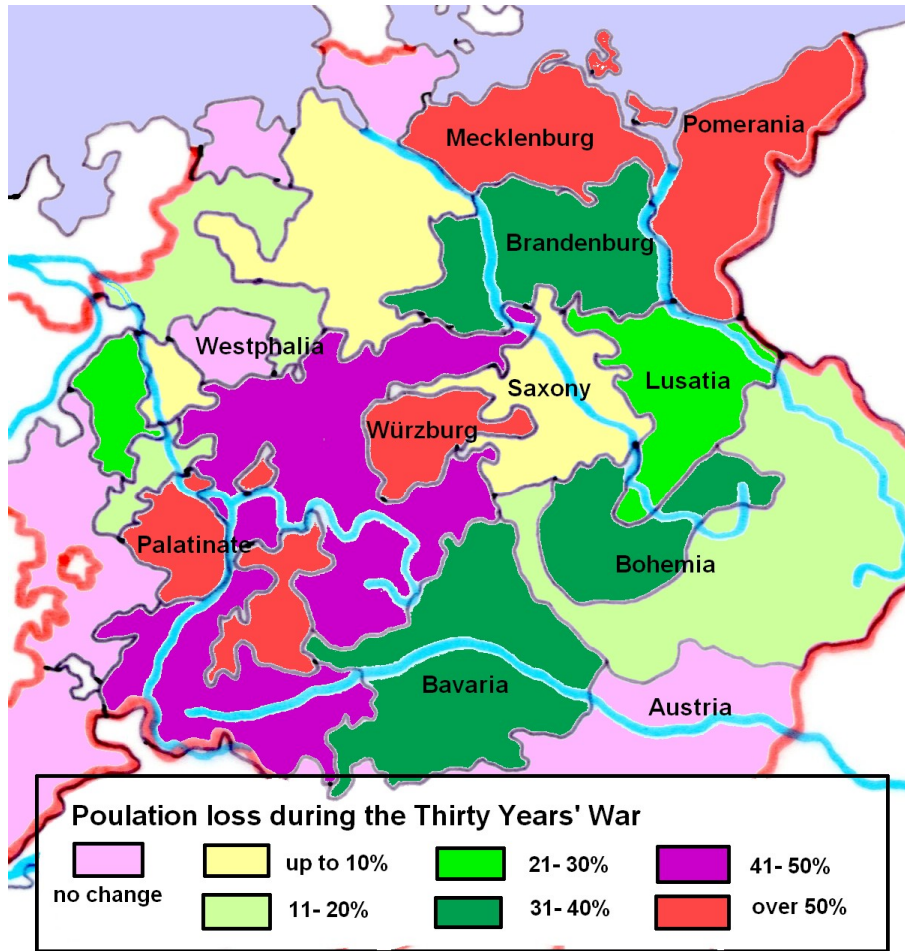


The main terms of the treaties were:

- Spain recognized Dutch independence
- France gained Alsace and many more cities and forts of the Empire (most famous Verdun)
- Sweden received Western Pomerania, Stettin, the Bishopric of Bremen
- Bavaria received the Upper Palatinate and the title of an Elector
- Brandenburg received Eastern Pomerania and most of Magdeburg
- Swiss independence was recognized
- Church property was to be as in January 1624

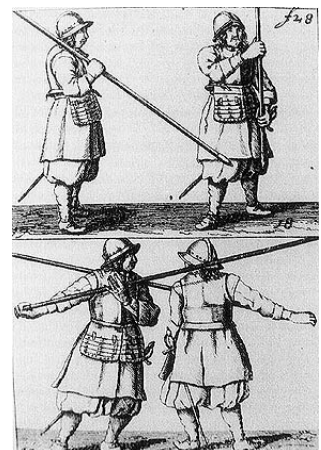
France and Spain became important European powers. Spain was no longer the strongest kingdom. Austrian Habsburgs were limited in their influence over the Empire, but gained absolute power over their crown lands – especially Bohemia.

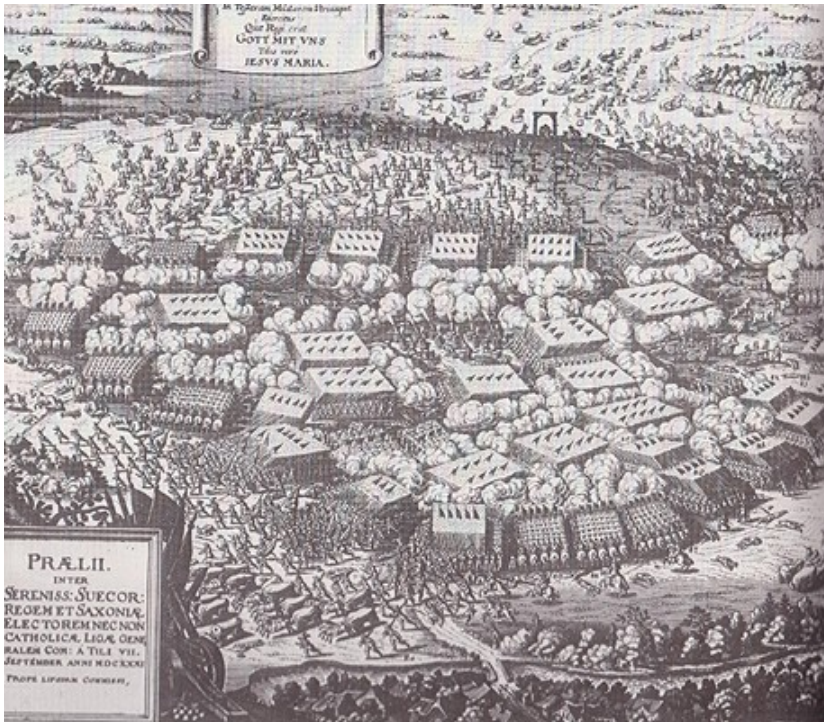
TASK 13: Study the map and explain why certain parts of Europe suffered such a great population loss.



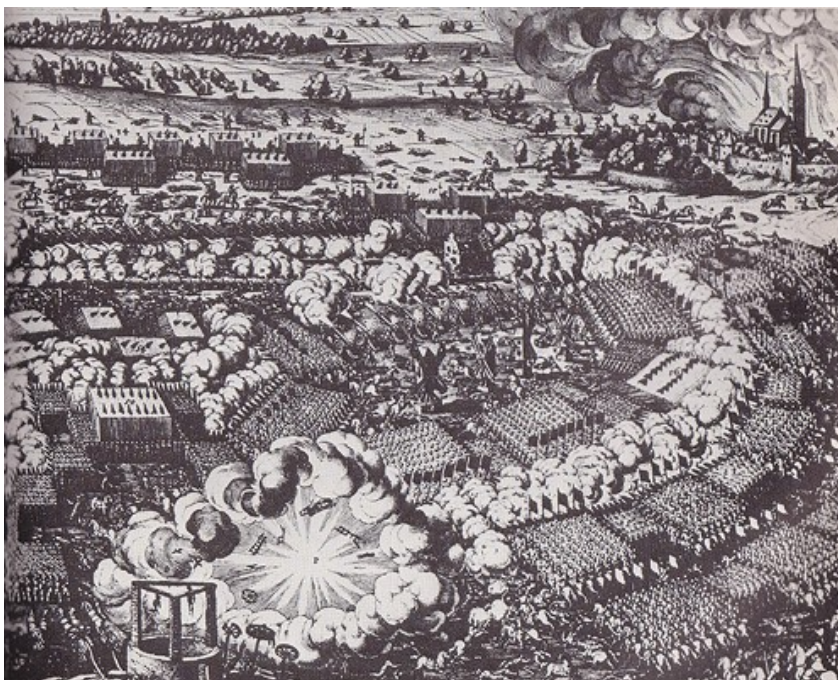
Armies, Tactics, Strategy

TASK 4: Study the pictures below and with the help of the teacher deduce what was the military tactics in the Thirty Years' War like.





Battle of Breitenfeld



Battle of Lützen