Charles IX (1560-74)
- took throne at age 10
- dominated by his Catholic mother, Catherine de’ Medici
- as a result of the influence of Huguenot leader Gaspard de Coligny, Charles leaned towards Calvinism
- Catherine tried to have Coligny assassinated (failed, 1572)
- Catherine admitted responsibility for assassination attempt --> Charles gave support to Catholic mother
- St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre (1572)

Henry III (1574-89)
- Catholic
- problem of heredity: Henry did not have an heir --> closest was Henry of Navarre, a Huguenot
- die-hard Catholic supporters of Henry form Catholic League
- Goal of Catholic League --> make France one religion (Catholic)
- assassinated in 1589

Henry IV (of Navarre) (1589-1610)*
- Huguenot (originally)
- Inherited throne upon the death of Henry III
- first in Bourbon dynasty
- Catholic Paris refused to accept him as king because of his Calvinism
- Henry converted to Catholicism (1593): “Paris is well worth a Mass.” -- reputed to have said
- politique
- Issued Edict of Nantes (1598)

French Wars of Religion
1562-1598

Background: Henry II (1519-1559)
✓ In Europe, Reformation unfolds during his reign
✓ opposed spread of Calvinism in France
✓ persecuted Huguenots

Huguenots = French Calvinists
✓ well-educated & industrious
✓ often from nobility or bourgeoisie
✓ organized
✓ controlled many important towns in France (ex., La Rochelle, Rouen)
✓ 10% of French population

Causes of French Wars of Religion
✓ religious (Catholic vs. Prot.)
✓ political (control of crown)
✓ regional (Paris vs. provinces)

Immediate Results
✓ Crown was victorious over nobility
✓ France remained Catholic but Huguenots temporarily integrated

Long-Term Results
✓ Edict of Nantes revoked (1685): many Huguenots emigrated from France, hurt French economy

* especially important for APEH

St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre*
- Catherine de’ Medici wanted to rid French monarchy of threat from Huguenots
- Catherine supported by her son Charles IX
- 2,000 Huguenots killed, including Coligny
- Results: Huguenots no longer supported crown and began to rebel against him. Bloody civil war between Huguenots and Catholics ensued.

Bloodiest stage of civil war between Catholics and Huguenots

1562 1572 1570-80s 1589 1598

French Wars of Religion began

Henry III assassinated

Edict of Nantes*
- ended French Wars of Religion
- Freedom of conscience for Huguenots (not religious toleration)
- Huguenots could hold private religious services; public services only in towns where it was the prevailing religion
- Huguenots granted political equality
- Huguenots could keep control over military defenses in some small towns

1598

Causes of French Wars of Religion
√ religious (Catholic vs. Prot.)
√ political (control of crown)
√ regional (Paris vs. provinces)