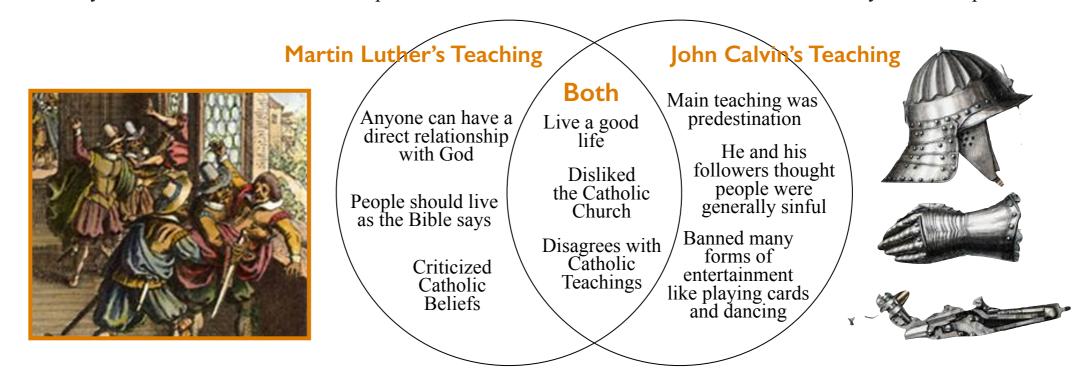The Thirty Years War

# 30 Year War: Causes & Effects (1618 - 1648)

The basic cause of the war was the religious tension between the Protestant Christians and the Roman Catholics.  In Germany the Protestant Christians were split between the the Lutherans and the Calvinist.  Germany was torn apart.



**Martin Luther's Teaching**

Anyone can have a direct relationship with God

People should live as the Bible says

Criticized Catholic Beliefs

**Both**

Live a good life

Disliked the Catholic Church

Disagrees with Catholic Teachings

**John Calvin's Teaching**

Main teaching was predestination

He and his followers thought people were generally sinful

Banned many forms of entertainment like playing cards and dancing



Each side enlisted help from countries that practiced their religion and they sent armies to help.  So many Catholic outbursts were led by the Catholic Jesuit order.  In Bohemia the Pope sent two emissaries to deal with the Protestants and they threw the Catholic ministers out of a window.  With all of the religious strife already in progress, this immediately triggered the war that was not to end for 30 years and that involved primarily central Europe.  It brought on heavy taxation to keep up these armies.

This ended up being one of the longest and most destructive conflicts in human history.  It resulted in eight million casualties, most in the Roman empire.  Other fatalities were mostly fallen soldiers of foreign armies.  The conflict also became a war between the Holy Roman Emperor and the princes of individual territories within the empire.

This conflict marked the end of the Holy Roman Empire as an effective institution.  Countries were being formed and boundaries were  marked making the beginnings of the modern European state system. The **Peace of Westphalia** settled German affairs for the next 150 years.  Religious conflicts between the states ended.  Calvinism was officially recognized.  Actually no one won the war and the Reformation failed to complete its task to take religion back to the Bible.