

# RENAISSANCE & REFORMATION

**A megagame of the dynastic and religious conflicts  
of the early sixteenth century.**

## ● GAZETTEER & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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## THE SITUATION AT THE START OF THE GAME AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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*This is quite extensive and gives quite a lot of history and detail. The intention is to try and convey some of the flavour of the period, the style of diplomacy and alliances along with some of the background to the relationships, which exist at the start of the game. At the end of this handbook is a listing, alphabetically by state, of the various families and characters, their relationships and age at the start of the game. Characters are single unless otherwise noted.*

### □FRANCE

France emerged from the Hundred Years War as a kingdom where many of the members of the royal family were used to a great degree of independence in their own territories. Louis XI, a great schemer who was never the less fortunate in some of his opponents being particularly stupid or obliging in dying early, brought the kingdom under a much greater degree of central control.

The main struggle had been against the Dukes of Burgundy and came from the enmity which arose during the Hundred Years War, in which Burgundy had at various times allied with England. By marriage the duchy had also acquired the territories of Flanders, Artois and Franche Comte. The acquisition of Luxembourg led to a murderous rivalry between the two houses of Burgundy and Orleans. The contest between Louis and Charles the Bold swayed from Charles isolating the French king when he organised the League of the Common Weal to Charles being isolated in turn when Louis organised an alliance of the emperor, Lorraine and the Swiss. Charles perished in battle with the Swiss at Nancy, a battle that helped cement the Swiss reputation as the best infantry in Europe. The duchy of Burgundy reverted back to the French crown. Charles' widow, Margaret of York, married Maximilian, later the Holy Roman Emperor and thus France Comte, Flanders and the Netherlands became part of the Habsburg inheritance.

On the death of Louis XI, Louis of Orleans schemed for the throne but had to give way to Louis XI's son Charles VIII. Charles had inherited the claims of the Duke of Anjou to the Kingdom of Naples and in 1494 had pursued his claim with an invasion of Italy (chronicled below). His brother and heir, Louis of Orleans, had also inherited the Visconti claims to the duchy of Milan.

On the death of Charles, Louis had ascended the throne as Louis XII and he continued the pursuit of French claims in Italy. His son, Francis I, continues to do so.

The focus of the struggle for dominance in Italy has been to avoid the perceived encirclement by the Habsburgs whose possessions of Spain and the Netherlands dominate two of France's borders. France cannot afford to have the Habsburgs poised on the Italian border as well.

**□The Italian Wars**

A year by year chronology is perhaps the best way to summarise the twists and turns of this conflict which is still in progress as the game starts:

- 1494 Charles VIII, King of France, invades Italy in pursuit of his claim to Naples. He is encouraged to do so by the Duke of Milan who is in dispute with Naples. On his way Charles forces the pope, Alexander VI, to renounce his claims to Naples. Charles takes Naples and leaves a garrison.
- 1495 Ferdinand of Aragon (who has his own claim to Naples), the emperor Maximilian and the Venetians form the League of Venice to oppose Charles and drive him from Italy. Alexander VI joins. The duke of Milan, more concerned now the claim of Louis of Orleans to his dukedom, also joins. On his way down the peninsula Charles deposes the Medici in Florence and the grateful republic becomes an ally. After refilling his treasury with the taxes made each spring in Naples, Charles moves north and the rivals meet in battle at Fornovo (near Genoa). The French army easily scatters its opponent but continues back to France allowing both sides to claim victory.
- 1496 The French garrison in Naples makes itself unpopular with its exactions. Ferdinand of Aragon takes the opportunity and offers send troops to support the Neapolitans. His forces are victorious at the battle of Atella. The Spanish place Federigo, grandson of the last Neapolitan king, on the throne.
- 1498 Louis of Orleans, now Louis XII, returns to Italy to pursue his claim to the duchy of Milan. Unpopular due to his previous support for the French, no one moved to assist Duke Lodovico and the French take Milan. They soon prove unpopular there and Lodovico attempted to regain his duchy but the Swiss in his army agreed not tot fight the Swiss in the French ranks and the French re-took Milan.
- 1500 Louis and Ferdinand agree a division of Naples, with Louis to become king. As soon as Federigo was defeated the allies fell out. The Spanish victories at Cerignola and Garigliano against the French settled the matter and by 1503 Naples was firmly under Ferdinand's control.
- 1508 Ferdinand, Louis and Maximilian unite their forces against Venice! Louis had inherited the Milanese claims to Venetian territory in the Po valley, Maximilian wanted the restoration of Trieste and Fiume and Ferdinand wanted the return of some ports in Apullia which the Venetians had

taken during the 1494 campaign. Louis' army won a victory at Agnadello and the Venetian forces withdrew to the lagoon. The allies then fell out over the division of the Venice's former mainland territories. Pope Julius II took advantage of this dispute and formed the Holy League in which Venice, Spain, the Empire and the Swiss were opposed to France – clearly alliances are very fluid and change rapidly!

- 1512 The French win a famous victory against the Spanish forces at Ravenna but their commander is killed and the French are unable to hold their ground. Lodovico's son, Massimiliano, was restored to Milan by his Swiss allies and the Medici were restored to power in Florence.
- 1513 France and Venice now ally against Milan. The Swiss, operating in support of Milan defeat the French forces at Novara.
- 1515 The new king of France, Francis I, leads a new army into Italy and the Swiss suffer a rare defeat at the bloody battle at Marignano when the Venetians arrive in support of the French. France regains Milan and agrees the treaty of Noyon with Spain by which each guarantees the other's rights in Milan and Naples. The Medici pope, Leo X, secures Medici rule in Florence and in return agrees the Concordat of Bologna which confirms the right of French kings to make appointments in the church in France. The Swiss agree the perpetual peace of Freiburg by which they agree to only fight for France in future.
- 1521 The election of Charles V as Holy Roman Emperor renews the hostility between Valois and Habsburg. The French and their Venetian allies were decisively beaten at the battle of Bicocca in 1521 when the Swiss mercenaries had insisted on attacking a strong Imperialist position. The French withdrew, leaving Milan in Imperialist hands.
- 1523 The various French troops in Italy were withdrawn to France. Venice made peace with the emperor. The withdrawal of French forces made it possible for the anti-French faction in Genoa to gain power with Imperial support. A new French army has been gathered...

### **□THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE**

Germany, like Italy, does not exist as a national entity in the sixteenth century. Germany is a collection of some three hundred-odd states, approximately one sixth belonging to the church, and independent free cities. They are ruled, more in theory than practice, by the Emperor. His power varies with his personal power. He is elected, according to the terms of the papal Golden Bull of 1356, by seven electors: The prince of (electoral) Saxony, the margrave of Brandenburg, the prince elector of the Palatinate, the King of Bohemia (who is also currently the King of

Hungary) and the prince bishops of Mainz, Trier and Cologne. These, along with other rulers, regarded themselves as sovereign princes and were often reluctant to see the emperor able to exert much influence. In theory the position carries the title of emperor-elect until crowned by the pope in Rome. The emperor Maximilian broke with this tradition in that he was never crowned by the pope (due to poor relations between the two, not unusual between popes and emperors). The archdukes of Austria, the Habsburg family, have held the position of emperor many times since the thirteenth century. The current emperor, Charles V, brings with him an unprecedented accumulation of personal power. By marriages and inheritances, he rules the Habsburg lands in Austria, the Netherlands and Franche Comte as Duke of Burgundy and is King of Spain. His father Maximilian had Charles elected King of the Romans, effectively anointing him as his heir. On the death of his father in 1517 he was the main candidate along with Francis I of France. Another possibility was the Elector of Saxony but he stood aside. Considerable bribery took place but eventually Charles was unanimously elected.

It is important to note that the Empire includes territories other than those in Germany, such as Bohemia and Milan, but a personal possession of the emperor (such as Spain) does not make them part of the empire. Some, but not all, of the states of the Netherlands are part of the empire. The Helvetic Confederation is nominally part of the empire but it has effectively secured its independence.

The Diet is the institution which is supposed to control the affairs of the empire. For the purposes of the game there is only one chamber, that of the electors (in reality there was another for the nobles and a third for the imperial cities). Procedure in the diet is vague. The right of the majority to control by their decision the minority and absentees is generally admitted but sometimes challenged. It is unclear if all have to be summoned to a diet or whether the diet could meet without Imperial summons. The Prince bishop of Mainz acts as chancellor of the empire and is the intermediary between the diet and emperor as necessary. Taxation, the so-called *Common Penny*, can only be levied with the agreement of the Diet. A diet is usually held in one of the imperial free cities of the empire. Placing a person under the Imperial Ban requires the agreement of the diet.

## □ THE ELECTORS OF THE EMPIRE

### **Saxony.**

Frederick III is one of the pre-eminent electors would have been a popular candidate in the last election in 1517 had he wished to stand. He is a very religious man with a huge collection of relics. Like most of the electors he is very concerned about sovereignty of the states relative to imperial authority. He is married to Elizabeth of Bavaria. Their son John Frederick is an early convert to the protestant cause. Although Frederick remains a catholic, he has supported Luther (who was based at Wittenburg in Saxony)

It is worth noting that there is electoral Saxony (ruled by Frederick) and ducal Saxony, ruled by duke George.

### □**Brandenburg**

Joachim I is a catholic though his wife, Elizabeth of Denmark, and son are Lutherans. His family is well connected; his cousin Albert is the Grandmaster of the Teutonic Knights and his brother Albert is prince bishop of Mainz. Another cousin, George, is Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach.

### □**Palatinate**

The succession to the electorate has only been recently settled in favour of Louis V. There was a dispute in the Wittelsbach family which led to a violent dispute with the Duke of Bavaria. This was resolved in 1505 but the Imperial Ban on the Palatinate was only removed by the newly elected Charles V in 1518 whom Louis voted for in the imperial election. Louis is a catholic. He has a brother, Frederick, but no children. He was married to Sibylle (now deceased), daughter of Duke Albert IV of Bavaria.

### □**Bohemia**

Like the emperor, the position of king of Bohemia is elective, along with that of Hungary. King Ladislav of Bohemia was elected to the throne of Hungary as well, linking the two kingdoms. On his death in 1516, his son Louis was elected to both thrones. Louis is married to Mary of Habsburg, sister of Charles V. His sister, Anne, is married to Ferdinand of Habsburg, Charles's brother. They have no children.

At the time of the election, the other main candidate was John Zapolya, vovode of Transylvania who also hoped to marry Anne.

### □**Prince Bishop of Cologne**

Hermann of Wied became prince bishop in 1515 though he does not enjoy the best of relations with the papacy due to his belief in the need for reform within the Catholic Church.

### □**Prince Bishop of Trier**

●Richard Greiffenklau zu Vollraths became elector in 1511. In 1522, Trier was attacked by rebellious knights of the empire but the attack was repulsed. His assistant, John Eck, acted as the representative of the empire to ask Luther to recant at the Diet of Worms.

### □**Prince Bishop of Mainz**

Albert became elector in 1514 and was made a cardinal in 1518. As the prince bishop of Mainz he is the chancellor of the empire, the main link between the electors and the emperor.

The cost of his new position has however caused him financial problems. He has attempted to resolve these by gaining permission from the pope for the sale of indulgences. It was the enthusiastic selling of indulgences by his agent, John Tetzel, which prompted Martin Luther to write his theses and start the reformation.

### **□BAVARIA**

Jointly ruled by William IV and Louis X, as dukes of Bavaria. William is to be married to Marie of Baden. There have been disputes with the other branch of the Wittelsbach family over the rule of various lands, including the Palatinate, but these have now been resolved. For game purposes, the ruler is effectively William IV.

### **BADEN**

Ruled by Christophe I. His daughter is due to marry the Duke of Bavaria. Connected to the Habsburgs via his marriage with Katherina of Austria.

### **□THE PAPACY**

His Holiness Clement VII was only recently elected pope after the short pontificate of Adrian VI. He is a member of the Medici family of Florence. He was the principal minister and confidant of Pope Leo X (1513-1521), another Medici.

The main problem facing the papacy is, of course, the spread of Lutheranism. In 1517 the monk Martin Luther posted his ninety-five theses on the church door at Wittenberg, mainly aimed at reforming the church and perceived abuses. Demand for reform spread rapidly.

Luther was summoned to appear at Rome in 1518 but this was revoked to permit him to appear before the Diet of Augsburg in October 1518 to meet the papal legate, Cardinal Cajetan, who was attending the imperial diet convened by the emperor Maximilian to impose the tithes for the Turkish war. Luther would not be swayed by the cardinal's arguments, nor by the papal bull of the 9th of November requiring all Christians to believe in the pope's power to grant indulgences.

In the following year, Luther produced many new pamphlets, which increased the controversy. A further papal bull of 1520 condemned forty-one propositions extracted from Luther's teachings. Luther responded by publicly burning the papal bull at Wittenberg. Leo X then formally excommunicated Luther. In 1521 the emperor signed the edict of the diet of Worms, which placed Luther under the ban of the Empire.

In 1521 Henry VIII of England sent to Leo his book against Luther on the seven sacraments. The pope then conferred on the king of England the title "Defender of the Faith". Neither the imperial edict nor the work of Henry VIII halted the Lutheran movement, and Luther himself, his whereabouts unknown, continues his heresy.

Lutheranism is now spreading across Germany and the rulers of Anhalt, Brandenburg-Ansbach and Hesse have all adopted it as the state religion, as has Denmark.

Relations between the papacy and the emperor are often troubled with the two being often on opposite sides of the Italian Wars.

## □THE LUTHERANS

### □The Reformation

There have been previous religious movements challenging the Catholic Church, notably that of Jan Huss during the fourteenth century. There was widespread concern about abuses in the church (examples) and it has been said that "in Germany there was little intellectual opposition to the doctrines and theology of Rome but that their hold on the reason and conscience of men was slight and easily shaken". The renaissance has proved vigorous in Germany with new intellectual life and a number of universities founded, notably at Wittenburg in Saxony. Martin Luther, a monk, had been developing his views on religion and the church. The most important of these was the concept of justification by faith alone and that salvation could only come through faith. Luther is convinced that the church has lost sight of the central truths of Christianity.

In 1517 the Prince-bishop of Mainz obtained a papal bull which would allow him to sell indulgences in Germany. The concept of indulgences is that they draw on the storehouse of merit produced by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. They grant full or partial remission of punishment for sins. While they were mainly granted after the person has confessed and received absolution, they could also apply to the dead in purgatory. It has come to be the case that an indulgence can be obtained for a payment of money solely. Johan Tetzel was commissioned by the bishop of Mainz to raise funds by the sale of indulgences. Luther found this most objectionable and wrote 95 theses against indulgences and other faults in the church and published these in Wittenburg in 1517. Luther also wrote to the bishop of Mainz who firmly rejected his views. Interest in the controversy mounted very rapidly. A large body of public opinion in Germany welcomed such an attack on the church. The elector of Saxony, a man proud of his university and its teachings and a man convinced of the need for reform in the church, sheltered and protected Luther.

A nerve must have been touched for Luther was summoned to Rome to recant. After some negotiations it was agreed that Luther would meet with Cardinal Cajetan, the papal legate, who called on him to repent. Luther would not be swayed by the arguments of the cardinal of the need for obedience to the church which, by virtue of its divine institution, had access to truths other than those contained in the bible and had been entrusted with the guidance of the Christian world. For Luther, all that is needed is faith and scripture.

Luther suggested that a disputation be arranged at one of the great universities. So in 1519 a disputation was arranged at Leipzig between Luther and the catholic scholar Johann Eck. During the debate, where Luther would not acknowledge the infallibility of the pope, Luther was forced to admit a similarity between his views and those of Jan Huss who had been condemned and burnt as a heretic. Luther put forward his views in his pamphlet, Sermon on the Mass, in which he insisted that Christ's sacrifice on the cross had been made once and for all and that it could not

be re-enacted as a priest claimed to do during mass. Priests made their communion with god by bread and wine while the laity was restricted to bread alone. Luther declared that anyone who had faith was a priest and therefore entitled to take the sacrament 'in both kinds'. His heresy was now confirmed in many eyes by three books which Luther wrote: *An Appeal to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation, On the Liberty of Christian Men and On the Babylonish Captivity of the Church*. These contained all the main points of Luther's views: the exclusive authority of the scriptures; the direct access of the believer to God without the necessity of intervention by the Church; the reduction of the sacraments to three; the hostility of the Roman church to the best interests of the German people. A quote sums this up: "if the pope acts contrary to the scriptures we are bound to stand by the scriptures". In the latter, Luther argued that the sacraments should be reduced to three: Eucharist, baptism and confession. He also denied transubstantiation (that the bread and wine became the blood and body of Christ).

In 1520 the pope issued a bull of excommunication, forty-one opinions of Luther's were condemned as heretical. Luther's books were ordered to be burnt and Luther to recant or be condemned as a heretic.

An attempt was made to resolve the issue at the Diet held at Worms in 1521. This was Charles V's first visit to the empire. There were other issues to be dealt with but the religious question over-shadowed everything else. Luther was given a safe conduct by the emperor. Though of firm religious opinions and ready to stamp out heresy the emperor decided to give Luther a chance to recant. Luther however declared that he would retract nothing unless convinced "by the testimony of scripture or evident reason". The emperor in turn declared: "A single monk, led astray by private judgement, has set himself up against the faith held by all for a thousand years and more, and impudently concludes that all Christians up to now have erred. I have therefore resolved to stake upon this cause all my dominions, my friends, my body and my blood, my life and my soul". In the Imperial edict of Worms Luther was denounced and placed under the imperial ban. Luther was thought to be in danger of arrest at Worms. Many remembered that Jan Huss had come before an imperial diet under a safe conduct but had been arrested and burnt at the stake all the same. Charles V kept his word and Luther was allowed to leave and he then disappeared. In 1522 he reappeared at Wittenburg but the authorities made no attempt to arrest him. Indeed the new religion was being adopted there. Since then Lutheranism has spread across Germany with several princes and cities adopting the new religion.

With the reformation have appeared a number of splinter groups, the foremost of which are the Anabaptists. They believe that baptism is only valid when the person is an adult. Anabaptists condemn oaths, will not bear arms, will not hold office and believe that civil officers have no authority over believers. Anabaptists are usually executed and as a result some have become violent. Outbreak of Anabaptism occurs seemingly at random.

### **Brandenburg-Ansbach**

George, the Margrave is related to the Hungarian court through his mother, Sophie, the late king Ladislas received him as an adopted son. His family is well connected; his younger brother Albert is the Grandmaster of the Teutonic Knights and his cousin Albert is prince bishop of Mainz. Another cousin, Joachim is Margrave of Brandenburg. George is a recent convert to the cause of Lutheranism. He is not married.

#### **□Hesse**

Margrave Philip I, the Magnanimous, is a recent convert to the Lutheran cause. He is married to Christine of Saxony (of the ducal line rather than the electoral line). They have no children.

#### **□Anhalt**

Wolfgang, prince of Anhalt, is an early convert to Lutheranism. He is not married.

#### **□THE MOST SERENE REPUBLIC OF VENICE**

Venice has a reputation for well-ordered government. A group of the leading families has a monopoly of political power and from them is elected the doge and the 'Council of Ten'. The rulers are sufficiently skilful in government that the material benefits of their rule are distributed to all. Taxation is low as the customs duties on the flow of goods through the city are substantial. A large and powerful fleet guards their interests at sea. Venice has a chain of possessions across the Mediterranean. At various times Venice has gained possessions on the mainland to the extent that it now extends from the Habsburg lands in the Tyrol to the Duchy of Milan. This has aroused some jealousy in her neighbours.

When France invaded in 1494, Venice joined with the Emperor, Spain and the Papacy to oppose them. In 1508 however, Venice became the target of a new alliance. France, with its conquest of Milan, had inherited Milanese claims to Venetian mainland territory. The Emperor wished to make good his claims to Trieste and Ferdinand of Spain wanted to recover the Neapolitan ports which the Venetians had gained during the chaos of the 1494 invasion. Venice was forced to withdraw to the safety of the lagoon, protected by her fleet. Her enemies fell out over the division of the spoils. 1511 saw the ever fluctuating alliances change once again and Venice part of the new Holy League against France and now allied with the emperor and Spain. The restoration of a Sforza to the rule of Milan brought new problems and in 1513 Venice found itself allied with France. A joint French-Venetian army defeated the Swiss at Marignano in 1515 and Venice was restored to her frontiers of 1494. Venice is still allied with France as the next phase of the Italian Wars commences.

As a city, which trades across the Mediterranean to the ports of the Levant, relations with the Ottoman Empire are obviously crucial. A peace treaty was signed

in 1479 which had freed the Turks to attack and temporarily occupy Otranto and to besiege Rhodes unsuccessfully. War broke out in 1499, which lasted till 1503 when Venice seceded several bases in the Aegean.

### □ FLORENCE

Florence is nominally a republic but its rule lies largely in the hands of the Medici family. Cosimo de Medici had established his personal authority in the middle of the fifteenth century and made the organs of government responsive to his wishes without raising significant opposition. Florence became an international centre for artists, scholars and poets of the renaissance. His grandson Lorenzo was much less cautious in his display of power and his adoption of the airs of a prince caused offensive among the republican-minded citizens. His son Piero proved even less capable and aroused particular opposition from the zealous monk, Savonarola. When the French invaded in 1494, the citizens, led by Savonarola, took the opportunity to depose Piero, support France and restore the republic. Savonarola's popularity proved short lived when he started to criticise all of the citizens of Florence and not just the Medici. Florence continued to ally with France and paid the price when the French lost their hold on Italy in 1512. The Medici were restored to power by the victorious Holy League in return for their promise of opposition to France, with Giuliano de Medici as the ruler. Medici power in Florence was greatly aided by the election of Giovanni de Medici as Pope Leo X in 1513. Unsurprisingly, Florence has subsequently sided with the papacy. Another Medici, Giulio, became pope as Clement VII in 1523.

### □ MILAN

The duchy has had a very chequered history in recent years though it remains a thriving commercial centre. As a duchy it is claimed as a fief of the Empire, a claim which is rather more substantial than many made in this period. Until the middle of the 15th century Milan was ruled by the Visconti family. When the last Visconti died in 1447 Milan was taken over by Francesco Sforza, a mercenary captain (condottiere) who had been hired to defend the city. His reputation was not sufficient to gain command and his rule depended on the backing of his own mercenary captains. Peace brought trade and wealth so the population bear the high taxes that the military forces cost. Francesco died in 1480 leaving his young son Gian Galeazzo in the care of his brother Lodovico (known as Il Moro, the moor). Lodovico effectively assumed control.

Trouble arose with the marriage of Gian Galeazzo to Isabella of Naples. This was intended to strengthen the alliance with Naples after the treaty of Lodi but Isabella was unhappy about Lodovico's assumption of power and appealed to her father for support. Lodovico saw a way out of his troubles when Charles VIII began to consider making good his claim to Naples. Lodovico encouraged the invasion but came to regret it when Louis, Duke of Bourbon, began to exert his claim to Naples (his grandfather had married Valentina Visconti). When Louis became king he launched a second invasion in 1498 and conquered Milan. French rule proving

unpopular, Lodovico attempted to regain his position but his army was defeated at the battle of Novara.

Despite their victory against the Holy League at the battle of Ravenna in 1512, the French were unable to retain position of Lombardy and Lodovico's son, Massimiliano, was placed on the throne by the Swiss (who were hoping to extend their influence outside of their own lands). Fortunes changed again with the subsequent French victory over the Swiss at Marignano in 1515. Lodovico ended his days a captive in France and his claim was taken up by his other son Francesco. When the French were forced to abandon Milan in the manoeuvring prior to the battle of Bicocca, Francesco regained the duchy where he now rules.

## □ ENGLAND

England settled into a period of peace after the struggles between the houses of York and Lancaster under the new Tutor dynasty and the first Tutor monarch, Henry VII. Henry had secured his claim to the throne by marrying Elizabeth of York, daughter and heir of Edward IV. Henry's policy was to maintain peace and create economic prosperity. He developed very efficient methods of taxation and curbed the power of the nobility. He agreed a treaty with France in 1492 which ceded claims to Brittany in return for a subsidy and the French withdrawing their support for pretenders such as Perkin Warbeck.

In 1489 Henry negotiated a treaty with Spain and agreed that his youngest son, Arthur, should marry Catherine, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, the Spanish monarchs.

Another treaty with Scotland saw his daughter Margaret married to King James IV.

In 1494 a treaty was agreed over the wool trade with the Netherlands which has significantly increased prosperity.

In 1502 Arthur died leaving his younger brother Henry as heir to the throne. Henry VII was reluctant to lose the link with Spain so he petitioned the Pope to grant a dispensation which would allow Prince Henry to marry Catherine (this would normally have been a degree of relationship which would have precluded a marriage in the Roman Catholic Church).

In 1509, Henry died and was succeeded by his son, now Henry VIII. The marriage with Catherine was then conducted. There is concern about the succession as no male heir has yet been born. The only child is a daughter, Mary, born in 1516.

In 1511, Henry joined the Holy League, organised by the Pope against France. In 1513 Henry invaded France and was victorious at the 'Battle of the Spurs'. His brother-in-law, James IV of Scotland, invaded England as an ally of France but was

defeated at the battle of Flodden, during which the Scottish king was killed. He was succeeded by his infant son as James V. The Duke of Albany rules as regent.

England and France negotiated a treaty of friendship in 1518 and met in great splendour just outside of Calais at an event known as the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520. Little came of this and by the following year Henry had joined the League of Cambrai against the French king.

In 1521 Pope Leo X granted Henry the title of 'Defender of the Faith' for his counter-blast against the works of Martin Luther with his book, *Defence of the Seven Sacraments* which defended the sanctity of marriage and the pope.

## **DENMARK**

The thrones of Denmark, Norway and Sweden had long been united but Sweden was established as an independent kingdom in 1521 after a revolt. The king, Christian II was largely blamed for provoking this by his massacre of more than eighty leading lay and ecclesiastical aristocracy and then failing to deal with the subsequent revolt. He had also alienated much of the Danish nobility. He was deposed in 1523 and his uncle Frederick, the Duke of Schleswig and Holstein was elected to the throne. Christian is now in exile in the Netherlands. Frederick was among the first to tolerate and support Lutheranism.

## **NON-PLAYED**

### **■The Ottoman Empire**

Ottoman expansion in the last century has been rapid. In 1354 they first invaded Europe, occupying much of the Balkans. This left Constantinople isolated between the Rumelian and Anatolian provinces of the empire. Without aid from the Christian west the city inevitably fell to the onslaught led by sultan Mehmed II, in 1453; the city is now the economic and political centre of the empire.

Expansion continued. The last Genoese and Greek colonies around Anatolia and the Crimea were taken; in 1458 the Turks took further parts of Greece, Serbia in 1459, Bosnia in 1464 and Albania in 1479. The capture of the dockyards at Constantinople prompted the construction of a fleet which led to raiding and more acquisitions in the Adriatic and Aegean.

The pace slowed when Bayezid came to the throne in 1481. With his brother Jem in European hands, Bayezid was wary of Jem raising rebellion while he was embroiled in campaigns. With the death of Jem he pursued a campaign against Venice and invaded and occupied Moldavia. This was seemingly insufficient for Bayezid's sons who desired a more aggressive policy. After a short civil war in 1511, Bayezid was deposed and Selim took the throne after disposing of his rival brothers.

Selim immediately marched through Anatolia suppressing revolts by Shiites (the Ottomans are Sunnis) then advanced into Persia where the Shah Ismail had been persecuting his Sunni subjects and encouraging the Shiites within the Ottoman Empire to rebel. The Ottomans were victorious at the battle of Tchaldiran and annexed some territory. The Persians were little trouble for some time after.

Selim then turned his attention to the Mamluk rulers of Syria and Egypt. He defeated their army at Marj Dabak in 1516 and then launched a gruelling campaign across the desert to Egypt, taking Cairo and deposing the Mamluks. Syria was incorporated into the empire and Egypt became a tributary under an Ottoman Pasha. With Egypt came the guardianship of the holy places at Mecca and Medina. The Ottomans were now pre-eminent throughout Islam.

A major difficulty to Ottoman navigation was the presence of the Knights of St. John on the island of Rhodes. Selim died before he could pursue this option but it was taken up by his successor, Soliman and Rhodes was successfully besieged in 1522. The few surviving knights moved to Sicily.

The success of the Ottomans was not only due to the failure of the Christian west to unite against them. They are a warrior race who live for fighting and plunder. Seemingly inured to climate, their taste for rice and use of camels for transport enabled them to operate over great distances. Their armies are largely composed of cavalry but have a core of artillery and regular infantry, the Janissaries. The latter are recruited as children from the Christian population within the empire and raised as Moslems and soldiers. Numbering some 12,000, they are maintained on a permanent basis. The empire is little troubled by revolts as it is a tolerant empire in many ways though capable of great cruelty. Christians are tolerated, both Roman and Greek Orthodox. Even the *devshirme*, the levy of young boys as recruits to the Janissaries, is viewed as an opportunity for advancement. The Turkish *spahis*, the landowners, are interested in money taxes and feudal dues so many peasants are better off than under their former masters. They are also the heirs to Arabic and Persian culture combined with the acquisition of Greek science and philosophy.

### □ HELVETIC CONFEDERATION

The independence of the thirteen cantons which made up the confederation was recognised by the emperor Maximilian in 1499 and effectively they were no longer part of the Holy Roman Empire. The six rural and seven town cantons have no common government, each of the cantons are sovereign. During the period from 1509 to 1515 the confederation, under the influence of the warlike Cardinal of Sion usually took sides against France. It also became an ally of Pope Julius II who gave the Swiss the official title of "Protectors of the Liberty of the Church" and provided a Swiss guard to the pope. After the battle of Marignano the Perpetual Peace of Fribourg was signed, by which the Swiss promised not to aid the enemies of France and that Swiss troops would only serve in the armies of France.

It was at that moment that the reformation movement started in Zurich under the influence of Huldreich Zwingli. To Zwingli the solution to all religious problems was to interpret the bible by the light of reason and to accept the result without qualification. In 1519 Zwingli protested at a papal agent selling indulgences who had arrived in Zurich where he was now the "people's priest". Afterwards Zwingli moved to a system and practice of belief which was opposed to the Roman church. A public disputation was then held. Zwingli was declared by the city authorities to have gained victory and the reformatted church was established in Zurich.

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**GAZETTEER**

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**●ALSACE**

Possession of the Austrian Habsburgs. Catholic.

**●ANHALT**

Lutheran German duchy. Ruled by Duke Wolfgang.

**●AUGSBURG**

An Imperial Free City. Catholic. Non-played.

**●BADEN**

A Catholic German duchy, Ruled by the Margrave, Christopher I with one son, Bernhard, who is single. His sister is about to marry the Duke of Bavaria.

**●BAVARIA**

A Catholic German duchy. Ruled by the Duke, William IV. He about to marry Marie of Baden. His sister, Sabina, is married to Ulrich of Wurttemberg.

**●BAYREUTH**

A Catholic German duchy. Ruled by the Margrave, Christian. Non-played.

**●BERG**

A Catholic German duchy ruled by the Duke of Cleves.

**●BOHEMIA**

A kingdom which includes its attendant provinces of Lusatia, Moravia and Silesia It is an elected monarchy. Currently Bohemia is ruled by King Louis II of Hungary who has been elected as king by both countries.

In the last century Bohemia was the centre of the Hussite Wars and is still strongly Hussite, though much of the nobility is Catholic. Louis is tolerant of both faiths. Hussism can be thought of as an early form of Lutheranism.

Louis is married to Mary of Habsburg. His sister Anne is married to Ferdinand of Habsburg. They have no children. As the king of Bohemia he is an elector of the Empire. Note that Hungary is not part of the empire.

**●BRANDENBURG**

A Catholic German margravate, ruled by Joachim I, Margrave of Brandenburg. He is married to Elizabeth, daughter of the King of Denmark. His son, Joachim Hector, is due to marry Magdalena of Saxony, daughter of the elector. Elizabeth and Joachim are both Lutherans.

**BRANDENBURG-ANSBACH**

Lutheran German margravate. Ruled by the Margrave, George, an early convert to the new religion.

●**Bishopric of BREMEN**

A Catholic German bishopric, non-played.

●**BRUNSWICK (Luneburg)**

A Catholic German duchy, ruled by Duke Eric I, Non-played.

●**BRUNSWICK (Wolfenbittel)**

A Catholic German duchy, ruled by Duke Henry V. Non-played.

●**CLEVES**

A Catholic German duchy, non-played. Ruled by John III, Duke of Cleves

●**Bishopric of COLOGNE**

The Prince-Bishop of Cologne, Hermann of Wied, is an elector of the Empire. Catholic.

□**DENMARK**

Ruled by King Frederick I. Frederick also rules the Duchy of Holstein and as such is a prince of the Holy Roman Empire. Frederick is a Lutheran. The deposed King, Christian II, a catholic, now resides in the Netherlands.

**ENGLAND**

Ruled by Henry VIII. He is married to Catherine of Aragon, aunt of Emperor Charles V. Henry's sister, Margaret, was married to the late James IV of Scotland and is the mother of the current king, James V.

□**FLORENCE**

Italian republic ruled by the Medici family, headed by Alessandro de Medici.

□**FRANCE**

A catholic country ruled by King Francis I. He is married to Louise of Savoy.

□**FRANCHE COMTE**

A Habsburg possession. Catholic.

□**FRANKFURT**

Imperial Free City. Catholic. Non-played.

□**GENOA**

An Italian republic with pro-French and pro-Imperialist factions. Andrea Doria, of the most important family in Genoa, is effectively head of state. He is also admiral of the Genoese fleet. Non-played. Catholic.

▣ **Bishopric of HALBERSTADT**

A Catholic German bishopric, non-played.

**THE HABSBURGS**

Traditionally (since 1432 anyway) the Holy Roman Emperor is a Habsburg. Currently Charles V is head of the House of Habsburg and Holy Roman Emperor though he has yet to be formally crowned as emperor by the pope. Charles is a staunch Catholic who has denounced Luther and placed him under the Imperial ban.

Through a series of inheritances, Charles is also Duke of Burgundy (which includes some of the Netherlands, King of Spain and Archduke of Austria).

His aunt, Catherine of Aragon, is married to Henry VIII of England. His aunt, Margaret is regent in the Netherlands. His brother Ferdinand is regent for the Habsburg lands in eastern Europe. His sister, Eleanor, is married to the King of Portugal. His sister Mary is married to King Louis of Hungary and Bohemia.

The Austrian Habsburg lands are: Upper and Lower Austria, the Tyrol, Carinthia, Carniola and Styria.

**▣ HELVETIC CONFEDERATION**

Formerly part of the Habsburg Empire, its independence was recognised by the late Emperor Maximilian. Swiss mercenaries are highly regarded infantry, now only willing to hire out to France. The cantons are self-governing and there is no central authority though they usually act in conjunction. There tends to be a split between the rural and urban cantons. Non-played.

**▣ HESSE**

A Lutheran German margravate, ruled by Margrave Philip I. He is married to Christina, daughter of George, Duke of Saxony.

**▣ HESSE-DARMSTADT**

A Catholic German bishopric, non-played.

**▣ HOLSTEIN**

German duchy ruled by the king of Denmark. Lutheran.

**▣ THE HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE (of the German Nation)**

The Empire includes all the German states. In some cases these may be ruled by another country (for example Holstein, which is ruled by the King of Denmark) but they are still part of the empire.

The nominal ruler is the Emperor but to exert his authority the Emperor must use his personal resources as the position does not carry any unless they are voted by the Diet. He does however determine the succession to any vacant or disputed fiefs (areas within the Empire).

For the purposes of the game the Diet is formed from the played German rulers (or their representative), chaired by the Emperor. The Diet can only be summoned by

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the Emperor and must be held in an Imperial Free City. All who attend do so under a safe conduct.

If the Emperor is at war he can request the Diet to vote him a special tax known as the "Imperial Penny". This has to be agreed by a majority of those present. If granted the tax will produce d6 + 6 florins and is collected with the other revenues in phase 1 of the following turn.

The basis of electing the Emperor was established by the Golden Bull of 1356. There are seven electors: The Electors of Saxony, the Palatinate and Brandenburg, the King of Bohemia and the prince Bishops of Mainz, Trier and Cologne. Each elector has one vote. The Emperor has traditionally been a member of the Habsburg family (the rulers of Austria) for several hundred years. Traditionally, the election is held in one of the Imperial Free Cities in Germany (see this Gazetteer).

In the event of an election, candidates are usually Archdukes, Princes, Kings or their close relatives and must be a player. Members of the church are not eligible.

The non-played Electors are:

- Prince-Bishop of Cologne, Hermann of Wied
- Prince-Bishop of Trier, Richard Greiffenklau zu Vollraths

In the event of an election their votes can be influenced; refer to the Political Umpire over-seeing the election.

The Imperial ban can be imposed by the Emperor, usually in agreement with a diet and makes anyone under the ban disposed and an outlaw. Currently Martin Luther and Duke Ulrich of Wurttemberg are under the ban.

#### □ **HUNGARY**

A Catholic state ruled by King Louis who is also King of Bohemia (see Bohemia).

#### □ **JULICH**

A Catholic German duchy ruled by the Duke of Cleves.

#### □ **Bishopric of LIEGE**

A Catholic German bishopric, non-played.

#### □ **LORRAINE**

An independent duchy, ruled by Antoine, Duke of Lorraine. Non-played.

#### □ **Bishopric of LUXEMBURG**

A Catholic German bishopric, non-played.

**□Bishopric of MAGDEBURG**

A Catholic German bishopric. The Prince-Bishop of Mainz, Albert, is also Bishop of Magdeburg.

**□Bishopric of MAINZ**

The Prince-Bishop of Mainz, Albert, is an elector of the Empire. Catholic.

**□MANTUA**

An Catholic Italian marquisate, ruled by Federico II Gonzaga, Marquess of Manuta. Non-played.

**□MARK**

A Catholic German duchy ruled by the Duke of Cleves.

**□MECKLENBURG**

A Catholic German duchy, non-played.

**□MILAN**

A much disputed Italian duchy, currently ruled by Francesco Sforza.

**□MONTFERRAT**

An Catholic Italian Marquisate ruled by Federigo II, Marquess of Manuta, non-played.

**□Bishopric of MUNSTER**

A Catholic German bishopric, non-played.

**□NETHERLANDS**

Ruled by Charles V in his capacity as Charles II, Duke of Burgundy, consisting of: Friesland, Holland, Utrecht, Gelders, Brabant, Hainult and Flanders.

**□NUREMBURG**

Imperial Free City. Non-played. Catholic.

**□OLDENBURG**

A Catholic German duchy, non-played.

**□OTTOMAN EMPIRE**

The western portion of the Empire consists of Bosnia, Serbia, Wallachia and Rumelia. The eastern portion consists of Anatolia, the Levant, Egypt and North Africa.

**□PALATINATE**

The lands are split in two, the Lower Palatinate on the Rhine with the capital of Heidelberg and the Upper Palatinate on the Danube. Of the two the Lower Palatinate is the most prosperous.

Ruled by Louis V, Count Palatine of the Rhine. He was married to Sibylle, the sister of the Duke of Bavaria but she died in 1519.

**PAPACY**

His Holiness Pope Paul V is head of a church which has made a number of reforms and which, with the Jesuits as its cutting edge, is ready to confront and defeat Protestantism. There has been a long history of rivalry between Popes and Holy Roman Emperors over the Habsburg domination of Italy which has often been resented by the Popes.

The church lands in Germany are extensive but not under direct papal control. (See under the Bishoprics of Liege, Cologne, Mainz, Trier, Luxemburg, Magdeburg, Munster, Salzburg, Wuzburg)

**□POLAND**

A Catholic state ruled by King Sigismund I. Non-played.

**□POMERANIA**

A Catholic German duchy, non-played.

**□East PRUSSIA**

A possession of the Teutonic Knights under their Grand Master Albert of Brandenburg.

**□West PRUSSIA**

A possession of the Teutonic Knights under their Grand Master Albert of Brandenburg.

**□SALZBURG**

A Catholic German bishopric, non-played.

**□SAVOY**

A Catholic Italian duchy, ruled by Charles III. His cousin is the mother of Francis I of France. Usually allied with France. Catholic, non-played.

**□THE DUCHY OF SAXONY**

A Catholic German duchy, ruled by George, Duke of Saxony. He is married to Barbara, daughter of the King of Poland. His sister Christine is married to the Margrave of Hesse.

**□ELECTORAL SAXONY**

A Catholic German duchy, ruled by Frederick III, an elector of the Empire. Regarded as one of the foremost princes of Germany, Frederick was a possible candidate for emperor in 1519 but stood aside. Frederick protected Luther in the early days and it was at his insistence that Luther was given a hearing at the Diet of Worms in 1521. Frederick does not permit the sale of Papal indulgences in his

lands. He has the largest collection of religious relics in Germany which attracts many pilgrims. Frederick's brother and nephew are Lutherans.

#### □**SCOTLAND**

Kingdom ruled by the Duke of Albany as regent for the young king James V. His mother is Margaret Tudor, sister of Henry VIII.

#### □**SPAIN**

Unified as recently as 1492 after the final expulsion of the Moors. Via a complex series of marriages and deaths, the throne of Spain has been inherited by Charles of Habsburg and he now rules as Charles I of Spain. The presence of a non-Spaniard, with an entourage of Burgundian advisers, was not universally welcomed in Spain and a serious revolt broke out over taxation shortly after his accession. This was put down but not without difficulty as it was supported by most sections of society. Strongly catholic, where the church is supported by the Inquisition.

#### □**STRASBURG**

Imperial Free City. Non-played. Catholic.

#### □**SWABIAN LEAGUE**

A confederation of South German states which consists of: Ansbach, Baden, Bavaria, Bayreuth, Hesse, the Palatinate, Trier, Tyrol, and Wurttemberg. It last took action in 1519 to remove Ulrich of Wurttemberg.

#### □**TRANSYLVANIA**

□Part of Hungary but virtually independent under the rule of the powerful Hungarian noble, John Zapolya, Vivode of the province. Non-played.

#### □**Bishopric of TRIER**

The Prince-Bishop of Trier, Richard Greiffenklau zu Vollraths, is an elector of the Empire. Catholic.

#### □**ULM**

Imperial Free City. Non-played. Catholic.

#### □**The VAL TELLINE**

This area is an important route between Italy and Germany and is loosely attached to the Helvetic Confederation.

#### □**The Most Serene Republic of VENICE**

A Catholic Italian republic, ruled by the Doge. Although it has a great involvement in Italian affairs, its wealth comes from trade through the Mediterranean and has bases in Corfu, Cephalonia, Naxos, Crete and Cyprus.

#### □**WURTEMBERG**

A Catholic German duchy, non-played. Its Duke, Ulrich, is in exile and under the Imperial ban. He had an affair with the wife of a knight whom he killed. Ulrich's

wife, Sabina, the sister of the Duke of Bavaria, fled to her brother for support. Already unpopular for his high taxation, Ulrich was deposed by the Swabian League. The duchy is now in the keeping of the Emperor.

▣ **Bishopric of WURZBURG**

A Catholic German bishopric, non-played.

● PEOPLE

State	Age	State	Age
<b>Anhalt</b>		Amelia, daughter	7
Wolfgang, Prince of Anhalt.	42	<b>Cologne</b>	
<b>Brandenburg-Ansbach</b>		Hermann of Wied, Prince Bishop of Cologne	47
George, Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach	40	<b>Denmark</b>	
Albrecht, brother (Grand Master of Teutonic Knights)	34	King Frederick I	53
Albert, cousin, Prince bishop of Mainz	42	Sophie of Pomerania, wife	26
<b>Baden</b>		Prince Christian, son	21
Christophe I, Margrave	71	Dorothea, daughter	20
Katherina of Austria, wife	69	Christian II (former king, in exile in the Netherlands)	63
Bernhard, son	50	<b>Mecklenburg</b>	
Marie, daughter (due to marry William of Bavaria)	17	Heinrich V, Duke	45
● <b>Bavaria</b>		Philip, son	24
William IV, Duke of Bavaria	33	<b>England</b>	
Sabina. Sister, married to Ulrich of Wurttemberg	35	Henry VIII	33
<b>Bayreuth</b>		Catherine of Aragon, wife	39
Christian, margrave	68	Mary, daughter	8
<b>Bohemia and Hungary</b>		Margaret, sister of Henry, widow of James IV	35
Louis II, King of Bohemia and Hungary	18	Mary, sister, married to the duke of Suffolk, widow of Louis XII	28
Mary of Habsburg, wife	19	<b>Florence</b>	
Anne, sister of Louis, married to Ferdinand of	21	Alessandro de Medici, ruler	14
		Catherine de Medici, sister	5
<b>Bologna</b>		Pope Clement VII (Giulio de Medici), uncle	46
Annable Bentivoglio, Lord	49	<b>France</b>	
<b>Brandenburg</b>		Louise of Savoy, mother of Francis	48
Joachim I, Margrave of Brandenburg	40	Francis I, king	30
Elizabeth of Denmark, wife	39	Claude of Brittany, wife	25
Joachim Hector, son	19	Henry, son	5
Anna, daughter	17	Madeleine of Valois, daughter	4
Elisabeth, daughter	14	Charles, son	2
Margaret, daughter	13	Margaret, daughter	1
Johann, son	13	<b>Genoa</b>	
<b>Brunswick (Luneburg)</b>		Andrea Doria, admiral	58
Eric I, Duke	62	Filippino Doria, nephew	5
Anna, daughter	19	<b>Habsburgs</b>	
<b>Brunswick (Wolfenbittel)</b>		Charles V	24
Henry V, Duke	57	Margaret of Austria, aunt, widowed	44
Margaret, daughter	20	Ferdinand, brother	21
<b>Cleves &amp; Mark</b>		Anne of Hungary, wife of Ferdinand	21
John III, Duke of Cleves	34	Eleanor of Austria, sister, widowed, young daughter	26
Maria of Julich-Berg	33	Isabella, sister	23
Sybille, daughter	12	Mary, sister, wife of Louis of Bohemia	19
Anne, daughter	9	Catherine, sister	17
Wilhem, son	8	Charles de Lannoy, favourite	41
<b>State</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Age</b>

<b>Hesse</b>		Alessandro d'Medici, nephew	14
Philip I, Margrave	20	<b>Portugal</b>	
Christine of Saxony, wife, d. of D. of Saxony	19	John III	22
<b>Julich-Berg</b>		Isabel, sister	21
Maria of Julich-Berg (See Cleves)	33	Beatriz, sister	22
<b>Lorraine</b>		<b>Pomerania</b>	
Antoine I, Duke	35	Barnim IX, Duke	23
Renée of Bourbon-Montpensier, wife	30	Sophie, sister, married to Frederick of Denmark	26
Francis, son	7	<b>Savoy</b>	
<b>Lucca</b>		Charles III, Duke	38
Martina della Scala of Verona, widow of Duke.	35	Beatrice of Portugal, wife of Duke of Savoy	20
<b>Mainz</b>		Louise of Savoy, cousin, mother of Francis I	?
Albert, Prince Bishop of Mainz	42	<b>Saxony (Duchy of)</b>	
<b>Mantua</b>		George, Duke of Saxony	53
Federico II Gonzaga, Marquis	24	Barbara of Poland, wife, daughter of King of Poland	46
Isabella d'Este, wife	50	Johann, son	26
<b>Mecklenburg</b>		Christine, daughter, married to Philip of Hesse	19
Heinrich V, duke	42	Magdalena, daughter, to marry Joachim of Brandenburg]	17
Magdelene, his wife	39	<b>Saxony (Electoral)</b>	
Jan Ulrich, son	19	Frederick III of Saxony, unmarried	61
<b>Milan</b>		John, brother	56
Duke Francesco Sforza	29	Margaret of Anhalt, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wife of John	Dead
Massimiliano Sforza, brother	31	John Frederick, son of John	21
<b>Modena &amp; Ferrara</b>		<b>SCOTLAND</b>	
Alfonso I, duke	48	James V	12
Ercole d'Este, son	16	● <b>Sienna</b>	
<b>Montferrat</b>		Fabio Petrucci, ousted ruler	25
Federico II Gonzaga, Marquess of Manuta	24	<b>Teutonic Knights</b>	
Margaret, sister	21	Grand master Albrecht of Brandenburg, brother of the Margrave of Brandenburg-Ansbach	34
<b>Munster</b>		<b>Trier</b>	
Prince Bishopric of Munster		Richard Greiffenklau zu Vollraths, Prince Bishop of Trier	45
<b>Oldenburg</b>		<b>Urbino</b>	
Count Anton I	19	Francesco Maria della Rovere	34
<b>Palatinate</b>		Eleonora Gonzaga, wife	29
Louis V, Count Palatine of the Rhine, widowed	46	<b>Venice</b>	
Frederic, brother	42	The Doge of Venice, Andrea Gritti	67
		<b>Wurttemberg</b>	
<b>Papacy</b>		Ulrich, Duke of	37
His Holiness Clement VII (Giulio de Medici)	46	Sabina, wife, d. of Albert IV of Bavaria, sister of William IV	32
Catherine d'Medici, niece	5	Christophe, son	