

Overview of Unit 2: The Development of Modern Nation-States:
Economic Revival, Wars of Religion, European Leadership
(Chapters 3 and 4)

With the diminished medieval manor and church, Europe had to come up with another way to consolidate power and authority, and to organize. Powerful feudal lords began the process of consolidation political, economic, geographic, military, and religious autonomy over s defined geographic area. The end result was the concept and reality of *national sovereignty*.

Keep in mind the reality that each nation will

1. Experience some of the same realities as they transition from medieval to modern methods of organization and sovereignty
2. Experience their own unique realities based on their own unique experiences as they transition to modern methods of organization
3. All of the factors (economic, political, geographic, social / cultural, diplomatic, religious, linguistic, etc) overlap and are mutually influential
4. There is an intense relationship between what happens inside of a nation and what happens outside of that nation; power and consolidation at home gave nations a chance to expand overseas, which, in turn, helped nations gain power and consolidation at home
5. The factors that strengthen a nation can also weaken it; the factors that help a nation can also harm a nation

Try to identify the factors that contributed to consolidation and sovereignty in Spain, France, The Holy Roman Empire, and England.

Try to identify the factors that inhibited consolidation and sovereignty in Spain, France, The Holy Roman Empire, and England.

Each nation has to decide for itself (this is the very definition of sovereignty) what is legitimate in its own affairs. Unfortunately, there are often disagreements.

- Internal disagreements over these kinds of issues lead to civil wars and revolutions**
- External disagreements over these kinds of issues lead to wars between countries**

End results:

- 1. Spain will evolve into a divine right monarchy centered around the Hapsburgh family, the Catholic faith, and the privileges of the aristocracy. For Spain, these characteristics are what they eventually consider to be legitimate.**
- 2. France will evolve into an absolute divine-right monarchy centered around the Bourbon family, their own version of Catholicism, and the privileges of the aristocracy.**
- 3. The Holy Roman Empire will be a complete failure in terms of establishing national sovereignty and any kind of political, geographic, religious, cultural, linguistic consolidation.**
- 4. England will evolve into a limited monarchy / parliamentary system centered around the Tudor, Stuart, and Hanover families, Protestantism, and the privileges of the aristocracy along with some power for the middle class.**

Each of these 4 places will undergo intense struggles, major disagreements and warfare, major challenges, and inconsistent paths to their ultimate destinations. Each place will experience both positive and negative results of their sovereign choices.