

## **Thirty Years War: 1618 – 1648: Context and Backdrop**

**War was a crucial turning point in the transition from Renaissance to Reformation to the Modern World:**

**Result of the war will correspond to the rise of the “modern” Nation-State  
The Nation-State will be seen as an all-inclusive entity**

**THUS: conflicts which arise from this transition will also be all-inclusive**

**THUS: there are different interpretations of the war**

**Holborn  
Freidrich  
Steinberg**

**Immediate backdrop to the war**

- 1. Specific religious and political realities in the HRE (Germany)**
- 2. ADRM and consolidation under Bourbon dynasty in France**
- 3. Hapsburg power in Spain and the HRE**
- 4. Peace of Augsburg 1555**

**THUS: the war has to be understood at several different levels**

- 1. A German civil conflict**
  - a. Catholics v. Protestants**
  - b. HRE v. German princes**
- 2. A larger European conflict**
  - a. Spain v. France (and their allies)**
  - b. Spain v. the Dutch (and their allies)**
- 3. A feudalistic war between rival lords, princes, and mercenaries**

**Results of the War: Peace of Westphalia 1648**

- 1. France gets Alsace region**
- 2. Sweden gets land in northern Germany**
- 3. Calvinists are now included within the Peace of Augsburg arrangement**
- 4. Holland and Switzerland now recognized as independent**

**THUS:**

- 1. The Peace of Augsburg is re-affirmed**
- 2. Germany (HRE) has been, is, and will remain completely fragmented**
- 3. Hapsburg power and consolidation, especially in HRE, will be blocked**
- 4. Marks advent of the system of sovereign Nation-States “reasons of state”**