

Growth of French Power

Ch. 16, Sec. 2



Issues in France

- Following Protestant Reformation, France almost tore itself apart
 - Huguenots () and Catholics frequently attacked each other
 - Example: St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre
 - Royal wedding at which Huguenots and Catholics were present
 - Guess what happened...



Issues in France

– St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre

- leaders at the wedding and their followers were targeted and killed (over)
- Days of violence followed in which up to people were killed

Stabilizing France

- King Henry IV converted to Roman Catholicism to keep power but passed the
 - Law guaranteeing religious tolerance to Huguenots
- Henry and his successors then worked to reunify France
 - Built public works projects ()
 - (Catholic leader helping rule) forbid anyone but the king from having
 - Louis XIV took complete control of the gov't himself & built the largest army in Europe (men)

Stabilizing France

- Louis separated himself from the rest of France at his palace at
 - Elaborate, ornate, and expensive royal home
 - Developed the “ ” where nobles would fight for the honor of helping the royal family prepare for the day or evening
- High point of art under Louis’ support
 - French artistic style became the basis across Europe
 - Development of



Palace at Versailles



Stabilizing France

- Louis' 70 year rule (longest of anyone in history) was both positive and negative
 - Positive: France became a superpower in Europe
 - Negatives:
 - Power caused other Europeans to ally against France
 - Eliminated Huguenots, resulting in over 100,000 of France's richest and most loyal citizens fleeing to other countries
 - Spent massive amounts of money on wars and fighting against other Europeans