DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did politics shape the religious positions of the French leaders? What led to the Saint Bartholomew’s Day Massacre, and what did it achieve?

2. How did Spain gain a position of dominance in the sixteenth century? What were Philip II’s successes and failures?

3. Henry of Navarre (Henry IV of France), Elizabeth I, and William of Orange were all *politiques*. What does the term mean and why does it apply to these three rulers?

4. What led to the establishment of the Anglican Church in England? Why did Mary I fail? What was Elizabeth I’s settlement, and why was it difficult to impose on England? Who were her detractors and what were their criticisms?

5. Why was the Thirty Years’ War fought? Was politics or religion more important in determining the outcome of the war? What were the main terms of the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648?

6. Why has the Thirty Years’ War been called the outstanding example in European history of meaningless conflict? Was it really such? Were the results worth the cost of the war?