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The French Huguenot Movement Under the Edict of Nantes

- 1517 Luther posts his 95 Theses
- 1530 First translation of the Bible into French is published by Lefevre d'Etaples.
- 1536 Calvin publishes the first edition of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*.
- 1546 Fourteen leaders of the Protestant church in Meaux are tortured and burned at the stake near the Cathedral.
- 1547 Henry II becomes King of France.
- 1555 The first French Reformed Church is built in Paris, modeled after a church in Geneva.
- 1559 Francis II and Mary Queen of Scots assume the throne of France.
First national Reformed Church Synod is held in Paris and adopts a book of discipline and the French Confession.
- 1560 Failed coup against Guise rule leads to massacre of Protestants at Amboise.
Charles IX becomes King of France.
- 1561 Colloquy of Poissy fails to reconcile French Protestants and Catholics.
- 1562 Massacre of Protestants at Wassy instigated by the Duke of Guise, uncle of Mary Queen of Scots, ignites a series of civil wars in France.
- 1564 John Calvin dies, passing Reformed leadership in Geneva to de Bèze.
- 1567-1568 Second Civil War
- 1568-1573 Third Civil War
- 1572 Huguenot leaders pour into Paris for the marriage of the Huguenot prince, Henry of Navarre, to Marguerite of Valois, sister of the King.
Most of the leaders are killed in the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre which begins in Paris and spreads to other cities of France. As many as 70,000 Huguenots were victims of this genocide.
- 1572-1573 Fourth Civil War

- 1574 Henry III becomes King of France.
- 1574-1576 Fifth Civil War
- 1576 Formation of Catholic League led by the Guise family.
- 1577 Sixth Civil War
- 1580 Seventh Civil War; Henry of Navarre seizes the city of Cahors.
- 1585-1589 Eighth Civil War; Henry of Navarre defeats the forces of the Catholic League at Coutras in 1587.
- 1588 Henry of Navarre (soon to become Henry IV) leads a Huguenot Assembly at La Rochelle.
Henry III assassinates the Duke of Guise.
- 1589 Henry III and Henry of Navarre form an alliance and besiege Paris during which the King is assassinated by a fanatic monk.
Henry IV becomes King of France.
- 1593 Henry IV adopts Catholicism and attends Mass at the Basilica of St. Denis near Paris.
- 1594 Henry IV enters Paris to an enthusiastic reception, bringing stability to France.
- 1595 Henry IV is absolved by Pope Clement VIII.
- 1598 Henry IV issues the Edict of Nantes, extending political and religious rights to the Huguenots.
- 1599 Henry IV is divorced from Marguerite de Valois and marries Marie de Medici of the wealthy Italian banking family.
- 1610 Henry IV is assassinated by a religious fanatic.
Louis XIII, aged eight, becomes King of France. The regent, Marie de Medici, begins revoking rights of Protestants.
- 1611 Huguenot Assemblies are held at Chatellerault and Saumur to sort out leadership issues.
- 1620 Louis XIII moves against La Rochelle and Southern French cities and stops in Saumur to remove Philippe Duplessis-Mornay from governorship.