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Revista de Antropología, Ciencias de la Comunicación y de la Información, Filosofía,  
Linguística y Semiótica, Problemas del Desarrollo, la Ciencia y la Tecnología

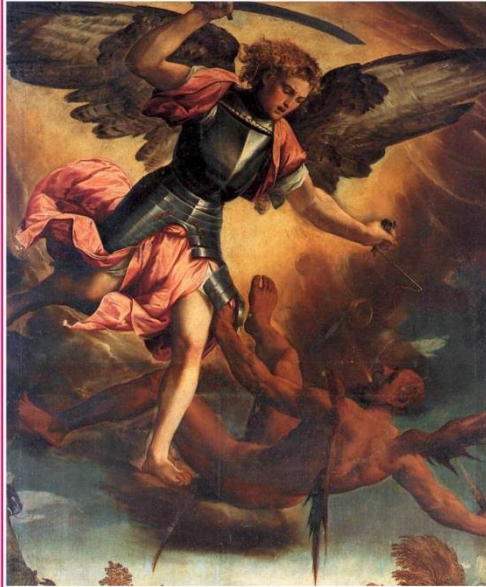
Año 35, 2019, Especial N°

# 20

Revista de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales

ISSN 1012-1587/ ISSNe: 2477-9385

Depósito Legal pp 198402ZU45



Universidad del Zulia  
Facultad Experimental de Ciencias  
Departamento de Ciencias Humanas  
Maracaibo - Venezuela



# The Role of Foreign Intervention in the Doctrinal Wars in France

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## Abstract

The aim of the study is to investigate the role of foreign intervention in the doctrinal wars in France from 1579 to 1588 via comparative qualitative research methods. As a result, the king did not want the Guise's to return to the royal court, so he tried to push away Henri de Guise especially when the interest between them has ended. In conclusion, Guise was looking forward to being in this place as a reward for defeating the Germans and the Swiss so he decided to request for privileges as compensation for the wages of war.

**Keywords:** Foreign, intervention, doctrinal, wars, France.

## *El papel de la intervención extranjera en las guerras doctrinales en Francia*

### **Resumen**

El objetivo del estudio es investigar el papel de la intervención extranjera en las guerras doctrinales en Francia desde 1579 hasta 1588 a través de métodos comparativos de investigación cualitativa. Como resultado, el rey no quería que los Guisa regresaran a la corte real, así que intentó alejar a Henri de Guise, especialmente cuando el interés entre ellos había terminado. En conclusión, Guise estaba ansioso por estar en este lugar como recompensa por derrotar a los alemanes y los suizos, por lo que decidió solicitar privilegios como compensación por los salarios de la guerra.

**Palabras clave:** extranjero, intervención, doctrinal, guerras, francia.

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Paris has witnessed a state of political and religious peace since the 17th of September 1577, but in fact and especially in the south the situation was distracted and nearly close to the state of chaos, and it became something normal to any one of the independent noblemen to wage a war with his personal troops for his own interest, from which, peasant revolutions broke out on a large scale in Vavares and in Dauphin, it is often assumed that disorders undertaken by peasants is merely a reflection of the nature of the religious conflict more than being an economic war, and it is normal to have external

repercussions, at the beginning of 1579, an insurrection broke out in Orange (City in South of France) which the main reason behind it in the first place was the objection on the aristocratic privilege of the Tax exemption on the clergy, and In the same time the noblemen fought against each other in different regions of France (Ariane & Laurent, 2010; Gamarra et al., 2017).

According to what has already come, France has now become on the verge on a new civil war especially since the situation in the south is still fraught with danger, queen Catherine sought to calm the situations in the south for fear of its escalation, in the 28th of February 1579, Catherine de' Medici signed a treaty with the Huguenots in Nerac, in the time that the French north witnessed the signs of the seventh religious war in which Marguerite de Valois took the blame for because of her love intrigues with Henri de Navarre (King Henry IV), and therefore it was called the Lovers' War, which the Catholics demonstrated major resistance in.

Despite that Prince Henry de Condé was able to expel the governor of Picardy and restore his governorship over the city, and he continued with his expansive wars until he is able to seize the city of La Fère in November 1579, until he reached the southern lands and clashed with Henri de Navarre who seized the city of Cahors which belongs to the Huguenots, but the war did not convert to be a major conflict; because many of the Huguenots went out of sight except a few of the French countryside people, city of Languedoc remained

completely at a calm state, but the scrimmages between the Huguenots and the Catholics did not completely stop until November 1580, when King Henri III sought to negotiate with Hercule François the Duke of both Anjou and Conde, the negotiation ended with the peace treaty (Felix), which allowed the Huguenots to keep their cities safe for another six years (Frederic, 1976).

And that is how the friendly harmony continued both on religious and political levels between the church, king Henri III and the advocates of reform both from Protestants and Catholics, but by 1584 France has witnessed several crises which increased disorder in the political situation in Paris and formed major motives to wage the last sectarian wars in France.

So king Henri III did not have a son to inherit his throne and both his little brother and his sole heir François du Anjou (Hercule François) passed away on the 10th of June 1584 leaving the path to the throne empty to the suitable candidate in the family order list, who was Henri de Navarre the sixth son of Saint Louis IX and the greatest chief of Huguenots considering him to be the closest of the French to the king, which means that the French crown will eventually go to family Bourbon, but the possibility of a protestant king sitting on the throne of France which is known of its deep-rooted Catholicism, did not get accepted amongst most of the Catholics, it was far away from possible to the French public and even to the casual people to neither envision

nor accepting it, them saying: it is easier for us to die a thousand times than to accept a Huguenot elected king (Garrisson, 1988).

## **2. METHODOLOGY**

This seems to have been as a tragedy that shook the Christians' consciences, even politicians have not yet faced this theory of the protestant king in their efforts to remediate the matter of sectarian tolerance with the reformers, only Jean Bodin declared that, him saying: changing of the prince's religion does not lead to the change of the state, the orientation that was opposed by the Catholic-French public opinion, so the council of the French clergy issued its decision which was circulated in the council of the representative body on the 4th of September 1584 in, also the coronation division which the king vows to fight heretics in, assumed that the prince will be fully attached to the roman church's belief and doctrine and on the basis of what is presented, the Catholics strived with all possible force to prevent a protestant to sit on the French throne, in November 1584.

Henry I and his brothers Charles and Cardinal François de Guise formed a Catholic alliance in the city of which is a religious committee known as the Catholic league, under the patronage of pope Gregory XIII and Philip II king of Spain, to secure the pillars of Catholicism in France headed as well as the confrontation with the kind and the French royal court for their negligent policy with the Huguenots

especially when these people lost the support of the unbiased from the Catholics for their continued collaboration with the Englishmen and the Germans, it also aims to keep Henri de Navarre out of the French throne (Crouzet, 1990).

Since then the religious wars in France took new and extremely dangerous approaches, and the Frenchmen are now in dark mazes because of the overlap of these interlocking events and its succession until it became ambiguous regarding decision-making. During the years of his reign king Henri III showed a lot of weakness, uncertainty and the lack of knowledge in processing both external and internal political cases he is also been extreme in confronting his protestant and Catholic subjects, which made him lose all the respect and love in their hearts and made them lose all the hope in redemption on his hands, and what made things worse is that in the time that he mostly was in need of his mother's advice and expertise in the religious and political matters of France, her illness and old age prevented her from exercising her desired role (Saidakhmedovna, 2016; Shahjehani & Bokharayan, 2016).

With all the great weakness that faced the royal court of the French government, most of the Catholic-French peoples' eyes directed towards Henri de Guise the chief of the Catholic league who is determined on the elimination of Protestantism from France considering them the reason for all the problems that happened to it for several years, and the latter enhanced his position with the help of



Spain when he asked King Philip II who shared his hatred and hostility for the protestants with him for help in winning the French throne, and in the 31st of December 1584 he held the (Joinville) treaty with him which under its terms the king agreed to support the Catholics and their decision to eliminate and vanquish the protestants from France (Arlette, 1998).

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

A lot of noblemen have joined this uprising as well including Bresac, Nevez and most of de Anjou's disciples, he also started thinking of the ascension of the French throne once he is able to remove Henry de Navarre off it, so the military operations began at once, and after mobilizing the troops in the city of (Champagne) on the 9th of March 1585 Guise seized the city of (Chalon) whilst Charles de Mayenne seized the city of (Dijon), (Macon) and (Auxerre) and with their decision to appoint the governors of Champagne and Burgundy, they have supported their disciples and started to recruit more soldiers, in that time another member of the Guise family took control and they are:

(Elbeuf), (Omyal) and (Mercuer) on Brittany, Normandy and Picardy, soon after that, a major part of northern France became under the Guise's control. On the 30th of March the Guise's issued an official statement in Buron to the king as a final warning clarifies the

reason behind the mutiny that they did, requesting to eradicate the Protestantism from France, and it was said Heretics, and Especially Calvin's subjects, cannot stand to be considered equal with the real Catholics and not even to live with them... there is no way to restfulness nor to the coalition and nor to friendship with the Huguenots unless we fight them in their disbelief, so either you abandon France or embrace your unjust doctrine (Jouanna, 1998).

And as they were struggling for Catholicism, they have expressed their fear of being excluded from having the royal privileges in case the protestants recovered the French throne, and given the king's lack of means to oppose the alliance, he again turned back to his mother asking for her help in his time of need, so she entered into negotiations with the Guise's, but he was not totally honest with her to finish getting his troops ready, and in the beginning of May a word reached out to Catherine that Omal's forces have seized the villages around (Reims), and the forces of Guise reached 25,000 soldiers and knights except for the forces of Elbeuf and bresac that falls under his control as well, the royal crown being led to this critical stage made the king Henri III truly submit and hold the (Nemours) Treaty with them on the 7th of June 1585 (Yang et al., 2019; Soo et al., 2019). King Henri III vowed in this treaty to pay for the forces that rebelled against him and to give in a number of the safe cities to the coalition forces and the biggest prize was for the Guise's, it also contained clauses relates to the protestant's rituals, so that the king could not

ignore the Guise's Statement because of them becoming in places of power and control over important positions of France.

As a result, the fear of aggravation of the internal conditions made the king issued a royal decree on the 11th of June 1585 came in hand to hand with the expectations of the Guise's and their allies, and it said

we have ordered our subjects to commit to living, from now on, according to the Roman Catholic Apostolic Religion, they should acknowledge it within six months from the issuance date of this decree, and in the case of declining this acknowledgment we want them to clear the place and leave of our kingdom and the states under to our reign ( Denis , 1998 ).

The king has declared according to this royal decree the ban of exercising Protestantism and with that the Catholicism became the sole religion in the kingdom all over again, also he commanded all the Huguenots' priests to leave the kingdom and their disciples were left to choose either to give up Protestantism within six months or to abandon France, and he also prevented them from taking office and they have been stripped out from their public posts, and cancelling all of the councils that been participating in the parliament, and they were enforced to give in the safe cities within their possession, and Henri de Navarre was removed from the French throne, we can see clearly from

these items that it is an application to the demands of the Catholic league in their final warning to the king (Hugues & Vladimir, 2016).

All of these developments were the cause for the start of the eighth and last war of religion which lasted for eight years, it was distinguished by the foreign intervention of Spain and England to a great extent, it is noticeable that France since the hundred years' war, did not go through a crisis like this which it has passed with great difficulty because its unity, political independence and its national safety was in danger, and in here we will go through the last stage of the war series that took place in the various districts of France which was distinguished.

The intervention of the adjacent countries with the support of the parties fighting each other, the proof and one of the most important reasons for this wars to start is the Catholics trials headed by the Guise's and their quest to form an alliance with Spain to eliminate the protestant and reaching to the French throne, accompanied by the actions of the king of France that was compatible with the vision that was put forward and that led to creating the state of hostility. References to the seventh war of religion (Denis, 1990).

Earlier, we have talked about the arbitrary measures of the king which satisfied the Guise's and gained their support, also resulted in a reaction different than of former protestants, so on the 10th of August Henri de Navarre and Conde met with Damvel and renewed their

loyalty to him, and they have issued a joint official statement on the 7th of October 1585 which they accused the Guise's in the attempt to seize the throne, and in that time they have confirmed their loyalty to the royal crown and clarified they had no other option than to engage in the fight unless the king agrees to negotiate and accept their loyalty and to drop out his previous decisions about the Huguenots.

The king did not accept their return and described them as traitors, and asked the clergy to prepare an army consists of four battalions to fight the Huguenots, he also clarified to them that these troops will cost the treasury two million francs per month, so they have to help him through the church's treasury, the clergy then compulsively agreed to sell the churches' lands which are worth fifty thousand Kronas yearly, pope Sixtus V (1585 – 1590) also agreed to move ownership of various lands of the church to the French crown which is worth one hundred thousand Kronas but the war has already started before any of these monies reached the king's vault (Pierre, 1980).

With all this been done, the king is now ready to declare war, he assigned the chief of the Catholic league Henri de Guise on the 1st of March 1586 to lead fifty infantry battalions and five thousand knights, and he sent another royal army led by Marshal Dumont to Auverny and Langdeuc, in the meantime, the protestants had the help of the queen of England (Elizabeth the first) who paid Henri de Navarre the chief of Huguenots all the money he is needed, the opportunity seized

by John Cazemere the conservator of the Dutch (Rhineland Palatinate) in a big army of eight thousand knights to help the Huguenots under the name of the English army, while in the meantime Henri de Guise surrounded the cities of (Sidan) and (Jammets) all by himself.

Also commander (Omali) prepared to seize the Huguenots cities in Picardy, the reaction of the Huguenots came by when John Cazemere in August 1586 decided to send commander (Bouillon) to take control of Lorraine District, a reinforcement came as well from the border city (Dohena) led by baron Fabian Von, then the army entered champagne through Lorraine and they were joined by the troops of the protestant from Langdeuc (Ariane & Laurent, 2010).

And it is normal with all of these disorders that King Henri III finds himself losing control over his kingdom, and it is his duty to try to maintain and protect the French crown above all. In the meantime, cardinal Joyce sent an army of six thousand soldiers and two thousand knights to fight the chief of Huguenots Henri de Navarre, and after assembling more troops in Someurs he moved to Poitou-Charentes at the end of July 1587, on the other hand, Navarre's army was too small to risk confrontation and having this battle, so he retrieved to La Rochelle and Joyce crushed and seized Poitou taking by sword everything that belongs to the Huguenots.

He soon caused the spreading of diseases resulted by the to flee of soldiers in Joyce's army disassembly, and on the 15th of

August 1587 he went to Paris leaving the leftovers of his troops in Touraine led by his camp commander Lavardin, Henri de Navarre's army after its appearance from La Rochelle with a force of two hundred knights and three hundred soldiers, went after commander Lavardin's forces to the city of (Shinone) but he lacked proper artillery to take him down However he was able to take back Poitou in less than two weeks(Indriastuti, 2019). The events have taken quick actions to develop both on internal and external levels, that is why the king did not have any choice but to take swift actions to save the kingdom, so he decided to go to the battlefield by himself, he left Paris on the 12th of September 1587 to join cardinal iberonne's army and he held a position in the city of (Gene).

The river of Loir to prevent Germans from Dohena from making an alliance with Henri de Navarre, in the meantime, commander Joyce assembled a new army in the city of Tour before starting the military operations in Poitou, and it seems that the royal attack has shocked Henri de Navarre's forces and not all that he planned for happened in this stage, that is why he asked the army of Dohena to support him to relieve the pressure of the king's forces off his army's burden, but soon the Germans got sick of the long military march and also they ran out of supplies and food (Manetsch, 2000).

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

With the winter on the doors, Navarre retreated to Joeyen port and planned to assemble more troops and to unify his lines with Damvel, Joyce tried to intercept him but Navarre managed to escape, and he kept on chasing him until he attacked him of the 20th of October 1587 he accepted the challenge despite not being in a good military situation and the two armies' faced each other at Coutras and the two armies were nearly equal in numbers and each of them had forces of four thousand infantry soldiers and the Huguenots had twelve hundred knights whilst Joyce had fifteen hundred, the Huguenots warriors were known as the most experienced.

Joyce's army consists of young under experienced noblemen eager to show their courage and might, and before the start of the battle the Huguenots did their prayers and played the horns, their artillery shot fires which burned Joyce's infantry lines, whilst the royal knight squad attacked Navarre's forces to make room through various points to confront the counterattack from Navarre's Knights, and during these confrontations Joyce and his Brother Claude died in the attack while some of their colleagues flee, and as Mornay (a battalion commander in the royal army) mentioned, in the two hours that this battle lasted for, two thousand were killed from the royal army, three hundred of which were noblemen, and the Huguenots lost two hundred noblemen and approximately thirty knights, meanwhile, Dohena's army which advanced to Boss collapsed (Ernest, 1897).



As for the Swiss mercenaries, they returned towards the city to get defeated twice by Henri de Guise, the first defeat was on the 26th of October and the second was on the 24th of October 1587, but from his side, the king sought to end the battles and saves bloodsheds, because he has realized that victory will remain unbalanced and will not put an end between the two parties, so he asked the Swiss mercenaries to go back home, but they did not agree to that unless they get paid for four months, the king agreed to give them their wages, and on the 8th of December 1587 the Germans who fought beside the protestants also agreed to leave for some kind of payment and under the supervision of extreme guard troops, on the 23rd of December the king returned back to Paris victorious.

But nothing can hide the truth that the king did not want the Guise's to return to the royal court, so he tried to push away Henri de Guise especially when the interest between them has ended, the king then was able to recover his throne, and the latter anointed colonel Iberonne as the governor to Normandy district, while Guise was looking forward to being in this place as a reward for defeating the Germans and the Swiss so he decided to request for privileges as a compensation for the wages of war, for that reason the coalition met early on 1588 in the city of Nancy and they put before the king a number of requests one of them was the expelling of Iberonne from the government, the thing that the king strongly declined, and with that been done the hostility between the two parties is back again.

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Revista de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales

Año 35, N° 20, (2019)

Esta revista fue editada en formato digital por el personal de la Oficina de Publicaciones Científicas de la Facultad Experimental de Ciencias, Universidad del Zulia.

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