Roundtable Discussion: The Church and the State during the Wars of Religion

Date: Tuesday, September 6th.

The scene is Amsterdam in early September, 1598. This last April, King Henry IV provided toleration for minority Huguenots (Protestants) with the Edict of Nantes, ending the long religious bloodletting in France. The powerful and zealous Catholic Spain has been embarrassed by the twin disasters of a successful Calvinist revolt in the northern Netherlands (which ended in 1585) and the utter failure to bring England back into the Catholic fold in 1588 (Armada disaster). It *seems* that the Wars of Religion are over, but *how* to deal with religious minorities is still a fresh question for a divided Western Christendom. Many thinkers and political leaders have gathered to discuss these important questions in tolerant Amsterdam.

5 students will be playing major figures from the late 16C and early 17C who wrote or had an important influence on the relationship of the Church and the State: Theodore Beza, Michel de Montaigne, King Henry IV of France (of Navarre), Queen Elizabeth I of England, and King Philip II of Spain.

Each assigned student will do the following in preparation for the round table discussion:

1. Research and write a 1.5 to 2-page essay with citations and a bibliography explaining your figure’s positions on 1) the relationship of the Church and the State, 2) Religious toleration/persecution of heretics, and 3) whether people or magistrates should resist/overthrow kings that do not agree with the “true doctrine” of God. **You MUST include a bibliography to get credit for the paper.**
2. Create an outline summarizing your main points on the above topics and print out for the class (22 copies). The outline should leave space in between points for audience members to take notes**. (Talk to Mr. King IN ADVANCE of the discussion if you cannot print these out…so he has time to print them out for you.)**
3. Prepare to defend your position on the above topics and be ready to respond to the ideas of the other panelists. \*(IN CHARACTER!)
4. Participants are required to wear either business casual (gents: oxford shirt, tie, and khakis/dress pants; ladies: blouse and skirt) OR period dress (DO NOT spend $, be creative if you do this).

**All** students will be graded on their participation (either as audience members or as fellow participants) in asking thoughtful, helpful questions to foster conversation among the panel and taking notes during the presentations.

Cast:

Theodore Beza (Calvin’s successor in Geneva) Ammon Andreason

Michel de Montaigne Nina Chaudoin

King Henry IV of France (Henry of Navarre) Jacob Turley

Queen Elizabeth I of England Rebecca Bigler

King Philip II of Spain Laina Banks