

Franco-Dutch War (1672-1678)

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Abstract

The research deals with the Franco-Dutch War in 1672, as relations between the two parties became tense after the conclusion of the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1668, which ended the war in the Spanish Netherlands. Although Louis XIV stopped implementing his plans under the treaty and after the intervention of the Netherlands and England, this did not prevent him from continuing his expansionist policy, especially since he remained resentful of the Dutch because of their alliance against him and obstruction of the French expansionist plans, so he was determined to take revenge on them. The war broke out between the two countries for several economic, religious and political reasons, in addition to the commercial competition between them. Louis XIV worked to distance the Netherlands from its allies Sweden and England, and thus the Triple Alliance disintegrated. He concluded the secret Treaty of Dover with England in 1670, according to which the two parties agreed to declare war against the Netherlands in exchange for the subsidies paid by France to Charles II. He also concluded an alliance treaty with Sweden in exchange for financial subsidies, and the Netherlands remained alone. France was able to occupy many Dutch cities until 1672 was called the "Year of Disaster." The war expanded to include the German lands, the Rhine, Franche-Comté and the Spanish Low Countries. The French victories led to the European countries, which concluded defensive treaties between them to stand against France. Emperor Leopold (I) signed a defensive treaty with William of Orange. The Cologne Peace Conference was held in order to conclude peace between the two parties, but it failed due to the intransigence of Louis XIV. The signing of the Quadruple Alliance ended any hope for peace and made the negotiations in Cologne unnecessary, which led to the continuation of the war, in which Spain and the Holy Roman Empire participated, along with Holland, but at the same time, peace negotiations continued for several more months until the Treaty of Nijmegen was signed between the two countries in 1678, according to which France achieved great gains at the expense of Spain, including the Franche-Comté, and destroyed the Grand Alliance against it. The Treaty of Nijmegen represented the peak of Louis XIV's glory and his people granted him the title of Great King (Roi le de Grand).

Keywords: France, Netherlands, Treaty of Nijmegen, Louis XIV, William of Orange.

1. Introduction

1st Topic

Causes and Events of the War

There were several reasons that led to the tension in relations between France and the Netherlands and then the outbreak of war between them. The first was the personal motives of King Louis XIV as a young and ambitious king. The war was the ideal stage to show his manhood and strength, as he wanted to win glory for the Bourbon dynasty and the French state. The war seemed reasonable given the political interests of the French state.

In addition, one of the important reasons that increased Louis XIV's anger towards the Dutch was their alliance with the European countries and the formation of the Triple Alliance against France. This matter greatly disturbed Louis XIV, as he could not bear that a republic born and raised under France would dare to separate from him and threaten to unite all of Europe against his plans. The Dutch did not only stand in the way of Louis XIV's expansionist ambitions, but they also greatly hurt his pride, and began to boast about the peace they imposed on France. In addition, the Council of Provinces ordered the engraving on medals to humiliate Louis XIV, which was engraved in memory of Aix-la-Chapelle, in which the Netherlands was credited with helping to confirm the laws and defend the kings of Europe, restore freedom of the seas, calm Europe and establish peace in it, in addition to the impudence of Van Beuningen, who represented himself on one of the medals as Joshua stopping the course of the sun, which Louis XIV took as his emblem. This in itself was an insult to Louis XIV and his ministers as well. Louis XIV clearly felt betrayed by an ally whom the French had supported for so many years and resented what he saw as Dutch pride. Louis XIV accused them of "ingratitude, ill-will and intolerable vanity."

The Dutch were not only opposed to Louis XIV's adventure which he found personally gratifying, but also to a long-standing French policy of pushing their northern frontiers away from Paris and into the natural borders of France. However, Louis XIV did not wish to humiliate or destroy the Dutch Republic out of personal feeling alone; there were political reasons. Louis XIV hated the Dutch Republic because it was a refuge for civil and religious freedoms, a seat of Calvinism, a refuge for persecuted Huguenots and conspirators against the French throne, a centre of forbidden or only very heavy fees, and because the Dutch were the main obstacle to Louis XIV's conquest of all the Spanish provinces. We should not be surprised at his determination to destroy them.

The economic reasons were represented by the differences between the two countries over customs tariffs, as the French Finance Minister Colbert imposed duties on Dutch goods entering France, and in return the Dutch responded in kind, with the exception of military equipment. The Minister of War, Louvois, was able to convince Dutch industrialists to sell him large quantities of military equipment, and at the same time the Dutch businessmen refused to agree to the taxes proposed by John de Witt to renew the army's resources and supplies.

Colbert's weapon was to gain economic supremacy and he had already made a great impact on Europe by enacting the Customs Tariff of 1667 which aimed to cause great harm to the trade of the European countries, especially the United Provinces which he wanted to harm the most. This tariff opened a strong economic conflict between the two countries and was one of the main factors that led to the Franco-Dutch War. Although Colbert admired the Dutch as businessmen, he wanted to rob them of their trade with Europe. Colbert stated: "The Dutch make their fortunes from us", while "we submit to their arrogant demands". In other memoirs addressed to King

Louis XIV, he added: "There is no reason why France should not take over all the carrier trade in Europe, if Your Majesty will allow your servant to impose fair duties".

In addition to these reasons, there was competition between the two countries in the field of trade and colonization, as Dutch trade was the greatest obstacle to the growth of French trade, in addition to the growing Dutch wealth and the naval power it possessed and its industry, all of which combined to push world trade into the Dutch circle while their European neighbors were involved in either civil wars or continental wars. Their importance increased to the point that they were treated on an equal footing with all princes and kings in Europe, and the only danger they feared came from France. The Netherlands was a Calvinist republic and the center of anti-French propaganda. The writings, books and pamphlets against the rule of Louis XIV that could not be published in France were often printed in Amsterdam or The Hague.

Louis XIV had been planning this war since 1668, and for four years, King Louis XIV, with the help of (Louvoy, Condé and Turenne), carefully prepared for the war against the Netherlands. The army was modernized, strengthened and increased in size, and Louis XIV and his statesmen skillfully created a large network of alliances throughout Europe. His preparations continued for four years, both militarily and diplomatically, and the number of French troops was increased to more than 100,000. Vauban was sent to inspect the fortifications and defenses in Dunkirk, the Alps, the cities of the Artois region, Lille, Pignerol and on the Belgian border. Vauban was working at that time on the fortifications of Ath, Oudenarde, Charleroi and Dunkirk. Louis XIV ordered him to visit the fortifications on the Belgian border, and Vauban drew up designs for the fortifications of La Verrocca, Vercelli and Turin.

In the diplomatic field, Louis XIV worked to dissolve the Triple Alliance to isolate the Netherlands, and he first tried to achieve this through the Dutch themselves, but John de Witt resisted all of De Pomponne's efforts to do so. After this failure, which increased the bitterness of Louis XIV against the Dutch, he turned his efforts to England and Sweden. John de Witt, realizing the danger that surrounded his country, tried to soften Louis XIV's anger so that he would not declare war. But Louis XIV had made up his mind, although he maintained the appearance of negotiation in order to amuse the Dutch. The idea that a few republican merchants would try to arbitrate between two of the greatest kings of Europe offended his royal pride.

The French first worked to get England out of the Triple Alliance, and this was not difficult. They were a dominant naval power, and felt little threatened by the Dutch and their ships. England needed money, and it was easy to ally with them. Perhaps more important than all of these was the charm of the Catholic faith, to which Charles II had secretly converted, and his brother Prince James had publicly converted. The friendship of the French was of great importance. With the help of the French, they could secure tolerance and protect the English monarchy in the event of a rebellion. The Anglo-French alliance was also more popular with the Protestant and commercial cities of England, who preferred to reduce the influence of the Dutch rather than challenge a power like France, which was weaker at sea and not yet a serious competitor in the markets of the New World.

In August 1668, Louis XIV sent de Croissy to London to closely monitor English intentions and offer Charles II an offensive-defensive alliance against the Netherlands. The difficulties which

Croissy had already encountered in his negotiations led Louis XIV to continue to hold out the possibility of the Dutch returning to his good graces by changing their behavior. De Pomponne's negotiations with the Netherlands continued, awaiting the outcome of Croissy's mission, hoping that Pomponne would certainly succeed at The Hague if he failed, but rapprochement with the United Provinces was still the least desirable option from the French point of view. Louis XIV remained angry with the Dutch as those who were stirring others into alliances designed to frustrate his designs.

Negotiations resumed between England and France in 1669, this time by Charles II, and the mediator between the two countries was Princess Henrietta Anne, sister of King Charles II. The secret talks were first opened in December 1668 between Charles II and his sister, and were announced in January 1669 to a group of Charles II's closest advisers. They were conveyed to France in March. Charles II offered Louis XIV a defensive and offensive alliance, on condition that he would receive substantial assistance in men, money and ships in the event of war, and that Louis XIV would suspend his naval program while Charles II promised to declare himself Catholic. This offer was warmly welcomed by Louis XIV, but he insisted that an attack on the Dutch should be the basis of any alliance, a proposal that aroused so little enthusiasm in England that, despite intense pressure from Louis XIV, the private exchanges did not reach the level of official treatment until Autumn ends.

On 1 June 1670, Baron Thomas Clifford I, Baron Richard Arundell I and Arlington signed the Secret Treaty of Dover with France, represented by de Croissy. This version of the treaty was secret and included the following terms:

- 1-** Charles II pledged to enter the war against the Netherlands in return for receiving (1,000,000) euros in advance and (600,000) euros annually until the end of the war.
- 2-** Louis XIV would cede two Dutch islands and a port to England, so that it could control maritime trade in the Netherlands and eliminate its main commercial competitor. In return, England promised to maintain the Triple Alliance.
- 3-** Louis XIV agreed to pay (230,000) pounds in exchange for England sending its forces to participate in the war, as they sent (60) warships, while France sent (30) warships.
- 4-** England would send (6,000) infantry forces, whose commander would hold the rank of general.
- 5-** The two countries agreed not to conclude a treaty with any prince or ruler except with the approval of the other party. Also, all treaties concluded by both kings with Holland are invalid, with the exception of the Triple Alliance and the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, and the prohibition of trade with Holland for all citizens of the two countries.
- 6-** Charles II promised to declare Catholicism in exchange for (200,000) pounds, but the date for that was not specified, as it was left to the king's desire.
- 7-** The two kings agreed to exert their efforts to persuade Sweden and Denmark to join this war or at least to force them to remain neutral, as well as Cologne and Brandenburg (Prussia), Brunswick, Neuburg, and the Munster Prince-Bishopric. And to persuade Emperor Leopold I

and Spain not to oppose the invasion of the Netherlands, while the date of the declaration of war was left to King Louis XIV.

8- In return for entering the war, England would receive Walcheren, Sluys, and Cadsand in the Dutch province of Zeeland, and would request a separate arrangement to guarantee the interests of Prince William of Orange.

9- That Louis XIV would undertake to maintain the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, but if the latter ever claimed all or part of the Spanish kingdoms in the event of the death of King Charles II of Spain, England would receive Ostend to establish her control over the Menorca Channel to help her control the western Mediterranean, and the whole Spanish Empire abroad with French assistance to secure it.

10- That England would support Louis XIV's claims to the Spanish throne in the event that new rights arose for Queen Henrietta.

The public version was signed by the 2nd Duke of Buckingham on 21 December 1670, whereby England pledged to participate in the war against the Dutch in exchange for money from France, but there was no mention of religious doctrine or the condition that the attack on the Netherlands would be after Charles II converted to Catholicism. In June 1670, Louvois sent Marshal Vauban to Savoy on a diplomatic mission with the aim of winning the Duke of Savoy, Charles Emmanuel II (1638-1675), to the side of France against the Netherlands, and to convince him of the good intentions of Louis XIV, and to grant France (5,000) fighters. Recruitment did not stop in Piedmont until the Treaty of Nijmegen was concluded.

In 1671 France managed to gain the neutrality of the Elector of Brandenburg, Frederick William (1640-1688) in exchange for financial subsidies (100,000) pounds, but this money was lost for nothing because when the Elector was pressured to form an alliance with France against the Netherlands, they could not even persuade him to remain neutral, but at the same time he did not promise any assistance to the Dutch, however, he allowed some of his troops to enter the Dutch service secretly, and France also guaranteed the neutrality of Neuberg, Braunschweig, Mainz, Paderborn and all the princes of Hesse in exchange for French money, and Louis XIV began new negotiations with the Bishop of Münster, Christoph Bernhard von Galen, and the Bishop of Cologne, Maximilian Henry (1650-1688), who did not mind standing against the Netherlands in exchange for guaranteeing special subsidies in addition to those they received in exchange for neutrality, which allowed the French troops to pass through the diocese of Liege (Roman Catholic Diocese of Liege) affiliated to Cologne on the borders of the Spanish Netherlands.

As for Sweden, Louis XIV was able to get it out of the Triple Alliance, especially since it needed money after the Spanish and Dutch refused to pay financial aid to Sweden. The Treaty of Stockholm was signed with France on April 14, 1672, according to which France pledged to pay financial aid to Sweden in the amount of (400,000) kroner annually, to be raised to (600,000) kroner if Sweden entered the war against the Netherlands. Sweden pledged to maintain (16,000) fighters in the German states, and in return France pledged to help it if it was exposed to danger from Brandenburg.

As for Emperor Leopold I, he promised neutrality on November 1, 1671, on the condition that the fighting would take place outside the Holy Roman Empire, as he was preoccupied with the Ottoman threat and did not have enough money to enter a war against France. Spain was the only country to sign a mutual defense treaty with the Netherlands, but it was unable to defend the Spanish Netherlands without Dutch support and was short of money.

Thus, France ensured that the European powers would not intervene in the event of a declaration of war against the Netherlands, which at that time was interested in trade, which was the cause of their downfall, as Sir William Temple said, by directing the entire intelligence of their subjects and natives from arms to trade and the arts of peace, which greatly weakened their courage and made the inhabitants of the small towns turn to the defense of their towns. This lack of military training and experience and the resulting lack of confidence made them easy prey for France.

However, John de Witt hoped to avoid a French attack by persuading the Spanish to appease the French with a limited surrender of territory. By this time, Louis XIV's more aggressive policies had alienated many of the German princes, who had ended their membership in the League of the Rhine in 1666 and 1667. When French troops captured the Duchy of Lorraine in August 1670, this increased the danger to the German states. Lorraine lay across the road from Paris to France's new possessions in Alsace. It bordered Champagne and gave the enemy a rapid invasion route that threatened the French capital. It had also stood against France in the Thirty Years' War. Louis XIV wanted to remove the concern of a potential enemy so close to the French heartland, but expelling the Duke of Lorraine, Charles IV, from his lands in peacetime seemed to Europeans to be an extreme act.

De Witt again turned his attention to strengthening Dutch retaliatory measures against French trade and imposing a complete embargo on French wine, and on 11 November 1671 the Council of the United Provinces agreed to publish a one-year embargo on the importation of French wine and other goods. Preparations for the establishment of a navy continued in consultation with De Ruyter, and in February he obtained the consent of the States to establish a special fund of 8,000,000 guilders, with the arming of a fleet of 37 larger and various smaller vessels. On 25 February 1672 Prince William of Orange was appointed commander-in-chief of the United Provinces.

Hospital operations began in May 1672 when an English fleet under Robert Holmes attacked the Dutch Smyrna fleet on 13 March. On 17 March England declared war on the Netherlands and Parliament allocated £1,250,000. Louis XIV., on the 6th of April, 1672, issued a proclamation in which he declared the motives of Louis XIV. for war and his displeasure with the United Provinces to such an extent that his lordship, without diminishing his glory, could no longer conceal his anger, for it would diminish his glory. His Majesty declared, as he does at present, that he has resolved and determined to wage war against the said United Provinces of the United Provinces, by sea and by land. Therefore, His Majesty orders all his subjects, followers and servants to stand against the Dutch, and forbids them to carry on any trade, communications or intelligence with them, on pain of life.

The Minister of War, Louvois, had gathered about (180,000) fighters for this war, of which (120,000) fighters were to attack the Dutch Republic. They were divided into three groups.

Marshal Turenne advanced with the main army of about (50,000) soldiers from Charleroi along the Sambre River to the Meuse River and then north along the left bank of that river, while Condé led another force from Sedan on the right bank of the Meuse River. Louis XIV arrived in Charleroi to advance with Turenne's army on May 5, while the Marshal had already left Liège with half of this force, heading for Maastricht. The rest of the army left Charleroi on May 11. Turenne and Condé met at Visé between Liège and Maastricht. The French bypassed Maastricht, and Condé suggested besieging Maastricht, but Turenne explained to him that the place was very strong and had a garrison of 13,000 fighters, so the siege might be difficult, and would weaken the resolve of the troops and give the Dutch time to gather their forces. Therefore, they occupied the nearby fortress of Maaseik to prevent aid from reaching it so that its garrisons would not be able to disrupt French operations. Its occupation also gave them the opportunity to monitor the Spanish closely. On May 19, King Louis XIV held a council to organize the campaign operations finally and decided to occupy the cities of Rheinberg, Orsoy, Buderich and Wesel, and these cities surrendered within four days.

As for the military operations at sea, they were in favor of the Dutch in the Battle of Solebay between the Dutch fleet led by Michiel de Ruyter, Adriaen Van Trappen Bankert and Admiral Willem Joseph van Ghent, and the English and French fleets led by Prince James and French Marshal Jean d'Estrées. The Dutch fleet of 91,000 ships began attacking the Allied fleet of 101,000 anchored in Southwold Bay on the east coast of England. The battle was an inconclusive clash in which both sides suffered heavy losses. However, the battle allowed the Dutch to maintain control of the sea and prevented the French and English forces from blockading the Dutch ports and landing on the coast of Zeeland as agreed.

On 12 June, the French army under Louis XIV and Condé crossed the Rhine at Tolhuis. Here the Battle of Tolhuis took place, in which the French forces were victorious, but Condé was wounded in the battle and command passed to Turenne. Louis celebrated this crossing of the Rhine as one of his greatest military achievements. At the same time, 25,000 soldiers from Münster and Cologne under Luxembourg entered the Dutch Republic from Bentheim, a little further north in Overijssel. The well-organized Dutch army of about 21,000 soldiers was not able to resist, and the Dutch abandoned Islenia and retreated on 16 June. French forces under Turenne occupied Arnhem in eastern Holland on the same day.

On 25 June, French forces occupied Zutphen, northeast of Arnhem, and Utrecht, whose cathedral was restored to Catholicism. Vauban also captured Doesburg in the eastern Netherlands, while the Dutch forces under Prince William of Orange retreated to the province of Utrecht behind the water line. On July 5, Overijssel surrendered to the French forces under the Bishop of Münster Christoph Bernhard. Groningen and Drenthe fell, and in effect the Dutch Republic was overrun, with towns and cities surrendering one after the other.

The year in which the French troops invaded the Netherlands was called the "Rampjaar" or "year of disaster", as the French troops destroyed towns and villages. Government bonds could not find buyers and the price of shares in the Dutch East India Company fell by half. Some merchants moved their businesses to Hamburg, the garrisons surrendered without a fight, and the people of Amsterdam staged protests in which they blamed the states for the disaster and demanded that a prince from the House of Orange should take over.

On June 19, the city of Naerden in northern Holland fell. Meanwhile, the Dutch states decided to use the last means of defense: the water line. They opened the dams at Muyden on June 22 and flooded the area extending from Rotterdam to Amsterdam, between Zeeland and Holland, which hindered the French advance towards Amsterdam, while Utrecht refused to allow Prince William to enter it and Louis XIV entered it with the French army. The French capture of Utrecht was more triumphant than the capture of other cities, as Utrecht was a Catholic city, the seat of the bishopric, and after more than a century the cathedral city returned to the fold of the mother church. Louvois was greatly criticized for this incident because he was unable to take possession of the small town of Muiden. No one in the army knew the importance of Muiden, which was very easy to take. In fact, a French force under the Marquis of Rochefort had reached Muiden but they were too few to hold it and were probably unaware of its importance. The Dutch forces under Prince Maurice had retaken the town and prepared it to resist attack.

Meanwhile, John de Witt sent Peter de Groot, former ambassador to France, to negotiate peace with Louvois, and asked him to present the Dutch terms. They replied that the States would consider themselves unworthy of the respect due to the king if they proposed any terms before hearing them. This apparent submission did not soften Louis XIV's temper, and two hours later Pomponne and Louvois, having received his instructions, informed the ambassadors of the Republic that Louis XIV had refused to negotiate with them until they had been given full powers to conclude the agreement. At a time when 6,000 French knights were on their way to Amsterdam and the situation was becoming desperate, on June 27th De Groot went to the camp of Louis XIV to negotiate again and he had full powers to negotiate and offered Louis XIV Maastricht, as well as compensation for the costs of the war (10,000,000) guilders and commercial privileges with the permission of Catholics to hold positions in the Netherlands.

But King Louis XIV asked, on the advice of the Minister of War Louvois, as well as everything mentioned by the Minister of Foreign Affairs de Pomponne, who suggested that the King return everything that belonged to the United Provinces, and ask them only for the places that were outside them and thus the King would maintain the appearance of preserving the whole of the Seven Provinces, which France had always protected. The Dutch would certainly have readily agreed to the terms, and thus he would have placed the whole of the Spanish Netherlands under his authority, and could seize it at will. Louvois, however, proposed to him, in addition, that the Dutch should pay a large sum to cover the costs of the expedition, grant the main church in every town to the practice of the Catholic faith, place themselves under the protection of France, send an ambassador every year with a medal in appreciation, enter into no treaties or alliances except under French direction, and pay indemnities of 24,000,000 pounds. The Dutch ambassadors were astonished at these exaggerated demands and hesitated between resistance and surrender.

At this time, the negotiations in The Hague with France took a different path, especially after the wounding of John de Witt and the spread of strikes in the country. The Dutch government and people realized that resistance was the only alternative. On July 4, Prince William of Orange was appointed governor of the Netherlands. A few days later, the Council of States appointed him permanent commander-in-chief and gave him full authority to conduct negotiations. On July 3, French forces led by Turenne besieged Nijmegen, which had a garrison of 8,000 fighters. On July 9, they surrendered, as there was no hope of relief. After that, French forces captured Fort

Coevorden. On July 12, Louis XIV ordered Turenne to completely clear the Meuse River to cut off Hertogenbosch's communications with the rest of the Netherlands. Turenne ordered his forces to capture Fort Crèvecoeur, which covered the island of Bommel, and captured it in three days (July 16-19).

Charles II believed that it was possible to begin peace negotiations with Prince William of Orange, and in this way, he would satisfy the English people and prevent demonstrations in England against or in favor of the French. He sent a delegation including Arlington and the 2nd Duke of Buckingham to negotiate with Prince William of Orange. The English demands were recognition of the English flag salute, payment of subsidies for war expenses, an annual fishing subsidy and adjustment of trade in the East Indies. However, the negotiations failed and the Dutch rejected these terms. Arlington left the meeting and traveled to Heeswijk in the southern Netherlands where the French army was based. There he concluded the Treaty of Heeswijk on 16 July 1672 with France. By this treaty, England and France pledged not to deal with the Dutch except on terms which, for France, were identical to those already rejected by the States, and for England were similar to those stated in the original instructions to the commissioners. These terms were sent to the Prince of Orange, who transmitted them to the Council of the United Provinces, but they were rejected.

2nd Topic

Expansion of Hostilities between the European Coalition Countries against France and England 1672-1677

The French victories caused concern among the European countries and Emperor Leopold I signed a defensive treaty with the Elector of Brandenburg-Prussia Frederick William on July 23, each of whom pledged to send (12,000) fighters to the Rhine. On July 25, 1672, he signed a defensive treaty with the Netherlands in The Hague despite his previous commitment to neutrality with France. The army led by Raimondo Montecuccoli advanced towards the Rhine. Although this force did not attack the French army, its presence was sufficient to push it back to the east.

This threat forced Louis XIV to divide the French army. He sent Turenne to the lands of the German states to repel the forces of Emperor Leopold I and Brandenburg and gave command of the French forces to Condé and Luxembourg. Faced with the difficulties of the campaign and its length, as well as the floods, Louis XIV returned to France on July 26 with (18,000) and Louis XIV released all prisoners, who numbered about (20,000), allowing them to join the Dutch army. The French forces of 25,000 infantry and 18,000 cavalries led by Turenne moved along the Rhine River. William of Orange attempted a counterattack while the French forces were scattered from Alsace to the Netherlands. He attacked Charleroi on December 15, but his attack was unsuccessful. The French forces led by Condé and Luxembourg failed to capture Amsterdam and The Hague due to a sudden thaw. In November 1672, Prince William of Orange signed a treaty of alliance between the Netherlands, Brandenburg, the Holy Roman Empire, and Spain.

During the campaign of 1673, Louis XIV divided his forces into three main field armies. He led the first along the Meuse River with his brother Philip I, Duke of Orléans, as commander-in-

chief, numbering 40,000. Condé led a second army around Utrecht to monitor and pressure the Dutch. Turenne ordered a third army to cover the upper Rhine and the Moselle.

As for the naval campaigns, in February 1673 England sent Sir Edward Spragge, accompanied by the Earl of Sunderland, to France to agree on plans for the next campaign. On 17 February, an agreement was signed stipulating that the two fleets should assemble by 15 April, the English fleet in the Downs and the French in Camaret Bay, after which they should unite at Portsmouth. On 7 June 1673, the French and English fleets, led by Prince Rupert and Jean d'Estrées, consisting of 86 ships, attacked the Dutch fleet of 52 ships led by Michiel de Ruyter at the Schooneveld Canal. The Dutch demonstrated their superiority at sea at the Battle of Schooneveld. Again, wary of the shallow waters of the canal, Rupert attacked with a leading spearhead of frigates and fireships, hoping to break up the Dutch formation. De Ruyter noticed this move and counterattacked before the Allied fleet could fully organize and thus managed to repel them. The French inexperience was again evident. De Ruyter's own squadron managed to break through and split the Allied fleet, forcing them to redeploy rapidly. At night both sides withdrew with many ships disabled. On 14 June De Ruyter left the Channel for the Second Battle of Schooneveld. He again surprised the Allies with his cleverness by staying to the wind, remaining on the defensive and firing from a very long range. By nightfall he was safely back at the mouth of the river.

Meanwhile Frederick William had withdrawn from the war, after French forces under Turenne had attacked and devastated his lands to the point that the Elector agreed to peace. The Treaty of Vossem was signed on June 6, 1673, with France, and was ratified on June 26. According to it, Frederick William pledged not to aid the Dutch in exchange for surrendering the castles captured by the French in Cleves and paying 300,000 livres, then 100,000 livres in the following five years.

The main objective of the French forces was to take control of Maastricht, which they had overrun in 1672, and which had a garrison of 6,000. The city occupied an important key position between the northern border of France and the southern border of the United Provinces. More importantly, Maastricht protected a fortified bridge across the Meuse and any siege of it was extremely difficult due to its strong fortifications. The French forces, numbering 45,000 men, led by Louis XIV himself and Charles de Batz Castelmoré d'Artagnan, and directed by Marshal Vauban, approached the curtain and the defensive bastions through innovative parallel lines, a complex network of trenches designed to provide powerful batteries to bombard the defences. While rumours were circulating about the arrival of a relief army, Louis XIV urged Vauban to take the city in time for the celebration of Mass on Sunday, which was then forbidden to Catholics in Maastricht by decree of the Dutch Reformed Church. The siege was rushed to an end, and mines and artillery breached the main walls, prompting the city commander, De Fariaux, convinced that he had put up a strong and honourable defence, to surrender on 30 June. D'Artagnan died.

During July, Louis XIV's attention was focused on the German states, as floods did not allow him to carry out major siege operations. He first sent part of his army to help Condé, leaving Luxembourg in command around Utrecht and moving south towards Flanders with part of his army to watch the Spanish, who might enter the war at any moment. Louis XIV sent a French

force of 18,000 soldiers under the Marquis of Rochefort to Trier, while Louvois and Vauban toured the eastern border defenses and awaited developments resulting from the Cologne Peace Conference, mediated by Sweden in July 1673, which was held by the warring countries to reach a solution to end the war. Louis XIV hoped that the Dutch would accept his harsh terms, and he was not worried about what would happen in the negotiations, as he was always ready for war.

Prince William of Orange was convinced that the English could not control the seas for much longer and ordered De Ruyter to fight a decisive battle. Accordingly, De Ruyter, Admiral Adriaan Banckert and Cornelis Maartenszoon Tromp sailed to Texel, north of the Netherlands, followed by the Allied fleet of 100 warships and 28 fireships. De Ruyter again outmaneuvered his enemies, taking advantage of the weather conditions, as the winds were favourable to the Allied ships. On August 11, the attack took place, and he threw most of his force against the English squadrons, leaving only a token force for the French. Although the Dutch ships were smaller than the Allied ships, they were better trained and experienced. The battle did not last long, and at sunset on August 13, the disabled Allied ships withdrew to their ports, and like previous battles, it was not decided in favour of either side.

On August 30, 1673, two treaties were signed in The Hague between Austria, the Netherlands, Spain, and a number of German states. Under the first treaty, Spain promised to declare war on France, and the United Provinces pledged not to make any peace with France until it returned to Spain everything it had seized since 1659. If that failed, the United Provinces would cede Maastricht and the Frohnhof district to Spain. It was agreed to seek peace with England on fair terms, and if they did not succeed, Spain pledged to declare war on England. And that the Dutch should return their lost possessions, and under the second treaty, Emperor Leopold I agreed to gather near Egra a force of (30,000) fighters and lead them to the Rhine, and the United Provinces gathered (20,000) fighters, and on the same day the three parties signed a treaty of offensive alliance with Charles V, Duke of Lorraine, according to which they agreed to form a force of (18,000) fighters under the command of the duke, and they also pledged to provide him with subsidies and not to negotiate without his participation, and to return him to his states in peace.

In late September, Louis XIV was prepared to be more moderate in his demands and offered Prince William to give up all his conquests in the Dutch Republic, except for one or two in the Generality Lands, if the Dutch entered into a separate peace and abandoned the alliance with Spain. In fact, Louis XIV was trying to thwart the establishment of a grand alliance against him, which the Netherlands was seeking, and on October 16, Spain declared war on France, followed by France on October 19.

The campaign of 1673 did not see any major conquests, except for the fall of Maastricht and the departure of King Louis XIV to calm the unrest in Lorraine. During his stay there, he fortified Nancy and then marched into Alsace to secure the submission of the cities there and forced them to give up the rights guaranteed to them by the Peace of Westphalia. He returned to France at the end of September. In return, the Dutch forces under Prince William of Orange were able to retake Naarden on 13 September and, together with the forces of the Holy Roman Empire under Montecuccoli, headed towards Bonn, the capital of Cologne. Despite all the efforts of Turenne and his forces, they succeeded in crossing the Rhine near Mainz and were able to take Bonn after a short resistance on 12 November.

The alliance between England and France was widely unpopular and the English people demanded an end to the war with the Netherlands. Charles II was unable to obtain any financial grants from Parliament, whose suspicions were increased by the recent marriage of Prince James to Mary of Modena, Mazarin's niece. Louis XIV was the main supporter of this marriage and gave a large dowry to the bride, in addition to the losses suffered by English trade during the war and the Dutch propaganda campaign conducted by Pierre du Moulin through the publication of pamphlets in which Charles II was accused of secretly conspiring with the French to restore Catholicism to England so that all of England came to hate the French alliance.

Under these circumstances Charles II was forced to tell the French ambassador de Croissy that he could no longer fight on the side of France. Through the Marquis del Fresno, the Spanish consul in London, Charles II opened negotiations with the Dutch, which led on February 9, 1674 to the Treaty of Westminster, which included several provisions, the most important of which was the Dutch ceding New York and Suriname to England. The United Provinces pledged to salute the English flag upon arrival in England as a sign of respect upon entering English waters. Each party also pledged not to assist the enemies of the other country and to facilitate the departure of English subjects from Suriname. The trade treaty was postponed to a later date, which meant that they maintained their monopoly in the East Indies and that the Netherlands would pay 2,000,000 guilders to England to cover war expenses. However, Charles II did not benefit much from the sum because it was paid to pay off debts to William of Orange and the Netherlands was no longer required to pay the fishing rights.

Despite signing the treaty, Charles II was not willing to get involved in a war against Louis XIV because that would put him once again at the mercy of Parliament, so his foreign policy after signing the treaty sought to mediate between the two countries, although he preferred the interests of Louis XIV over those of William of Orange. He also did not listen to William of Orange's demands to withdraw the Monmouth Brigade, which was fighting with the French forces, and continued to receive secret subsidies from Louis XIV.

As for the Congress of Cologne, it did not lead to any significant result, and while Louis XIV's allies were abandoning him, Leopold I sought to take strong measures against him because of the harsh measures taken by France towards the cities of Alsace, based on the advice of William von Fürstenberg, the Elector of Cologne's commissioner at the conference. Therefore, Leopold I ordered the commissioner's arrest on February 4, 1674, although the conference had made that city neutral territory. France and Sweden protested against this measure as a violation of the rights of nations and ordered their envoys to leave the city. The conference was dissolved without any result. This event put an end to any good understanding that had still existed between Leopold I and Louis XIV. On March 10, the Holy Roman Empire, Spain and the Netherlands entered into an alliance with Denmark, which again pledged in return for Dutch and Spanish subsidies to raise an army of 15,000 men. Leopold I also concluded defensive and offensive alliances with Mainz, Trier and the Palatinate and on March 31 succeeded in persuading the Holy Roman Empire's Council to agree to provide assistance to the Palatinate and other regions threatened by the French king. On 4 April Leopold I concluded a military alliance with the Elector Palatine Charles I Louis (1648–1680). On 22 April Leopold I signed a treaty with the Duchy of Brunswick and Lauenburg, who pledged 13,000 men in return for subsidies from the

Dutch and Spanish. On 22 April 1674 Münster signed a treaty with the Netherlands and the Holy Roman Empire in return for the return of all his conquests. On 11 May 1674 Cologne signed peace with the Netherlands, which ceded the Rheinbergs to the Netherlands. On 28 May Emperor Leopold I declared war on France and thus enabled Brandenburg to join the alliance on 1 July

The war campaigns began early in 1674 and the war turned in Franche-Comté, the Spanish Netherlands and the German states. After Louis XIV learned that the Palatinate had joined the alliance, he ordered the Marquis de Vaubrun and Rochefort to occupy the city of Germersheim, which was located a short distance from the French stronghold of Philippsburg and also posed a threat to Alsace-Lorraine. Louis XIV decided to occupy Franche-Comté and so left Versailles on 19 April with 25,000 men and Marshal Vauban towards Franche-Comté and on 2 May he reached Besançon, which surrendered on 21 May, then Dole on 6 June and Salins.

In the German states, Turenne crossed the Rhine near Philippsburg on 14 June with 7,000 men, hoping to attack Charles IV, Duke of Lorraine, before he could join forces with the Holy Roman Empire under Alexander von Bournonville. On 16 June 1674, French forces under Turenne attacked Holy Roman Empire forces under Aeneas de Caprara, who was trying to join Bournonville's forces. The forces were roughly equal in strength: 9,000 men on each side, but Turenne had 5,000 knights and Caprara had 7,000. The French forces defeated the imperial armies at the Battle of Sinsheim and withdrew beyond the Neckar River, joining forces with Bournonville while Turenne retreated beyond the Rhine. On August 11, 1674, French forces of 45,000 fighters led by Condé were able to repel an attack by Dutch forces of 60,000 fighters led by Prince William of Orange who wanted to retake Charleroi and seize Oudenaarde in the Battle of Seneffe. Both sides suffered heavy losses estimated at 20,000 fighters, including 8,000 French fighters. In September, the Allied forces besieged Oudenaarde, but when Condé marched to rescue it, the Allies withdrew. As for the French forces in the German states, which numbered 23,000 fighters led by Turenne, they crossed the Rhine River again and headed towards Strasbourg in Alsace to prevent supplies from reaching the imperial forces, which numbered 36,000 fighters led by Brunonville, who wanted to attack Alsace. The Battle of Ensheim took place between the two sides on October 4, 1674. The French infantry was able to repel all the imperial attacks, but the French were unable to dislodge the forces from their positions.

Sweden entered the war on the side of France. Sweden could not ignore a conflict in which Bremen and Verden were likely to be in the front line. With the pressure exerted by France, it was impossible for Sweden to continue receiving subsidies without Louis XIV benefiting from them. In December 1674, Swedish forces under Carl Gustaf Wrangel invaded Brandenburg after France threatened to stop its subsidies if Sweden did not use its army.

On 5 January 1675, French forces under Turenne defeated the Imperial forces under Frederick William at the Battle of Turckheim. This battle secured French control of Alsace and prevented the Imperial army from invading it. On May 30, the French forces captured Dinant and on June 6, Huy on the Meuse. As for the Swedish forces, Wrangel had only 13,000 fighters. Frederick William hastened back from the Rhine front and on June 18, 1675, he defeated the Swedes at the Battle of Fehrbellin.

At the end of June, Turenne moved towards Strasbourg with an army of 25,000 fighters. In return, Montecuccoli crossed the Rhine at Philippsburg to lure Turenne north and then returned with his own army, also numbering 25,000 fighters. By mid-July, Turenne tried to force the battle by pursuing the retreating imperials at the Battle of Salzbach on July 27, 1675.

While reconnoitering enemy positions, Turenne was killed by an artillery shell, and the French withdrew in frustration at Turenne's death. As a result, France sent Condé to take over the command in Turenne's place. He managed to force Montecuccoli to withdraw across the Rhine, but he soon retired in December due to ill health. At the same time, an imperial army under Charles IV, Duke of Lorraine, defeated the French forces under Marshal François de Créqui at the Battle of Konzer Brücke on 11 August 1675 and managed to regain control of Trier in the western Rhineland-Palatinate.

On the Pyrenees front, fighting took place at Roussillon between French forces under Frederick Schomberg and Spanish forces under Saint-Germain. The French suffered another setback at Maureillas, and the Spanish captured Fort Bellegarde. In Sicily on the Mediterranean the French supported a revolt in Messina in 1674. Soldiers from the Toulon fleet led by Louis Victor duke of Vivonne helped the Messines retake a small fort that had blocked access to the port. During the rest of the year the French consolidated themselves in Sicily, extending their conquests along the southern coast.

As for the military operations at sea, the joint Dutch and Spanish fleet led by De Ruyter managed on January 8, 1676 to repel an attack by the French fleet led by Admiral Abraham Duquesne in the Battle of Stromboli, which ended without a decisive victory for either side. On April 22, the French fleet led by Abraham Duquesne was defeated for the second time in the Battle of Augusta on April 22, 1676. A week later, De Ruyter died of his wounds. Several months later, the French fleet achieved a great victory over the Dutch and Spanish fleets in the Battle of Palermo on June 2, 1676. This victory had a profound impact on Europe, as France had not previously had a naval force, which had grown under Colbert's leadership.

The last years of the war saw French expansion largely halted and the war turned defensive rather than offensive, with few gains and heavy costs in lives and treasure, and fields and property destroyed. There were no major decisive battles. On the Rhine the French retreated to Lorraine, in Alsace the only battle that took place was a small cavalry battle at Cockersberg on 7 October 1677 along France's mountainous border with Spain, and in the Pyrenees the only field battle was the Battle of Espola on 4 July 1674.

In the northern Netherlands, Dutch forces under William of Orange besieged Maastricht but the siege failed and each side sought refuge for the winter. The forces finally met at the Battle of Cassel on 11 April 1677. The Dutch suffered heavy losses and while the Dutch were driven back, the French captured several key forts and cities in the days and weeks that followed, including Saint-Omer, Cambrai, Valenciennes and Fribourg. Allied attempts to retake Charleroi had failed, and it appeared that the French were on the verge of overrunning the Spanish Netherlands. There was now no chance of achieving Spain's goal of returning France to its 1659 borders. It became increasingly difficult for William of Orange to continue the war amid increasing pressure from the Dutch provinces to end it.

3rd Topic

Peace Negotiations and the Treaty of Nijmegen in 1678

Peace negotiations had been underway since 1672, when Sweden offered to mediate a peace conference at Cologne. Louis XIV was prepared to make peace with the Dutch if they offered him favourable terms. De Groot had already offered the lands of the Generalitat and an indemnity in June 1672, and Louis XIV believed that his military position was still favorable enough to expect the Netherlands to offer terms at least as good as those offered a year earlier. But William of Orange was not interested in peace and his aim was to push France back. On 26 January 1672 the Secret Committee of Foreign Affairs passed a resolution obliging the Netherlands to try to involve Spain in a war with France. In return for Spain declaring war on France, the Netherlands pledged that it would only agree to make peace with France on condition that Spain should regain the territories it had lost in the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle.

The signing of the Quadruple Alliance ended any hope of peace and made the negotiations at Cologne unnecessary and in March 1674 they were formally abandoned when Louis XIV withdrew his envoys from Cologne, as we have already explained, because of the Fürstenberg incident. By May 1674 Louis XIV had initiated new separate talks with the Dutch and ordered Count d'Estrade to contact Johan Pesters. At first William of Orange was not very interested in the French proposals but after the Battle of Senev he instructed Pesters to resume the talks with d'Estrade. The capture of Greve on 6 October 1674 interrupted the secret meetings. They were resumed again after the failure of the Siege of Maastricht in 1677. Louis XIV was prepared to accept the mediation of Charles II although his primary aim was still a separate peace with the Netherlands.

Danby advised Charles II to seek rapprochement with the anti-French coalition, but he refused to follow this advice for the time being, and wanted to mediate so that he could stay out of the war. William of Orange counted on Charles II to conclude a special peace on the terms of which Louis XIV would return all the territories he had conquered at Charleroi to the United Provinces, and return Ath and Oudenarde to Spain or exchange them for Aire and Saint-Omer, and he intended to force Charles II to join the war against France.

But Charles II dashed these hopes when he signed a secret treaty with Louis XIV on 26 February 1676, in which he agreed to remain neutral in return for an annual subsidy. This treaty was an obstacle to William of Orange's plan to draw Charles II into an offensive alliance against France. Although the Dutch were very much inclined to peace, the fall of Cambrai and the surrender of Saint-Omer had a completely opposite effect in England and the English people demanded a declaration of war against France. At the same time, Louis XIV sought to separate the Dutch from their allies and conclude a separate peace with them. However, although the United Provinces and the Dutch people were inclined to peace, William of Orange was in favor of continuing the war and abiding by his obligations to the Emperor and Spain.

William of Orange realized that restoring the situation according to the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle was no longer possible. However, he continued to seek to establish a strong barrier against France in the Spanish Netherlands. Temple had told the French ambassador to England, Ruffini, that "the Spanish Netherlands is not a province, but a frontier, and that cities like Charleroi, Ath and

Oudenarde, which France had taken by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, constitute a threat to Brussels." William of Orange therefore sent William Bentinck, Earl of Portland I, to Charles II, asking him to join the anti-French coalition or to pressure Louis XIV to grant the Netherlands a buffer including Valenciennes, Tournai, Kortrijk, Oudenaarde, Ath, Charleroi and Condé. After receiving William Bentinck's note, Charles II sent William of Orange's proposal to Versailles, with one change: William of Orange insisted on including Valenciennes in the buffer. Charles II omitted that city and proposed that Louis XIV should recover Tournai, Kortrijk, Oudenaarde, Ath, Charleroi and Condé, but he rejected the proposal, and not only refused to give up Tournai and Kortrijk, but also demanded Ypres, Charlemont and even Luxembourg in exchange for Oudenaarde and Ath.

Meanwhile, William of Orange was determined to form a closer alliance with England and, if possible, to drag her into war. He accepted the marriage proposal made to him in 1673 to Princess Mary, daughter of Prince James. Charles II agreed to this marriage to please Parliament. Louis XIV considered the marriage, which took place on 14 November 1677, to be equivalent to the loss of an army: it brought his worst enemy closer to the throne of England. For the next five years, Charles II was more anti-French than pro-French. Charles II and William of Orange reached an agreement whereby France was required to return Ath, Charleroi, Oudenarde, Courtrai and Toumay from her gains in 1668, and Condé and Valenciennes from her recent conquests, while retaining in return Cambrai, Aire, Saint-Omer and Bouchain. But Louis XIV was only prepared to give up Maastricht, Charleroi, Ath and Oudenarde, saying: "It has nothing to do with military reality, will not give France a secure frontier and will leave her exposed to enemies." He would lose more from such a peace than from any war, and Charles II was deeply disappointed by Louis XIV's refusal.

Charles II was now faced with the commitment he had made to Prince William of Orange that he would join the war if the proposals were rejected, and on the other hand, he was reluctant to be released from his long-standing commitment to Louis XIV's patronage. He told Paul Barillon d'Amoncourt, marquis de Branges, that he would rather lose his hand than turn against France, but that "his own servants would abandon him if he did not conform to the sentiments of the nation"; Prince James also sadly told the ambassador that his brother could not act otherwise, or "all his subjects, without exception, other than himself, would revolt against him." But Charles II's turn to William of Orange and Parliament left it to Danby to tell William of Orange that England would cooperate with the Netherlands to force France to accept the proposals. To this end, England and the Republic signed an offensive treaty on 26 January 1678, and in March a defensive treaty was signed between the two countries. Although an English expeditionary force of 3,000 arrived at Ostend in the same year, it was too small and too late to influence the outcome of the war or the peace talks.

Meanwhile, French diplomats in London were working to incite the English Parliament to adopt a hostile policy against the Dutch, promising some English officials' money in exchange for preventing a declaration of war against France, and also devising a plan to make Charles II always appeal to the aid and friendship of France and Louis XIV. They also managed to soften support for William of Orange by presenting his marriage as bringing him closer to Charles II's sphere of influence.

While negotiations were underway in Nijmegen, Louis XIV ordered the French troops to occupy Ghent. His aim was to force an end to the war by seizing the prize of Flanders, which he could then exchange for peace. Therefore, the French troops under Vauban besieged the city of Ghent, which surrendered on March 12. Louis XIV immediately moved to occupy Ypres, which surrendered on March 25. Louis XIV's capture of Ghent and Ypres greatly increased the desire for peace in the Republic, and the fear that Louis XIV would invade the Republic, as he had done in 1672, grew stronger every day. William III had to listen to the repeated demands for peace in the Republic, especially since the expected assistance from England had not materialized. Here we note that Louis XIV, as always, resorted to using this method by carrying out a final military operation that improved his position at the negotiating table in order to obtain more than he wanted and to be able to impose his terms on the allies and exchange the cities he had captured for those he wanted.

Louis XIV succeeded in deceiving the opposition in the English Parliament, and Charles II found himself heading for war with France without the means to wage it. Under these circumstances, he threw himself once again into the arms of France, and on May 27 concluded a secret treaty with her, whereby he agreed to withdraw his forces, except for the garrison at Ostend, unless the United Provinces accepted within two months the ultimatum offered by Louis XIV at Nijmegen as the basis for a general peace and in return for (6,000,000) pounds. The terms were as follows:

- 1- Charleroi, Limburg, Binche, Ath, Oudenarde, Courtrai, Ghent, and Saint-Gyslein were to be returned to Spain, in order to form the barrier desired by the Dutch.
- 2- Spain cedes to France Franche-Comté, Valenciennes, Bouchen, Condé, Cambrai, Aire, Saint-Omer, Ypres, Castille. Also, Bouvens and its dependencies located at the end of the Dinant Bridge, the town of Macin and Castille.
- 3- Re-establishment of the Treaty of Westphalia in full, either by restoring the Emperor's Philippsburg, which he had seized, or by giving up Freiburg.
- 4- Returning Maastricht and its dependencies to the Dutch and restoring the Duchy of Lorraine to Duke Charles V.
- 5- Satisfying Sweden by returning the territories occupied by Brandenburg in Pomerania and satisfying its ally, the Duke of Holstein-Gottorp, and releasing Prince Fürstenberg, and restoring his property and dignity.

Peace was about to be concluded and on 22 June the Council of the United Provinces voted for a separate peace with France but Louis XIV insisted that he would not return to Spain the cities in the Netherlands until his ally the King of Sweden was restored to his possessions in the German states which he had lost during the war. This demand caused an immediate reaction in England and Holland. Charles II began to prepare for war, Brandenburg and Denmark refused to cede to Sweden the territories they had conquered and under pressure from public opinion the King of England signed an offensive and defensive alliance with the United Provinces on 26 July by which they committed themselves to declaring war on France unless Louis XIV agreed to return the cities to Spain without involving Sweden before 10 August 1678. Louis XIV was saved from this situation by the Swedes themselves, who declared that they would be satisfied if

the Provinces General were no longer committed to helping his enemies and the Treaty of Nijmegen was signed between Holland and France on 10 August 1678. Despite the signing of the peace treaty, William of Orange intended to attack the French forces under Luxembourg at Mons, which were besieged by them. This led to the Battle of Saint Denis between the two parties on August 14. They did not discover that peace had been agreed upon four days earlier until they withdrew at nightfall, and this led to the spoiling of the peace with accusations of bad faith on both sides.

Spain agreed to peace, on September 17, by a treaty also signed at Nijmegen, according to the terms proposed by Louis in the ultimatum already specified with little change. The Council of Ministers of Madrid wanted to postpone ratification until Emperor Leopold I had also made peace, but they were forced by the threats and movements of Louis XIV to ratify the treaty on December 15, 1678. On February 5, 1679, a treaty was signed between France and the Holy Roman Empire based on the Treaty of Münster. Under the Treaties of Nijmegen, it was agreed that:

- 1- The Duke of Lorraine Charles V was restored to his possessions, but on very harsh terms, namely the exchange of Nancy and Longwy for Toul, so he preferred to remain in exile rather than accept these terms. Louis XIV kept four military roads through his possessions.
- 2- France obtained Freiburg, Cambresse, Valenciennes and Ypres, and in return the empire regained Philippsburg.
- 3- France ceded Maastricht to the Netherlands, but with a guarantee of freedom to practice Catholicism there, and a trade agreement was concluded between the two parties, under which the Netherlands obtained the cancellation of the French customs tariff of 1667, and under a separate clause the Prince of Orange was restored to the Principality of Orange and his possessions in Franche-Comté, Charolais and Flanders.
- 4- Spain ceded to France Franche-Comté and several important fortresses in Artros, Flanders, Henath, Mell, Péronne, Bouchien, Pavia, Maubeuge, Aire, Saint-Omer, Cassel, Hainaut, Bucham, Valenciennes and Condé.
- 5- Spain obtained Ath, Adenarde, Charleroi, Kortrijk and Binche.
- 6- Emperor Leopold the 1st agreed that the princes of the northern German lands should pay indemnities to Sweden, and that Louis XIV should retain for this purpose a series of posts in the Rhine provinces to ensure the advance of his armies.
- 7- Brandenburg agreed to return to Sweden the recently conquered territories in Pomerania and Stettin in Poland by the Treaty of Saint-Germain of June 29, 1679.

The terms obtained by Louis XIV were much less than those offered to him in 1672, which would have left him the entire Spanish Netherlands. However, he had made great gains at the expense of Spain, including the Franche-Comté, and had destroyed the Grand Alliance formed against him by William of Orange. William believed that the present settlement in the present circumstances was a disgrace and a disgrace, and would bring no security in the future. While France, which had fought in the last years of the Franco-Dutch War almost alone against a

powerful alliance, had emerged as a great military power in Europe, the United Provinces were beginning to show signs of decline and weakness. The Treaty of Nijmegen represented the high point of Louis XIV's glory. From that time on, Louis XIV's ambitions led to many acts of aggression that brought the states of Europe against him in the War of the League of Augsburg and in the War of the Spanish Succession. The following year the city of Paris granted Louis XIV the title of Great King (Roi le de Grand).

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