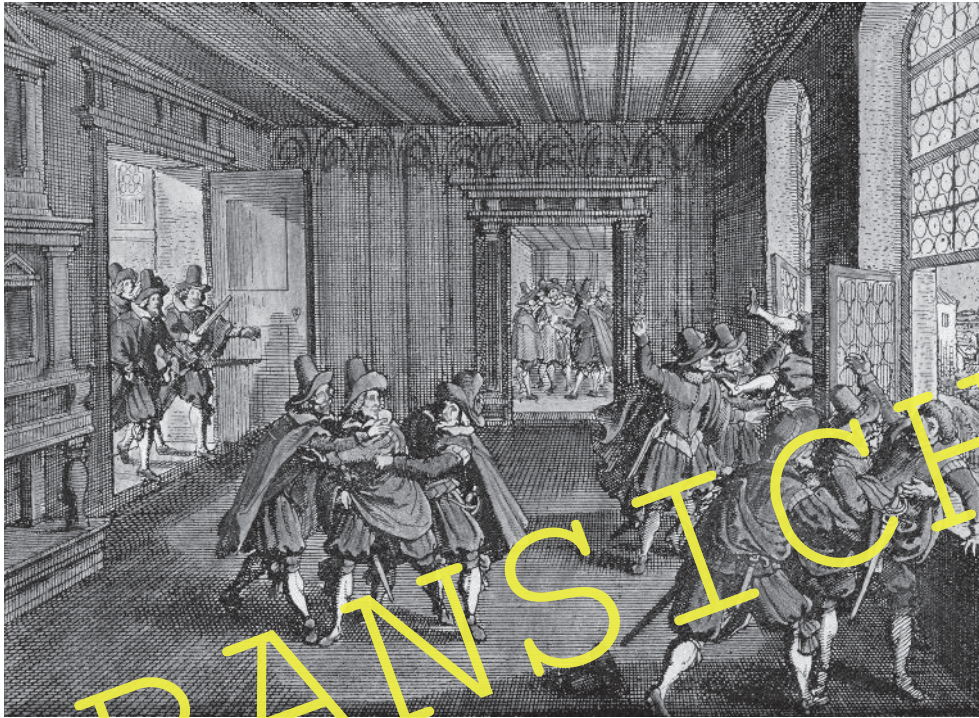


## Power and Religion – The 30 Years' War. Den Dreißigjährigen Krieg in den Kontext von Reformation und Gegenreformation einordnen (Klasse 8)

Nach einer Idee von Silke Bagus, Nohra



Pushed out of the window: the 30 Years' War begins (engraving from the *Theatrum Europaeum* by Matthäus Merian, 1662)

Drei Beamte des Böhmisches Königs werden aus einem Fenster gestoßen. Die Folge sind über dreißig Jahre Krieg in Europa. Was hat es mit dem Prager Fenstersturz auf sich? Warum kämpfen so viele europäische Mächte gegeneinander? Und ging es bei alledem wirklich um Religion?

Anhand von Rätseln, Bildern und Verfasser-texten erarbeiten die Lernenden weitgehend selbstständig den Auslöser des Krieges, die unterschiedlichen Ziele der Beteiligten, den Kriegsverlauf, die Lebensbedingungen der Bevölkerung und das Ende eines für die Menschen scheinbar unendlich langen Krieges.

**Klassenstufe:** 8

**Dauer:** 5 Stunden und LEK

**Bereich:** Frühe Neuzeit, Prager Fenstersturz, Phasen des Dreißigjährigen Krieges, Leid und Elend der Bevölkerung, Westfälischer Frieden

**Kompetenzen:**

- den Dreißigjährigen Krieg in den historischen Kontext der Reformation und Gegenreformation einordnen
- mit Karten und Bildquellen arbeiten und relevante Informationen herauslesen
- Sozial- und Selbstkompetenzen trainieren

## Materialübersicht

### Stunde 1: Pushed out the window – a war begins

M 1	(Bi)	Begin the lesson with a puzzle
M 2	(Tx/Ab)	Pushed out the window – a war begins
M 3	(Ab)	Identify the causes of the war

### Stunden 2/3: 30 long years – the course of the war

M 4	(Ab)	Puzzle – what is today's topic?
M 5	(Tx)	The course of the war – group work

### Stunde 4: The suffering of the people

M 6	(Fo)	A scene from the 30Years' War
M 7	(Bi)	Topic 1: Everyday life in the 30Years' War
M 8	(Ab)	Topic 2: Torture, death and plundering
M 9	(Ab)	Topic 3: Population decline
M 10	(Ab)	Topic 4: The "Schwedentrunk"

### Stunde 5: The war is over: The Peace of Westphalia

M 11	(Tx)	The Peace of Westphalia 1648
------	------	------------------------------

### Lernerfolgskontrolle

Test: Conflict about power and religion – the 30Years' War

**Ab:** Arbeitsblatt – **Bi:** Bild – **Fo:** Farbfolie – **Tx:** Text

## M 2 Pushed out the window – a war begins

The following newspaper article shows who was "pushed out the window", why and which consequences this event had for the next 30 years.

### Bohemian Press – Special edition about the Defenestration of Prague and its consequences

#### Royal officials thrown out the window

On 23 May 1618, Protestant aristocrats threw two royal officials and their secretary out of a window of the royal palace in Prague. Luckily, all three men survived the 17 metre fall, although they were seriously injured<sup>1</sup>.

The background of the defenestration<sup>2</sup> was that the recently deceased<sup>3</sup> Emperor Matthias had revoked<sup>4</sup> the right to religious freedom, which Emperor Rudolf II had granted in 1609. The Protestant aristocrats were angry that they threw the Catholic officials out the window.

#### All signs point to war!

As soon as the news spread in the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation, the Protestant Union<sup>5</sup> promised

their support for the Protestant cause in case of war.

From outside the Empire, the Protestants also receive support from Sweden, The Netherlands, England, France and Denmark.

Unconfirmed<sup>6</sup> reports say that those involved are not only interested in religious questions. While the Swedes would like a war in order to gain power in the North Sea and Baltic Sea regions, the French want to avoid<sup>7</sup> being surrounded<sup>8</sup> by two Habsburg<sup>9</sup> rulers – in Spain and in Germany. The Netherlands want independence from Spain.

The German Catholic territorial rulers<sup>10</sup> are also somewhat involved. In case of war, their League<sup>11</sup> will support the German Emperor. He hopes to stop the spread<sup>12</sup> of Protestantism and also to

strengthen his power. His foreign supporters – the Spanish and the Pope – have similar wishes.

The Pope is probably the only one who is just fighting for the assertion<sup>13</sup> of his religion.

The Spanish surely also want to keep control of their northern province in the Netherlands.

#### What can we expect? – an anonymous commentary

Is the Defenestration of Prague a trigger<sup>14</sup> for war? Surely we don't all want a war – but do we have a choice? Haven't the authorities always made the decisions? Prepare yourselves! – For who can say how long a conflict between Protestants and Catholics will last ...?

May God protect you!

### Annotations

1 **seriously injured**: schwer verletzt – 2 **defenestration**: Fenstersturz – 3 **deceased**: verstorben – 4 **to revoke**: widerrufen – 5 **Union**: coalition of Protestant territorial rulers, founded in 1608 – 6 **unconfirmed**: unbestätigt – 7 **to avoid**: verhindern – 8 **to surround**: umgeben – 9 **Habsburg**: Adelsgeschlecht, aus dem sowohl der Kaiser des Heiligen Römischen Reiches Deutscher Nation stammte als auch der König von Spanien – 10 **territorial rulers**: Fürsten – 11 **League**: coalition of Catholic territorial rulers, founded in 1609 – 12 **spread**: Verbreitung – 13 **assertion**: Durchsetzung – 14 **trigger**: Auslöser

### Here you find the missing words for the gaps:

rights	conflict	Catholic	trigger	seventeen
Protestant	window	Emperor Rudolf II	violent	

### M 3 Identify the causes of the war

At the beginning of the 30 Years' War, the conflict mostly resulted from the interests of the Catholics and the Protestants. Nevertheless, other combatants<sup>1</sup> had goals that were less related to religion.

Denmark

England

France

Repressing the Protestants

Winning back followers

Emperor

Strengthening power in the North Sea and the Baltic Sea

Keeping and extending<sup>2</sup> their power

Independence from Spain

Dominance in Europe

Spain

Dominance in the Baltic Sea region

Netherlands

Supporting the Protestants

Pope

Keeping and extending their power

Avoid being surrounded by Habsburg rulers

Sweden

Securing<sup>3</sup> their provinces in the Netherlands

Strengthening his own power

German Protestant rulers (Union)

German Catholic rulers (League)

Scissors icon

#### Annotations

1 **combatant**: Kriegsteilnehmer – 2 **to extend**: erweitern, ausbauen – 3 **to secure**: sichern



#### Tasks

1. Cut out the speech bubbles and arrows.
2. Put the combatants into two groups: those who supported the Protestants and those who supported the Catholics.
3. Which goals did each of the combatants have?

## M 5 The course of the war – group work

### Group 1: Bohemian-Palatine<sup>1</sup> War

#### Bohemian-Palatine War (1618–1623)

The Defenestration of Prague<sup>2</sup> on 23 May 1618 was a declaration of war by the Protestant Bohemian estates<sup>3</sup> on King Ferdinand and the Catholics. In August 1619 the Bohemian estates removed<sup>4</sup> Ferdinand as King of Bohemia. The Protestant Prince Frederick V was chosen as the new King.



At the Battle of White Mountain (close to Prague) in November 1620, the adversarial<sup>5</sup> armies attacked each other: On one side was the Catholic League and Ferdinand, who had by then been named Holy Roman Emperor. On the other side was King Frederick V and the Bohemian army, who had no support from the Protestant Union. Frederick and the Bohemian Estates were defeated<sup>6</sup>, and the Bohemian Revolt was ended. Frederick was later nicknamed<sup>7</sup> the “Winter King” because his rule only lasted for one winter.

The defeat also had consequences for the population: the leaders of the revolt were executed, the Bohemians were forcibly recatholicised<sup>8</sup> and an absolute monarchy was introduced.

In the summer of 1620 a Spanish army conquered parts of the Palatinate region<sup>9</sup>. Protestant troops unsuccessfully tried to re-take the region, but in 1622 the entire Palatinate region was put under Catholic control. The electoral rights<sup>10</sup> of The Palatinate were transferred to Catholic Bavaria.

#### Annotations

1 **Bohemian-Palatine:** böhmisch-pfälzisch – 2 **Defenestration of Prague:** Prager Fenstersturz – 3 **estate:** Stand; people and representatives of groups who could vote in the Imperial Diet (Reichstag) – 4 **to remove:** absetzen – 5 **adversarial:** gegnerisch – 6 **to defeat so.:** jmdm. besiegen – 7 **to nickname so.:** jmdm. einen Spitznamen geben – 8 **to recatholicise:** rekatholisieren – 9 **Palatinate region:** die Pfalz – 10 **electoral rights:** Kurwürde (das Recht, den König zu wählen)

#### Tasks

1. Read the text about the Bohemian-Palatine War.
2. Prepare a short presentation (8–10 minutes) about the topic. Include a visual aid for your classmates (e.g. Power Point, transparencies, poster, blackboard). Go into detail about the combatants, the course of the war and the locations of events or battlefields.
3. Create a short handout (max. ½ page) for your classmates which includes the most important information.

## M 6 A scene from the 30 Years' War

*In the 30 Years' War the soldiers were not the only people who suffered. For the populations in villages life was also very hard, as can be seen in this painting from the year 1649.*



© picture-alliance/akg-images/Erich Lessing

This painting from the Flemish painter David Ryckaert is titled "The suffering of the peasants".

**Vocabulary for describing the picture:**

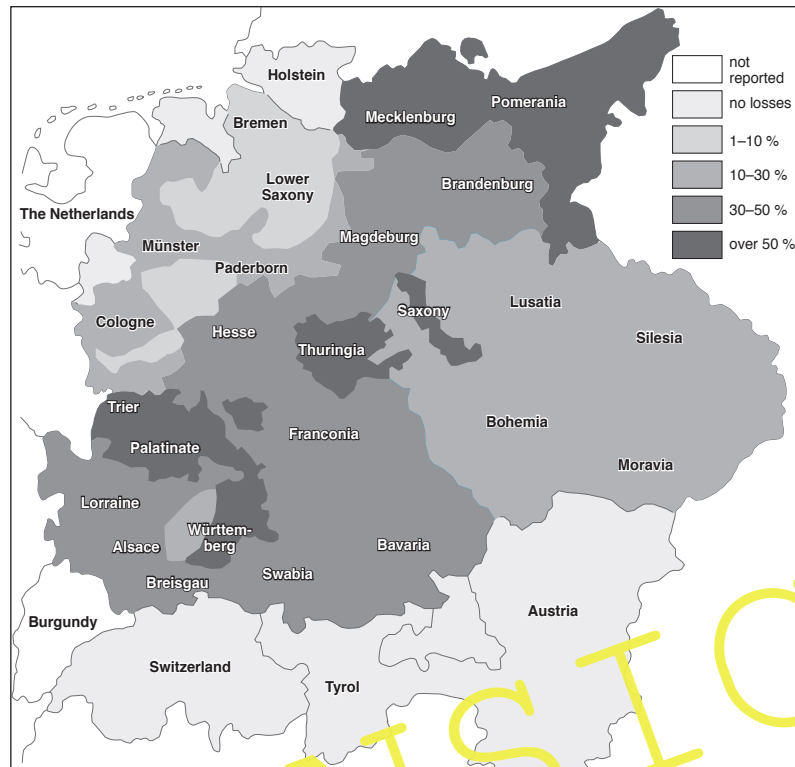
dead person	Toter
captive	Gefangener
to beg for sth.	um etw. betteln, flehen
mercy	Gnade
prostitute	Prostituierte
musket	Muskete (Gewehr, das durch die Mündung geladen wird)
sword	Degen
dagger	Dolch
to threaten so.	jmdn. bedrohen
to shoot	schießen
livestock	Vieh
to burn down	abbrennen
to execute	hinrichten
to kneel	knien
children	Kinder

**Phrases for describing positions in a picture:**

in the foreground	im Vordergrund
in the background	im Hintergrund
in the centre	in der Mitte
at the top	oben
at the bottom	unten
on the right (-hand side)	auf der rechten Seite
on the left (-hand side)	auf der linken Seite
on the lower right-hand side	unten rechts
on the upper left-hand side	oben links
right of	rechts von
left of	links von
in front of	vor
behind	hinter
next to	neben
between	zwischen
above, there is/are ...	darüber ist/sind ...
below, there is/are ...	darunter ist/sind ...

### M 9 Topic 3: Population decline

This map shows which regions suffered the greatest population losses<sup>1</sup> due to violence and famine<sup>2</sup> during the 30 Years' War.



#### Tasks

1. Look carefully at the map. Pay attention to the legend.
2. Now read the parts of sentences in the table below. Connect each sentence fragment from the left column with one from the right column to form correct statements. The map will help you do this task.
3. Place the transparency with the correct answers over your worksheet to check your results.

The map shows the	no population decline – apparently <sup>4</sup> no armies came through here.
In Switzerland, Tyrol, Austria und Holstein there was	than half as many people here as before the war.
The following regions were especially affected <sup>3</sup> :	the loss of population was between 10% and 50%.
After the 30 years of war there were less	decline <sup>5</sup> in populations during the 30Years' War.
Thuringia and the region around Weimar were also	affected by devastating <sup>6</sup> declines in population.
In most of the other regions of the Empire	Palatinate, Saxony, Pomerania and Mecklenburg

#### Annotations

1 **loss**: Verlust – 2 **famine**: Hungersnot – 3 **to be affected**: betroffen sein – 4 **apparently (adv.)**: offensichtlich – 5 **decline**: Rückgang – 6 **devastating**: verheerend