



Narrator: The 30-year war was a horribly bloody conflict, and it was politically very convoluted. We're not going to go into lots of gory details here. However, what you should know is that the Habsburg Empire - that's what the Holy Roman Emperor, remember from the Renaissance? We talked about them and Spain. Well, they were pitted against Denmark, France, Holland, Sweden as well as parts of Germany.

Add to this, there was a religious dimension to the war. Lutherans, Catholics, and Calvinists were all brought into the fray. In the end, when it was all said and done, Spain declined both politically and militarily. Germany fractured into many competing territories, and France grew into a stronger political position of power and might. Because most of the fighting was done on German lands, the Germanic population was decimated. In the end, there wound up being more sovereign nations that controlled the political landscape of Europe with the breakup of the Habsburg Empire.

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