

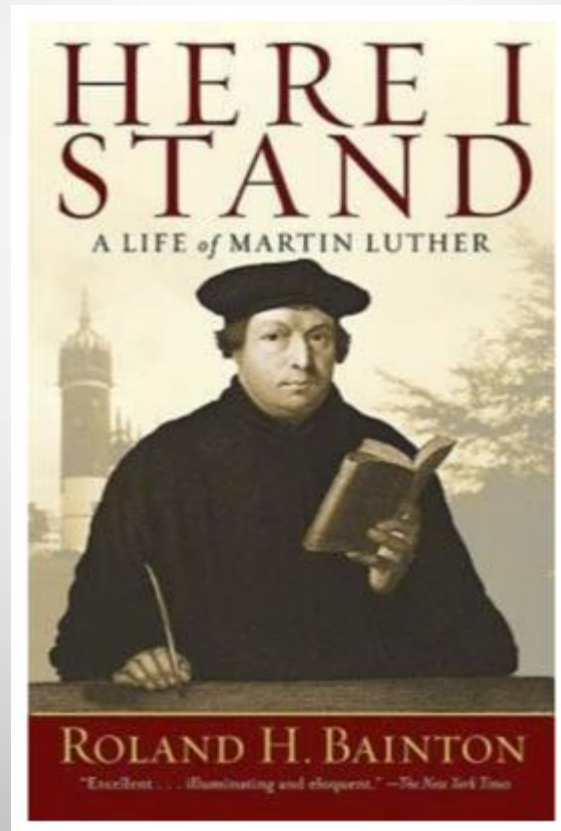
# Germany's Last Knight

The Life and Times of Franz von Sickingen

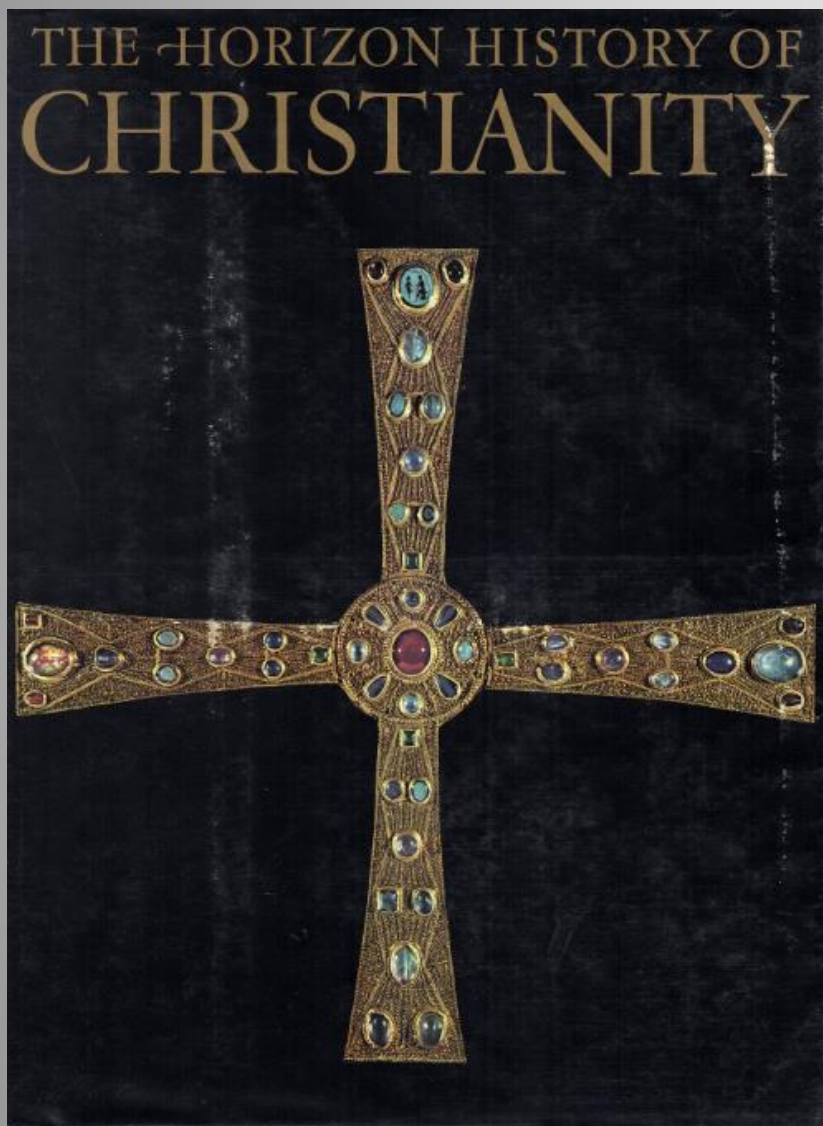
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## Recommended Reading—

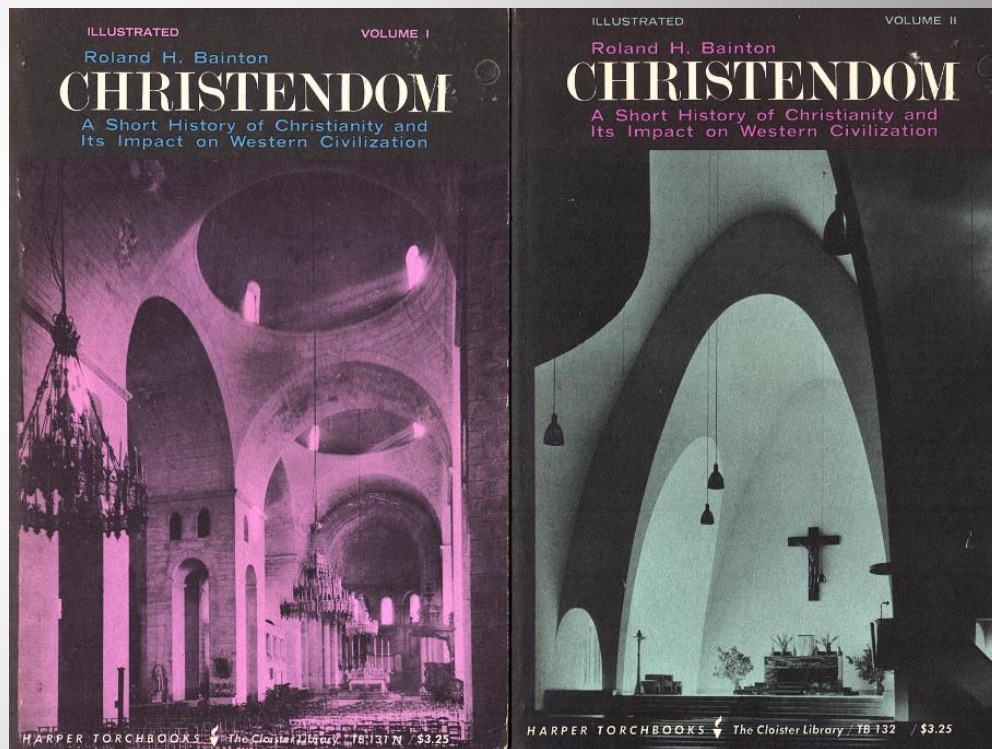
Bainton's 1954 biography is available in many reprinted editions.



Yale theology Professor Roland Bainton's excellent lavishly illustrated 1964 book....

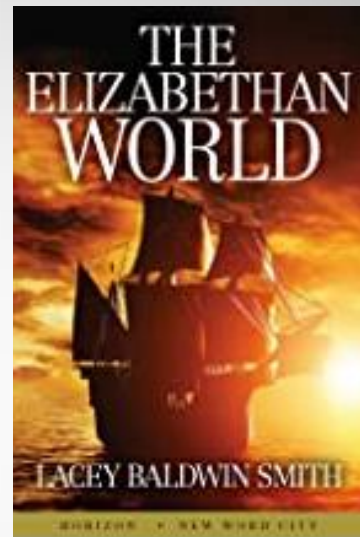
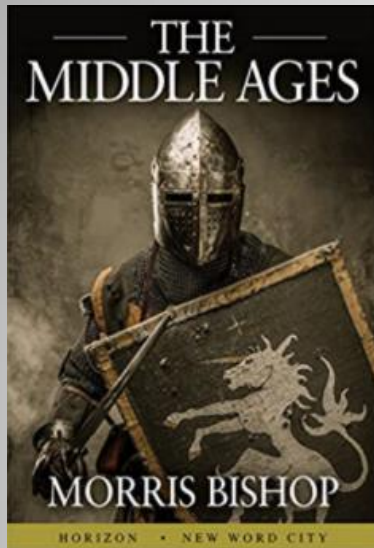


had its text reprinted as a two-volume trade paperback under a different name....



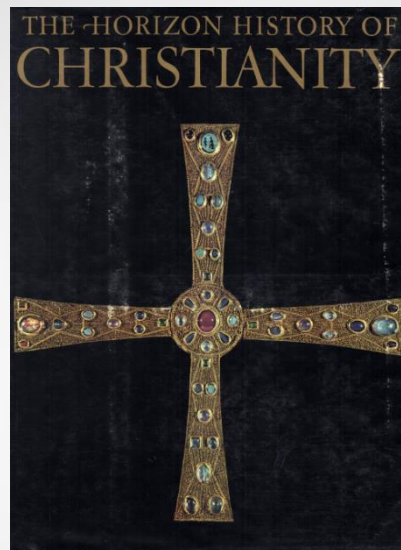
and is now available as a Kindle ebook for \$2.99.

## Recommended Reading—



Other very good Horizon books have their texts available as ebooks as well.

If you agree with this reader's viewpoint,  
don't get the book....



★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆ **A dissapointment**

Reviewed in the United States on March 28, 2015

**Verified Purchase**

In the first chapter I found some things he said about the number of people Moses led out of Egypt that didn't agree with the Bible. Because of that, I stopped reading it and delected it from my Kindle reader

3 people found this helpful

|  |



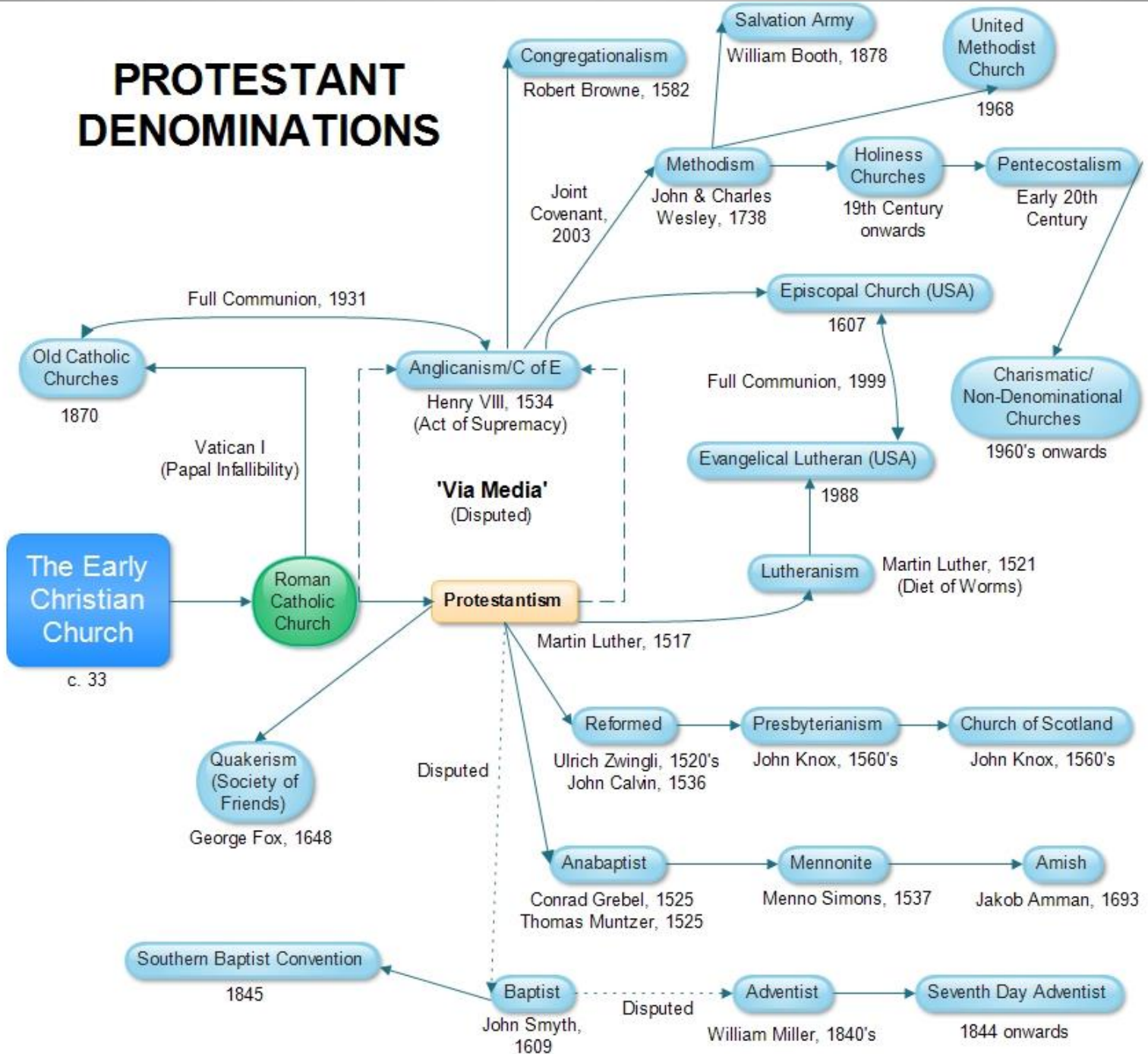
## Christian beliefs and attitudes, c. 1520—

—Almost everyone believed that there was only One True Faith, and that it should be mandatory for believers.

—Toleration of different beliefs was unacceptable. That would mean tolerating falsehoods and lies about God!

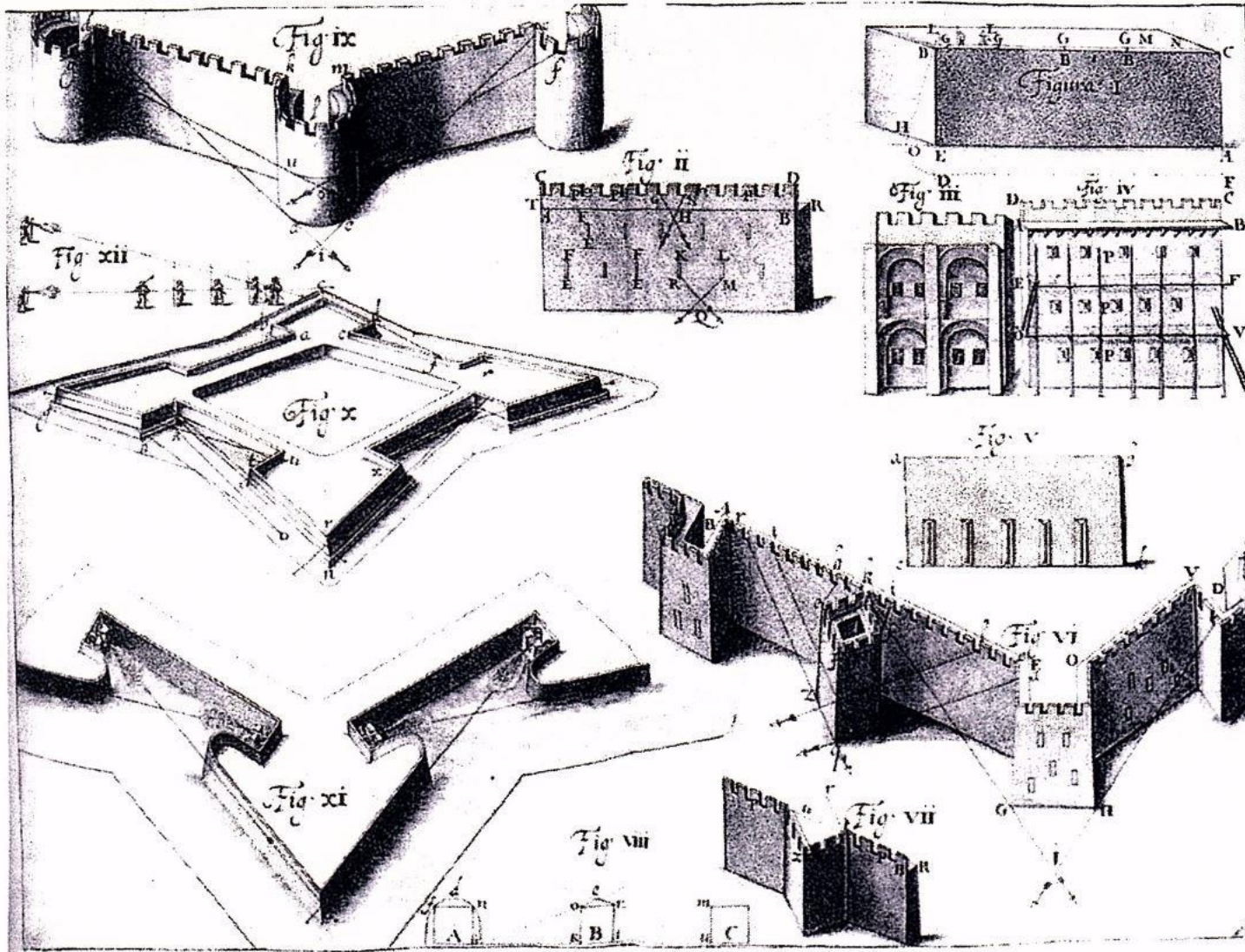


# PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS





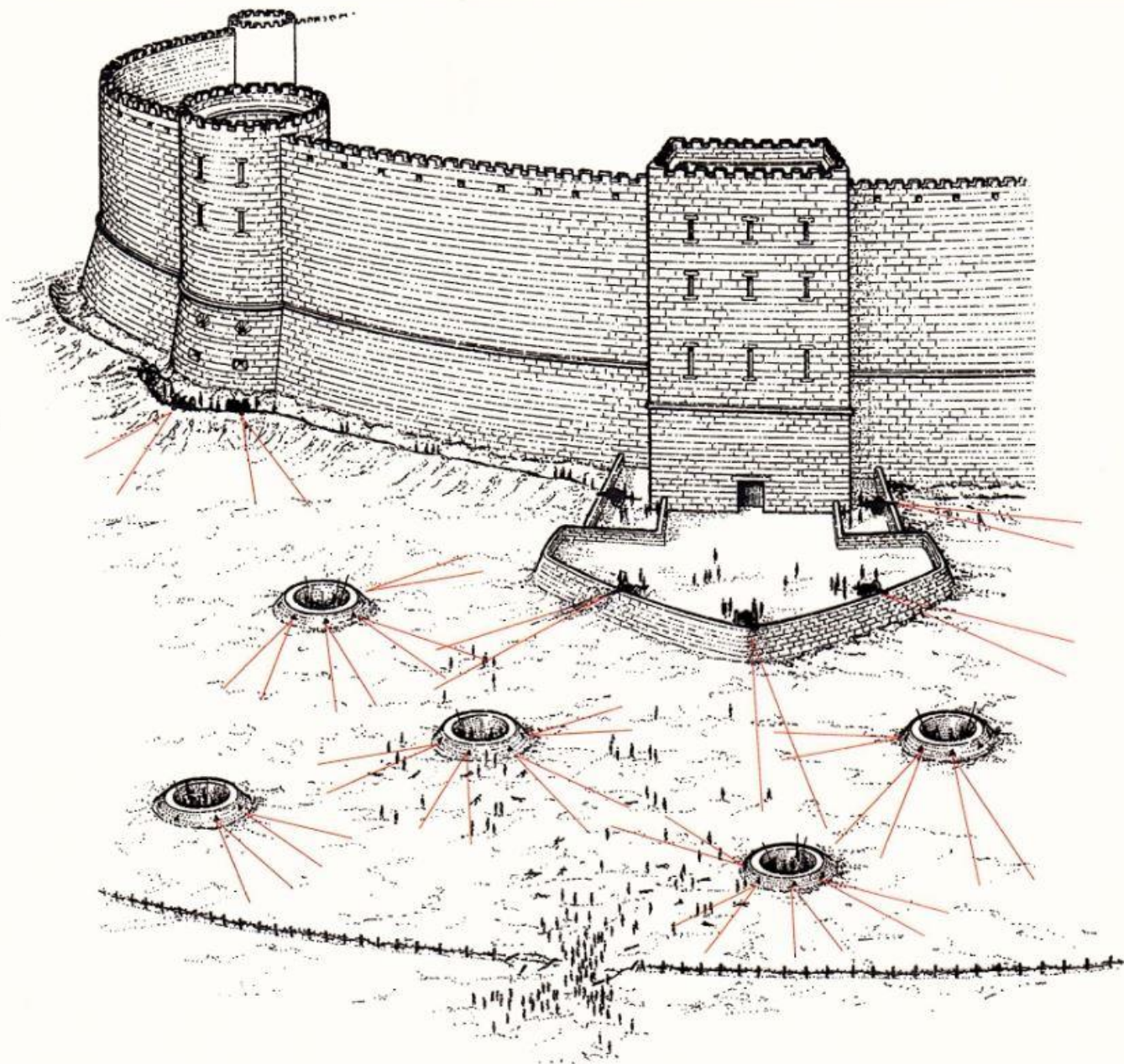
# Sieges and Siege Warfare—



*This illustration from Matthäus Dögen's L'Architecture militaire (1647) shows the evolution in Europe from the vertical defenses of the Middle Ages to the low-lying bastion first developed in Italy in the early sixteenth century — the trace italienne.*

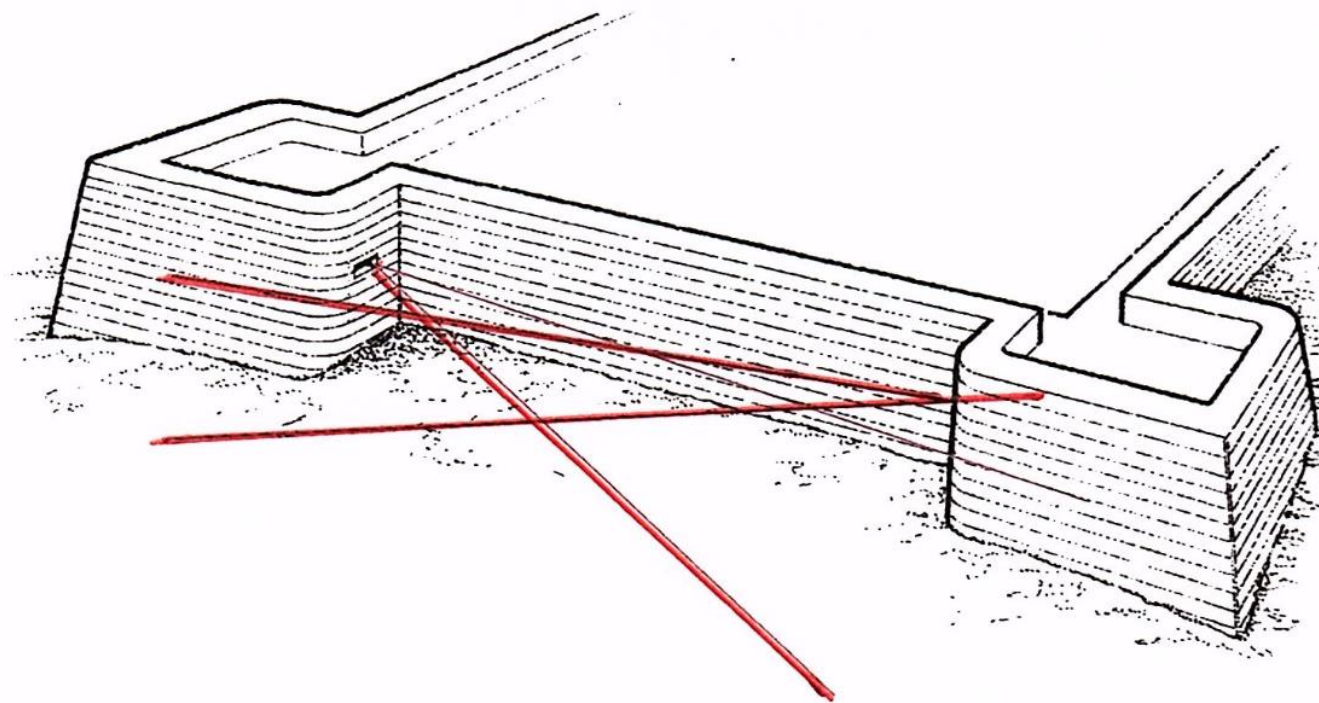
## MUTUALLY SUPPORTING DEFENSIVE FIRE

*One way of flanking a round artillery tower or other fortification was to provide an exterior defence in depth with a perimeter zone of earthwork sconces. This line drawing shows how lines of fire from mutually supporting sconces could destroy an attacking infantry force, while the defending arquebusiers and musketeers in each sconce would remain safe behind the protective walls of their own small earthwork.*



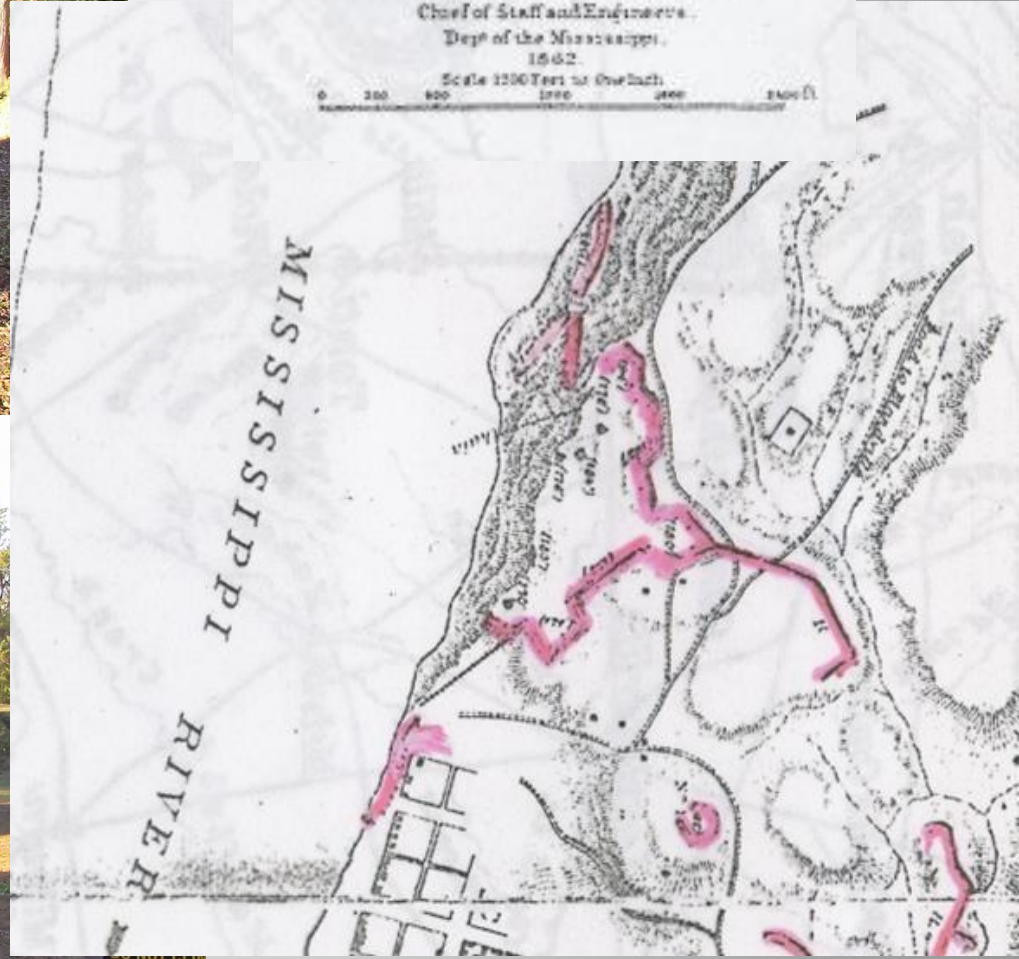
## THE ANGLE BASTION

*The secret of the angle bastion: artillery positions at the retired flanks of a pointed bastion can sweep the face of the bastion opposite, and since the lines of fire from two neighbouring bastions' flanks cross and meet at the point of every bastion, there is no place for an attacking mining party or infantry assault to shelter.*





M A P  
OF THE  
REBEL FORTIFICATIONS  
AT  
COLUMBUS, KY.  
SURVEYED  
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
BRIG. GEN. GEO. W. CULLUM,  
Chief of Staff and Engineer.  
Dep't of the Mississippi,  
1862.  
Scale 1200 Feet to One Inch.  
1862



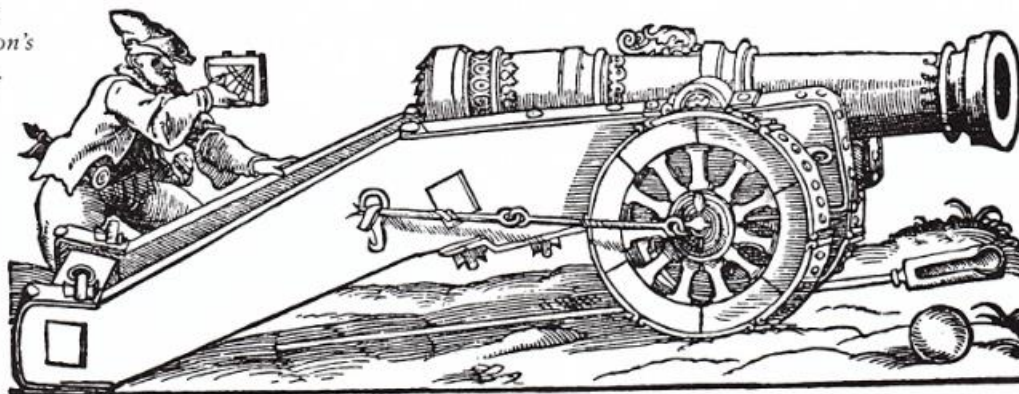
## TYPES OF RENAISSANCE ARTILLERY

Basilisks, serpents, minions, robinets, falcons, bastards, sirens, bases, slings: the multiple, evocative names of Renaissance artillery defy order, or even understanding – contemporaries railed against the needless proliferation of calibres, which could only complicate logistics and stymie wartime efficiency. Even after cannon came to be generally standardized by named category and weight of shot, the categories were not fully consistent between different services (say, Spanish and English) and

measures differed between jurisdiction (as between Venetian and Milanese ‘pounds’ and ‘feet’). But in the second half of the sixteenth century something like order came to Europe’s arsenals, at least in theory. The following table approximates this consensus; it is based on figures in contemporary manuals (note that the distinction between a cannon and a culverin lay in the ratio of length to bore; culverins could be almost as heavy as cannon in weight of shot):

Type	Weight of ball	Weight of piece	Ratio of length to bore
Double cannon	100 pounds	20,000 pounds	20:1
Cannon	50	9,000	18:1
Half cannon	25	7,000	24:1
Quarter cannon	16	3,500	28:1
Culverin	25	2,000	36:1
Half culverin	15	1,700	40:1
Saker	6	2,500	32:1
Falcon	3	1,500	36:1
Falconet	1	500	40:1

*A gunner sights along his quadrant to judge the elevation of his cannon's barrel. Note the long-handled powder scoop lying on the ground; each gun had its own scoop, sized to measure out the full charge of gunpowder appropriate for that piece.*



## RANGES OF RENAISSANCE ARTILLERY

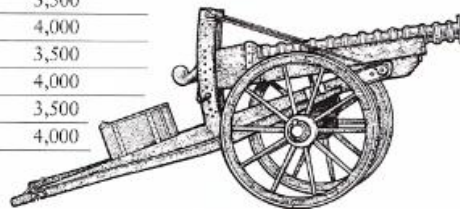
How far could a sixteenth-century cannon shoot? Contemporaries differed in their opinions – perhaps because their experience or sense of the problem differed. One answer comes from the Italian master gunner and engineer Eugenio Gentilini, who served in the armies of Venice, the grand duchy of Tuscany, and the knights of Malta. His 1598 *Instructions for Artillery* included a list of artillery ranges at both horizontal elevation ('*dritta linea*' or 'straight line') and, for maximum distance, at an elevation of 45 degrees. The term *dritta linea* was interchangeable with *punto bianco* (hence 'point-blank' in English), a reference to the ability of a gunner, when sighting along a level barrel, to see the white circle – the *punto bianco* or white point – at the dead centre of the practice target. Gentilini's figures are in 'natural walking paces' of two steps, or two and a half statutory feet each; remembering that the 'foot' varied by jurisdiction, a pace can be thought of as a little less than a modern English yard (0.91 metres).

Type	<i>dritta linea</i>	Extreme range
Musket	60 paces	1,200 paces
2-pound falconet	80	1,800
4-pound falcon	100	2,000
8-pound saker	150	2,500
14-pound culverin	200	3,500
16-pound 'canoncin'	150	2,500
20-pound cannon	180	2,800
20-pound culverin	250	3,800
30-pound cannon	200	3,000
30-pound culverin	260	4,000
40-pound cannon	220	3,000
40-pound culverin	300	4,000
50-pound cannon	250	3,500
50-pound culverin	300	4,000
60-pound cannon	250	3,500
60-pound culverin	300	4,000
90-pound cannon	250	3,500
90-pound culverin	300	4,000
100-pound cannon	250	3,500
100-pound culverin	300	4,000
120-pound cannon	250	3,500
120-pound culverin	300	4,000

Gentilini's contemporary Marc' Antonio Bellone supplied much more optimistic 'point-blank' and maximum ranges in his 1584 manual, *Instructions for Gunners*.

Type	Point-blank	Extreme range
Half cannon	500 paces	6,000 paces
Quarter cannon	450	5,400
Saker	350	4,200
Falcon	300	3,600
Falconet	250	3,000
Culverin	600	7,200
Half culverin	450	5,200

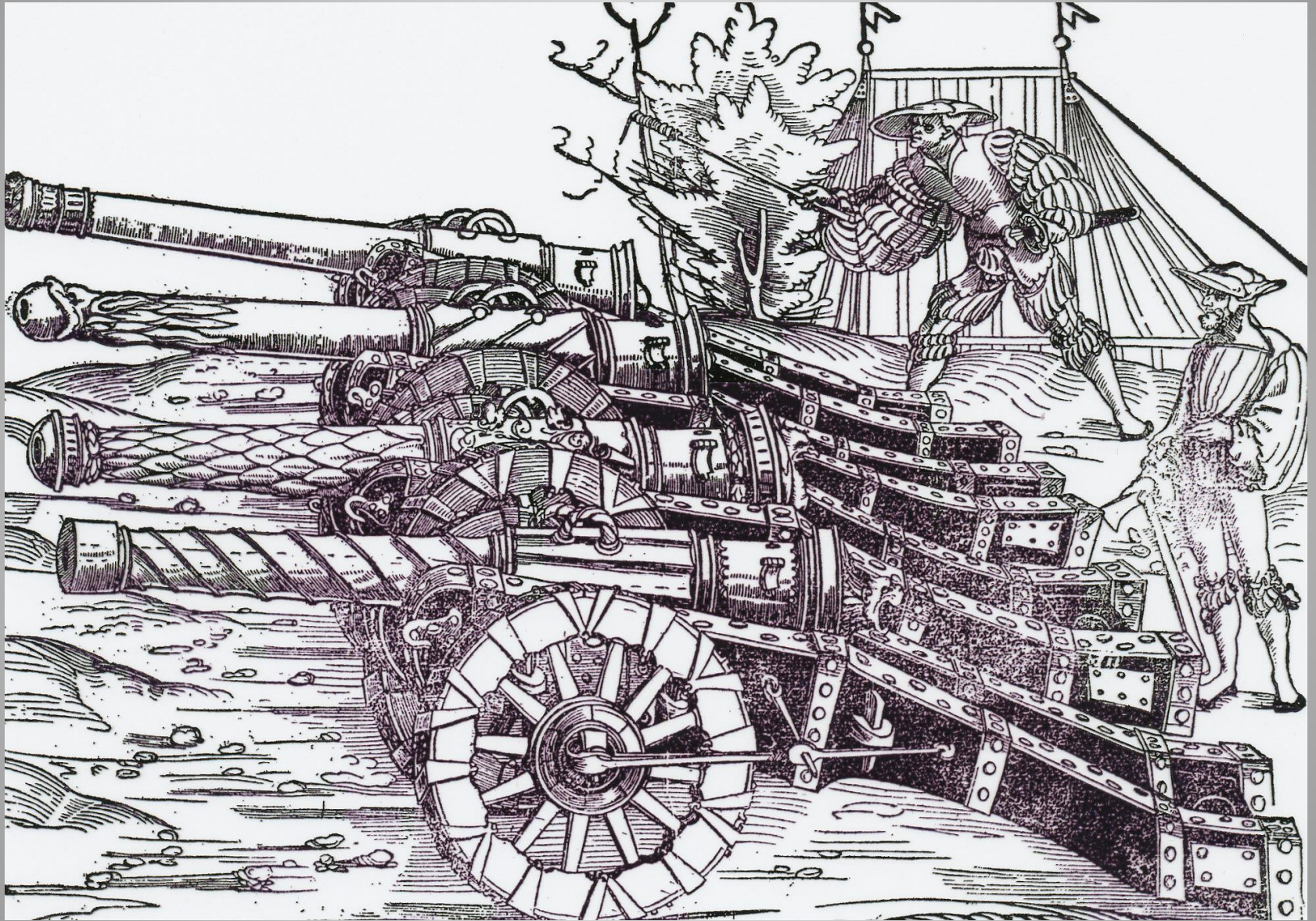
In service, gunners always tried to plant their weapons as close as possible; an Englishman in 1590 opined that 'for battery' pieces should be placed within 'eighty paces of their mark'. But long-distance sniping also took place. While holed up in the Castel' San Angelo during the Spanish sack of Rome in 1527, the goldsmith-turned-gunner Benvenuto Cellini used a falconet to clip a Spanish officer in two at such an extreme range that Pope Clement himself asked for an explanation of the trick shot. All in all, the effective range of a given gun of a given type varied greatly depending on the quality and condition of the gun and carriage, and of the powder used, whether the ball was truly round and of the proper calibre, how well the charge and ball were packed into the bore, and, finally, the skill of the gunner who aimed the piece. Sometimes the condition of the gunner mattered, too: at the siege of Oudenaarde in 1582 a drunken Spanish gunner fired directly into his own camp, interrupting the dinner party of the Spanish commander-in-chief, Alessandro of Parma, who, unhurt and nonplussed, continued with his meal even as his dead and dying companions were removed from table.



CULVERIN

A line drawing of a small, wrought-iron culverin of the late fifteenth century.

**1 Mile: to Paces = 2112**



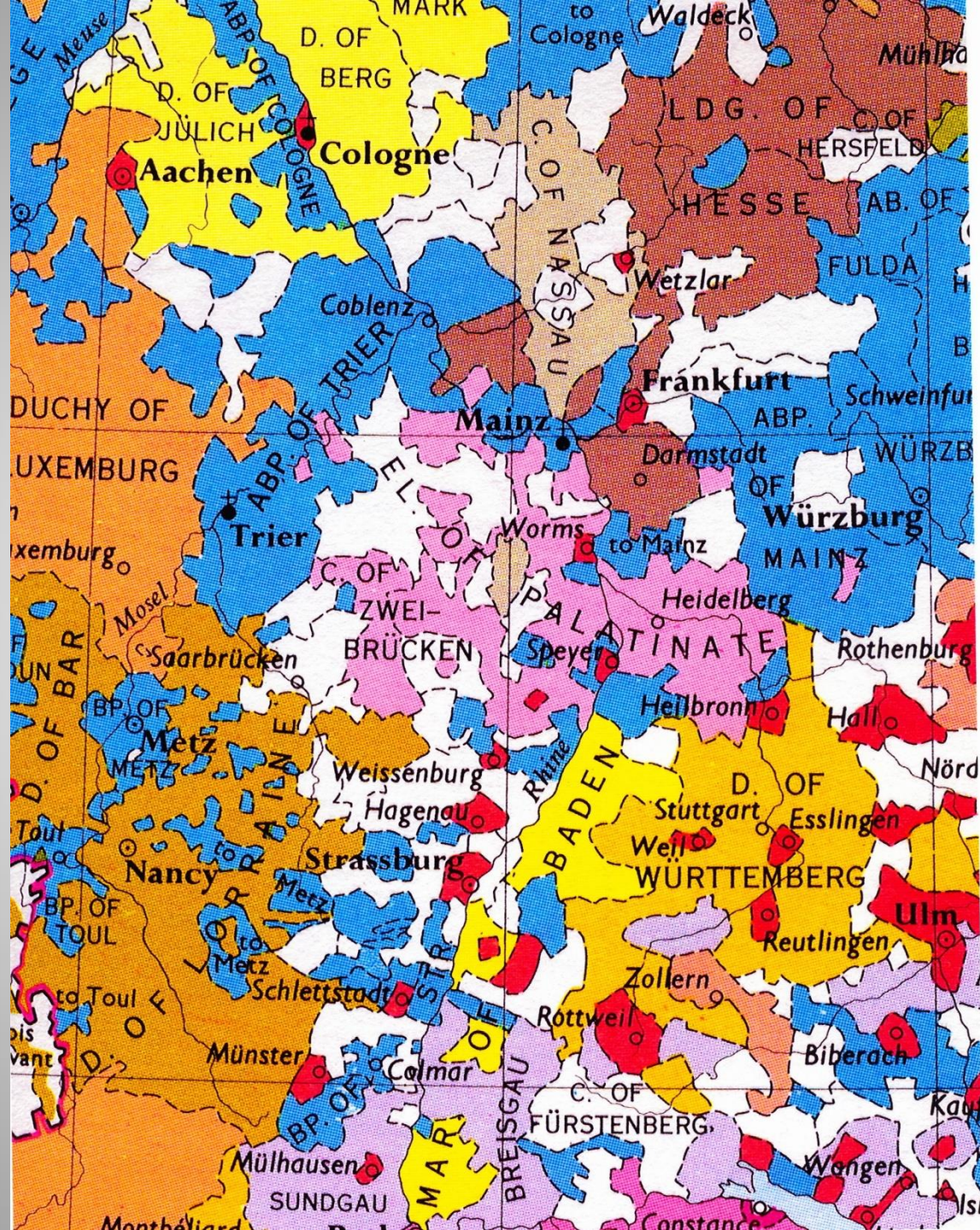


FRANZ von SICKINGEN

Geb. 1481 • gest. 7. Mai 1523

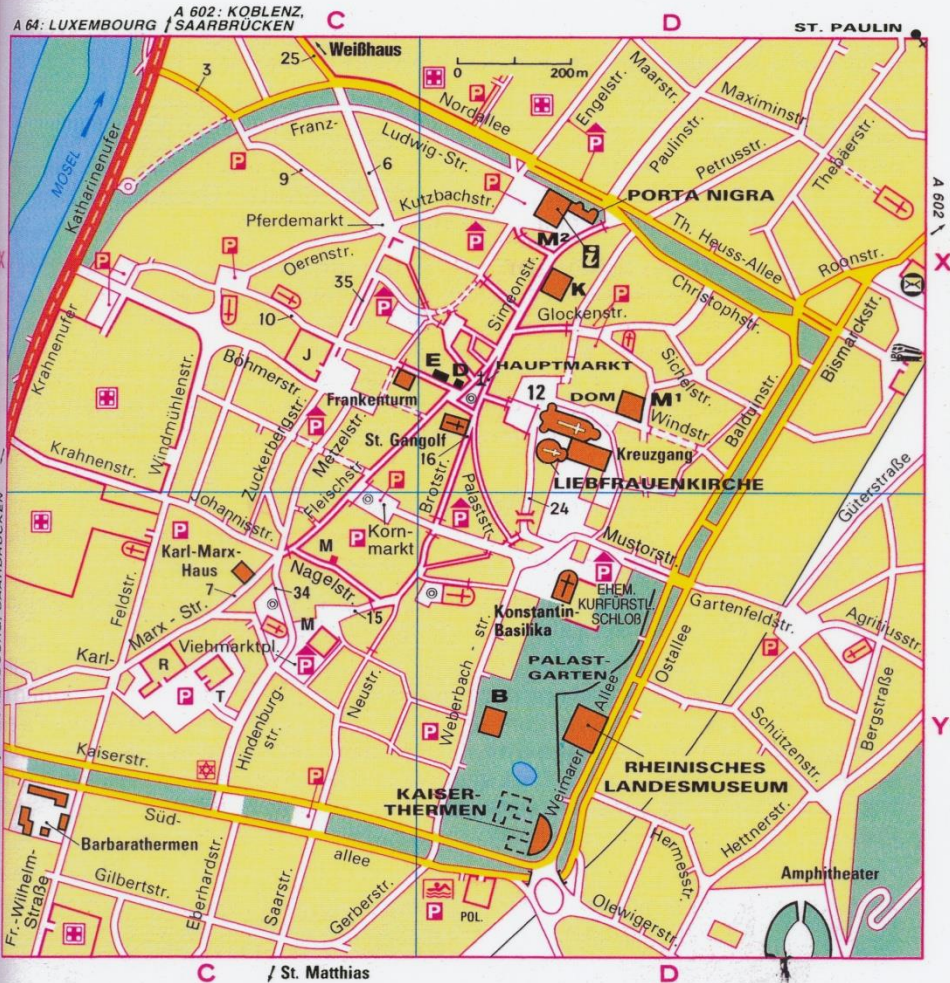
Nach dem von Herrn Professor Karl Kauer geschaffenen Denkmal Hutten  
und Sickingen auf der Ebernburg





# TRIER

Asoniusstraße	CX 3	Deutschherrenstr.	CX 9	Liebfrauenstr.	DX 24
Bruchhausenstraße	CX 6	Dietrichstraße	CX 10	Lindenstraße	CX 25
Brückenstraße	CY 7	Domfreihof	DX 12	Nagelstraße	CY
Brotstraße	CDY	Fahrstraße	CY 15	Neustraße	CY
		Fleischstraße	CXY 16	Simeonstraße	DX
		Grabenstraße	DX 16	Stresemannstraße	CY 34
		Hauptmarkt	DX 16	Walramsneustr.	CX 35
		Kornmarkt	CY		



Schatzkammer der Stadtbibliothek	B	Dreikönigenhaus	K
Die Steipe	D	Bischöfliches Museum	M <sup>1</sup>
Rotes Haus	E	Städtisches Museum	M <sup>2</sup>



Porträtbüste des Erzbischofs Richard von Trier, am Greiffenklau-Denkmal im Dom von Trier.  
(Kurfürst Richard Herr von Greiffenklau 1511—31.)  
Noch bei Lebzeiten wahrscheinlich von einem oberdeutschen Meister 1525 errichtet.

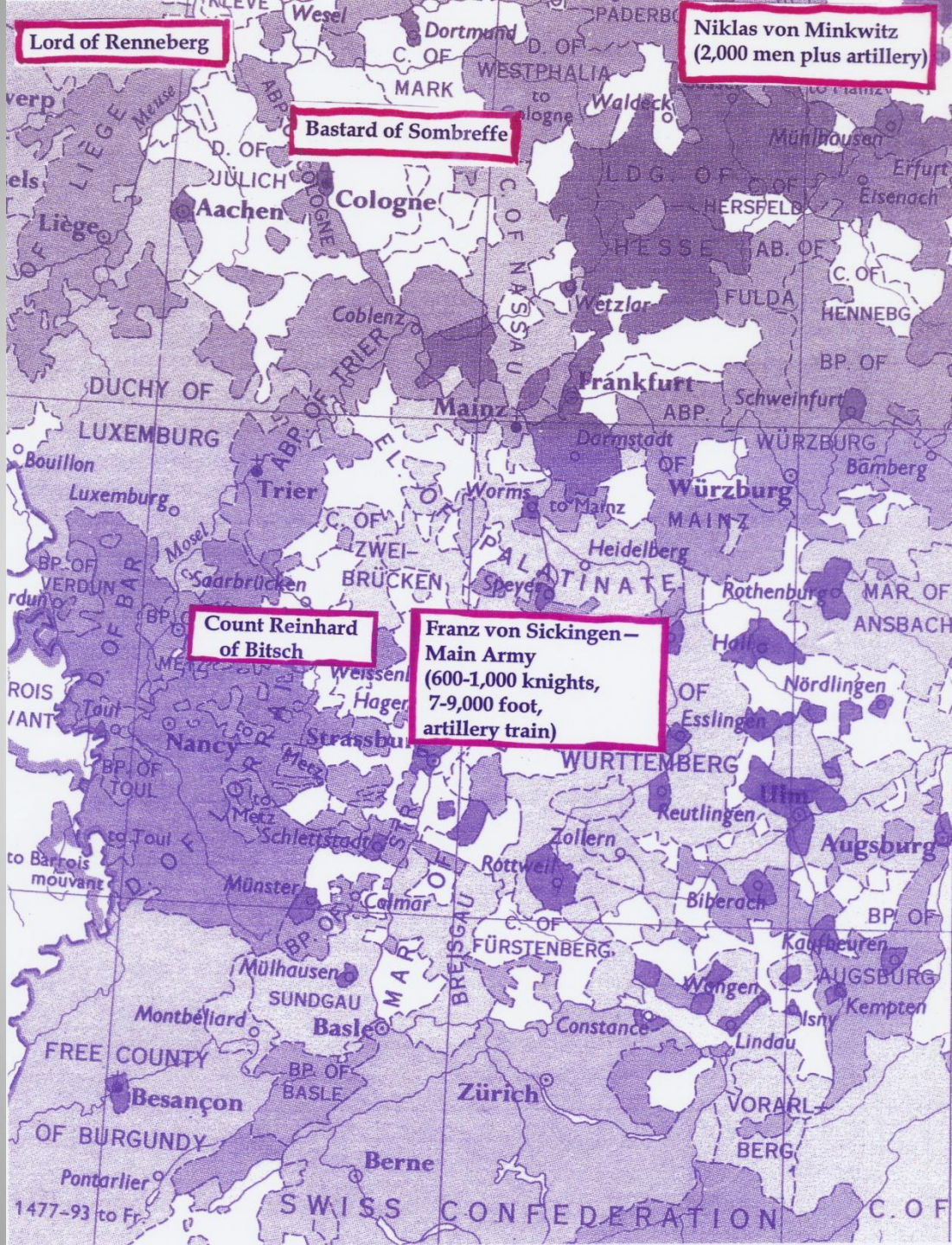
uch dem hochwirdigsten Fürsten vnd herren herren Richarten Erbischoffen zu Trier des heiligen Römischen  
 Reichs durch Sachsen vnd das Rünigreich Arclaten Erzbanniget vnd Churfürsten Chrieich Franzen aus  
 von Ditzingen zuwissen. Nachdem wir eurer Churfürstlichen hochwirdigen vber mein vielfaltigs vnderweygs  
 referenzen durch vber zungfarn recht erdritten wider alle Erbar vnd billikeit gewaltig lich mit der that die beide  
 teufelosen vnd unwürdigen Jacoben von Croffzüngele un Hannen vnd Richarten zu Drenchem schultzeisen  
 eurer Churfürstlichen hochwirdigen angehörigen hundertessen vnd verwandten wider Ire gegeben  
 brief vnd sigel glübd eider zusag vnd versprückhafft; Der befehlung der fünffhundert schatz vnd anderthalb  
 hundert Römischer gülden, als gollte. Davor Ich zu der erledigung off Ir flehlich die Dürge vnd selbstschuldur  
 worden bin; fütten vorzshundert vnd vorstellt, dass guld vnd auch vnd anderer mehr höhrer dergleichen  
 versachen willen; So von eurer Churfürstlichen hochwirdigen wider gollt kirchliche Majestat des heiligen Reichs  
 ordnung vnd billikeit gehandelt. Welche alle her Innzshundert lunge vnd vordriss beechten; Infall  
 Ich sie vnt. (doch mit befügung diesseben fünffhilt die zuveroffen) anzugeigen vnderlaß; her vnd  
 weil Ich mich gegen eurer Churfürstlichen hochwirdigen; allen den fern dazumachen vnd zugewandten mein  
 Ernsbalten verwardt haben vnd verwardt hermit in Crafft dits briefs dieselb mein her/geren eurer Für  
 fürstlichen hochwirdigen vnd den fern für mich mein dinnere; holtzer selffers selffers vnd alle die zshingere  
 selb off eurer Churfürstlichen hochwirdigen; ders vnderthan vnd verwandten schaden bringen mag; Dies selb  
 der fügen schrieben vnd gegeben möcht; vnd ob mir oder anderen abgemelten eynich vetter verwardt vunt  
 Ernsbalten not wer oder sein würdt; Dies selb will Ich hermit auch gottaus; doch her den die zshingere vnt  
 nonnen haben; So eurer Churfürstlichen hochwirdigen eynich mit ledernpflichten verwardt sein; In dunt  
 hab Ich mein angebotum Inm sigel zu vnd dits briefs getruget; Der geden ist; Amre den Dausent fünff hundert  
 zwunzig zwuyff mit vorken nach sanct Bartholomew des heiligen zwelf potro tage

Abb. 22: Fehdebrief Franz von Sickingens an den Kurfürsten von Trier, 1522.

**Lord of Renneberg**

**Niklas von Minkwitz  
(2,000 men plus artillery)**

**Bastard of Sombreffe**



**Count Reinhard  
of Bitsch**

**Franz von Sickingen –  
Main Army  
(600-1,000 knights,  
7-9,000 foot,  
artillery train)**

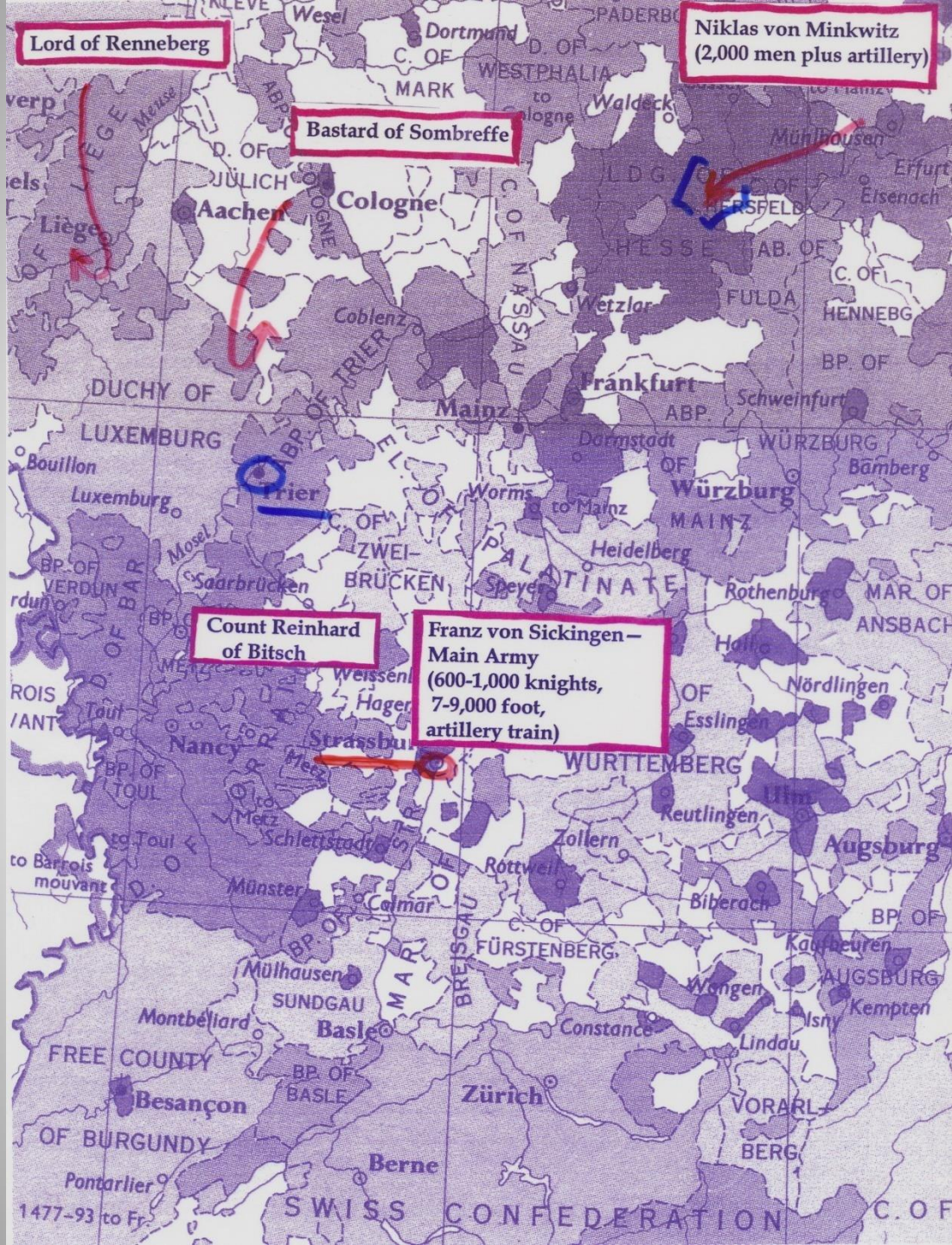
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**Archbishop Richard von Greiffenklau**  
**Mil. Cdr: Feldmarschall Gerlach von Isenburg**  
(700 city militia, 2,127 from Moselle towns,  
77 horsemen from Cologne, unknown number  
of Landsknechte: perhaps 5-6,000 defenders)

**Franz von Sickingen**  
(600-1,000 knights, 7-9,000 foot, artillery train;  
perhaps 10-12,000 total)

A historical map of the Rhine region, showing various territories and cities. A red line indicates a military route starting from the north, passing through Trier, Saarbrücken, and ending at Weissenburg. Two text boxes provide details about military forces at specific locations.

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**Trier.**

Matthäus Merian, Topographia.

- A. St. Paulinus. B. St. Maximin. C. St. Simeon. D. Porta Nigra. E. St. Martin. F. Deutschhaus. G. Domkirche. H. Unserer Frauen. I. St. Gangolph. K. Palatium. L. Alba Porta. M. Karthause. N. Alte Ruine. O. St. Barbara. P. St. Matthias.

In dem bürgerlichen Leben ist die Art der Erziehung  
 sehr verschieden, und die Eltern haben die Freiheit  
 zu wählen, ob sie ihre Kinder in eine Schule  
 schicken wollen, oder sie zu Hause unterrichten  
 lassen. In der Regel ist die Schulpflicht  
 gesetzlich vorgeschrieben, und die Eltern  
 sind verpflichtet, ihre Kinder in die Schule  
 zu schicken. In manchen Ländern ist die  
 Schulpflicht nur für ein bestimmtes Alter  
 vorgeschrieben, in anderen Ländern ist sie  
 bis zur Vollendung der Schulzeit  
 vorgeschrieben. In manchen Ländern  
 ist die Schulpflicht auch für die Eltern  
 vorgeschrieben, wenn sie ihre Kinder  
 nicht in die Schule schicken wollen.  
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**Franz von Sickingen**  
(600-1,000 knights, 7-9,000 foot, artillery train;  
perhaps 10-12,000 total)

The map shows the Holy Roman Empire divided into various territories. Key regions include the Electorate of Trier (blue), the Palatinate (pink), the Archbishopric of Mainz (yellow), and the Bishopric of Metz (orange). Major cities like Aachen, Cologne, Trier, Metz, Strassburg, and Mainz are marked. The Rhine river is shown flowing through the center. Three callout boxes provide details on military forces: Franz von Sickingen (top left), Archbishop Richard von Greiffenklau (middle left), and Elector Ludwig V of the Palatinate (middle right).

**Landgraf Philipp of Hesse**  
(1,000 horsemen, 8,000 foot)

**Archbishop Richard von Greiffenklau**  
**Mil. Cdr: Feldmarschall Gerlach von Isenburg**  
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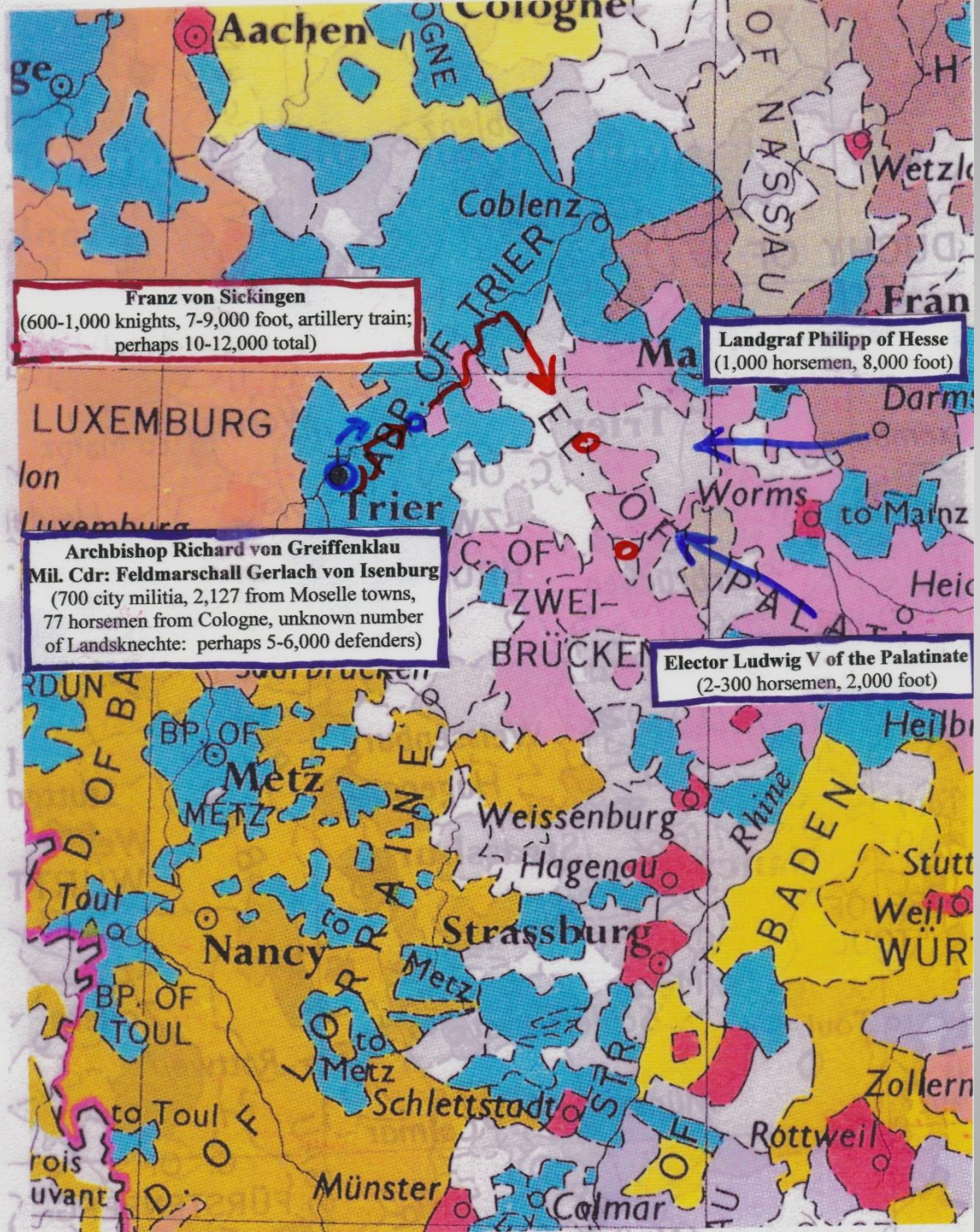
**Elector Ludwig V of the Palatinate**  
(2-300 horsemen, 2,000 foot)

**Franz von Sickingen**  
(600-1,000 knights, 7-9,000 foot, artillery train;  
perhaps 10-12,000 total)

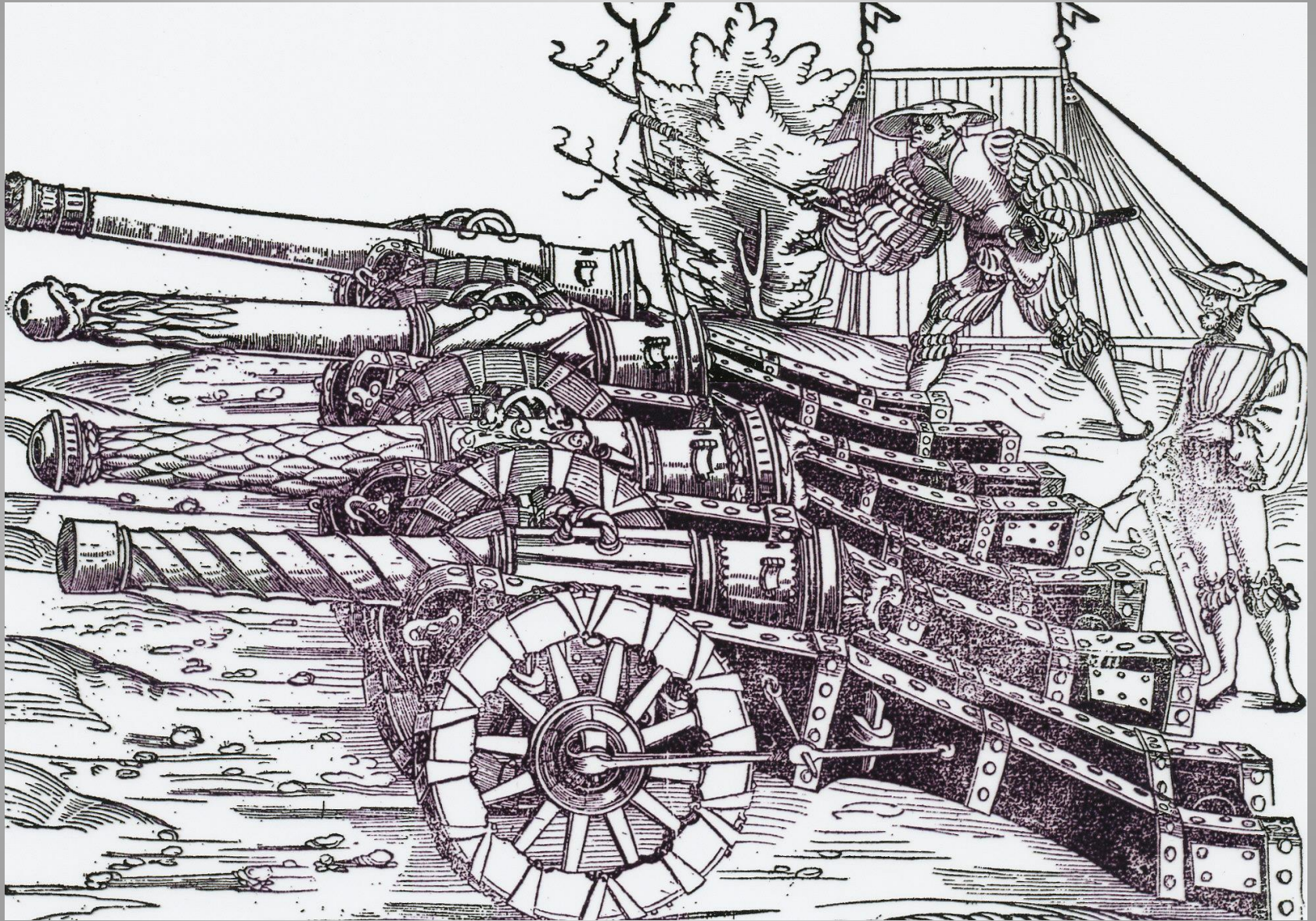
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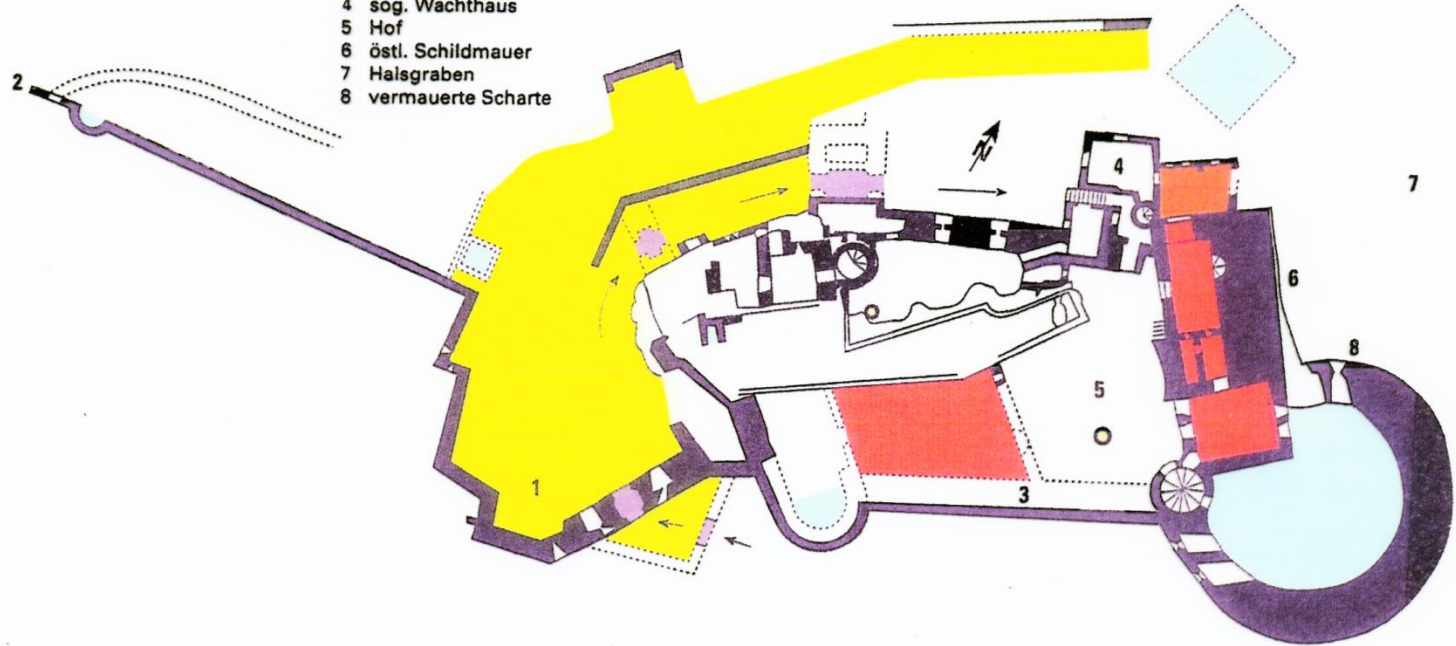






# Nanstein

- 1 Sternwerk
- 2 Stadtmauer
- 3 südl. Schildmauer
- 4 sog. Wachthaus
- 5 Hof
- 6 östl. Schildmauer
- 7 Halsgraben
- 8 vermauerte Scharte



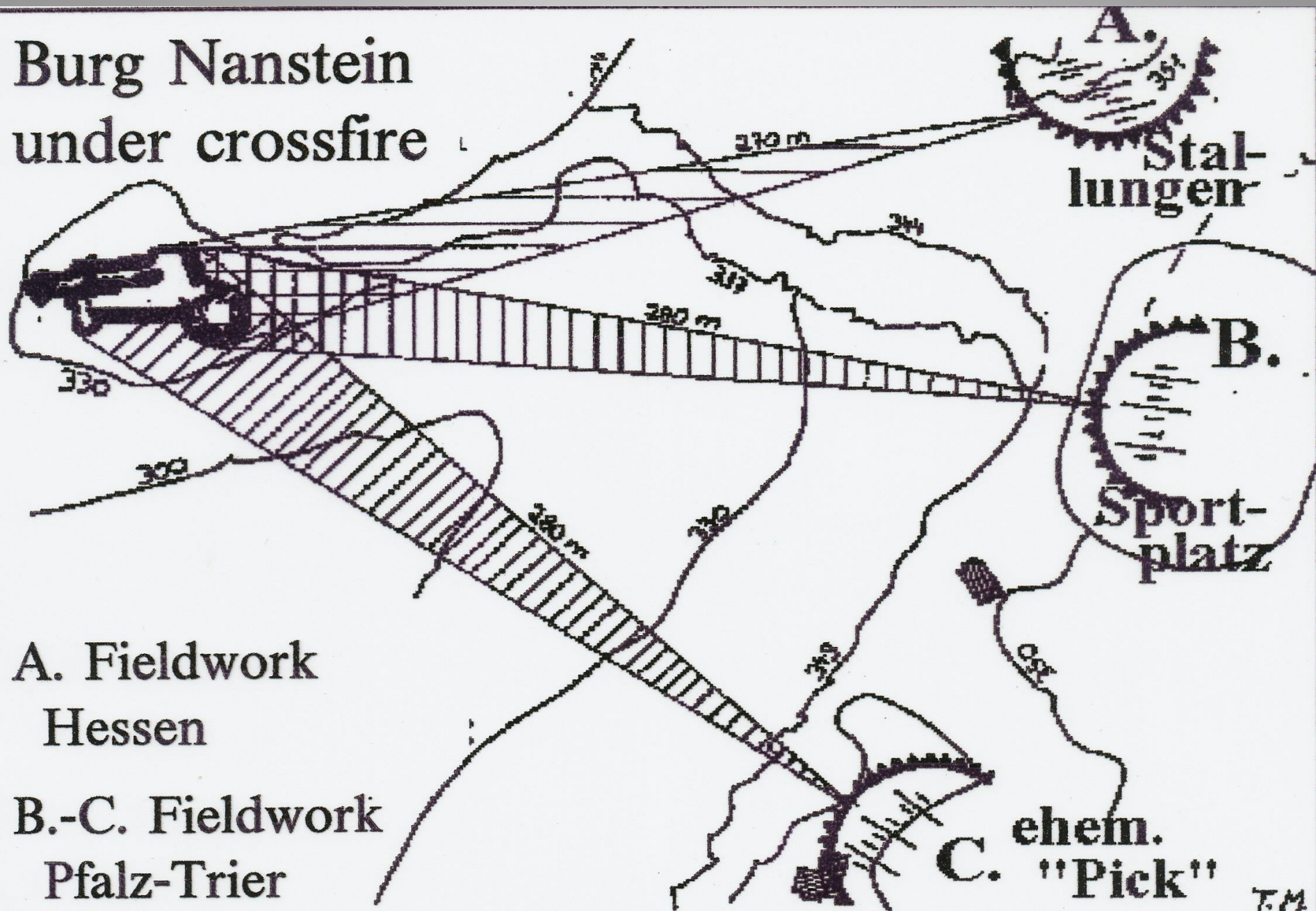
Maßstab 1 : 1 000



	Bergfried		Wohnbauten		Brunnenturm
	Türme		Wirtschaftsgebäude		Brunnen / Zisterne
	Toranlagen		Sakralbauten		Zwinger



# Burg Nanstein under crossfire



# Burg Nannstein

bei Landstuhl/Pfalz



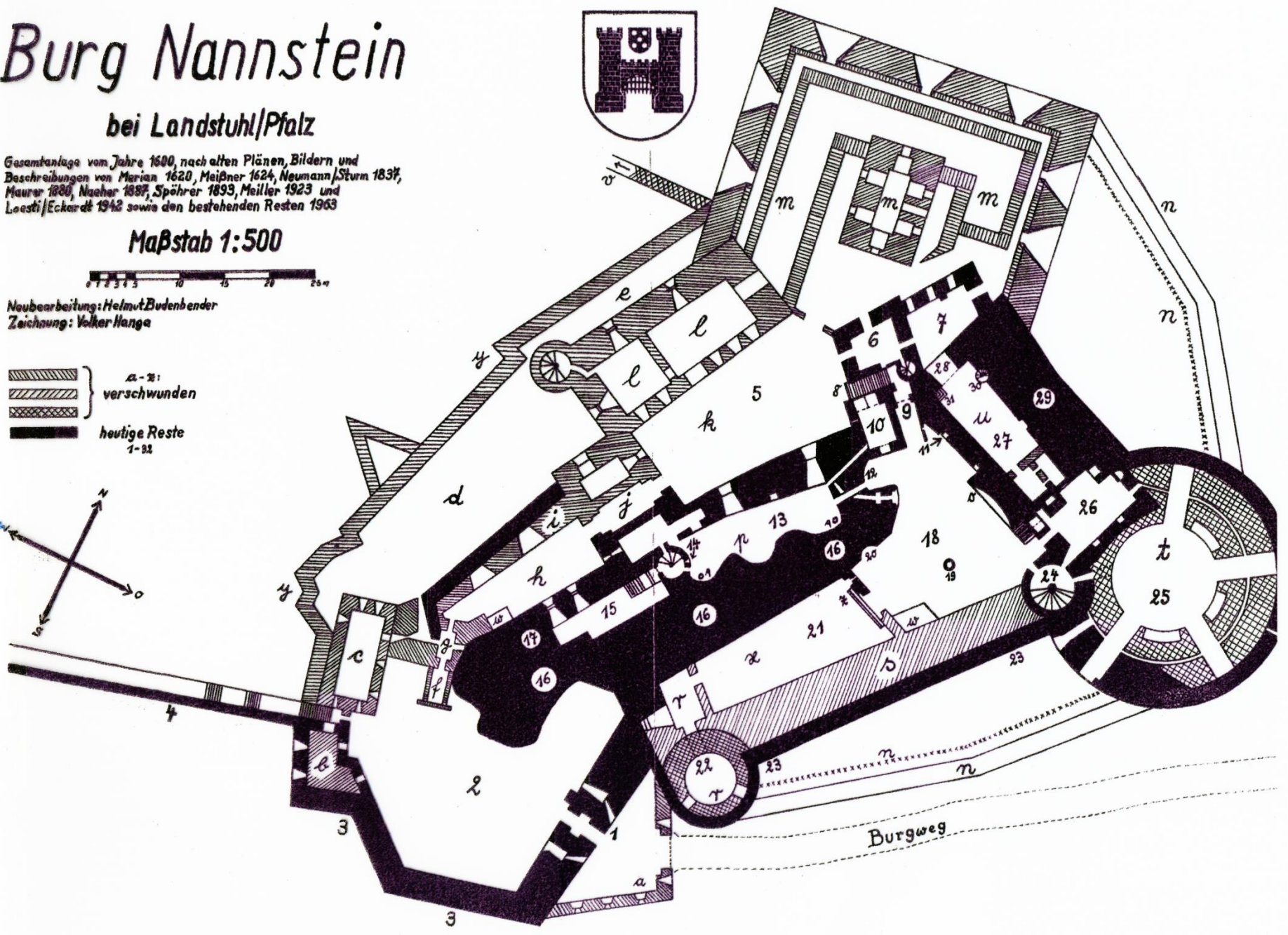
Gesamtanlage vom Jahre 1600, nach alten Plänen, Bildern und Beschreibungen von Merian 1620, Meißner 1624, Neumann/Sturm 1837, Maurer 1880, Naehrer 1887, Spöhrer 1893, Mailler 1923 und Loesti/Eckardt 1942 sowie den bestehenden Resten 1963

Maßstab 1:500

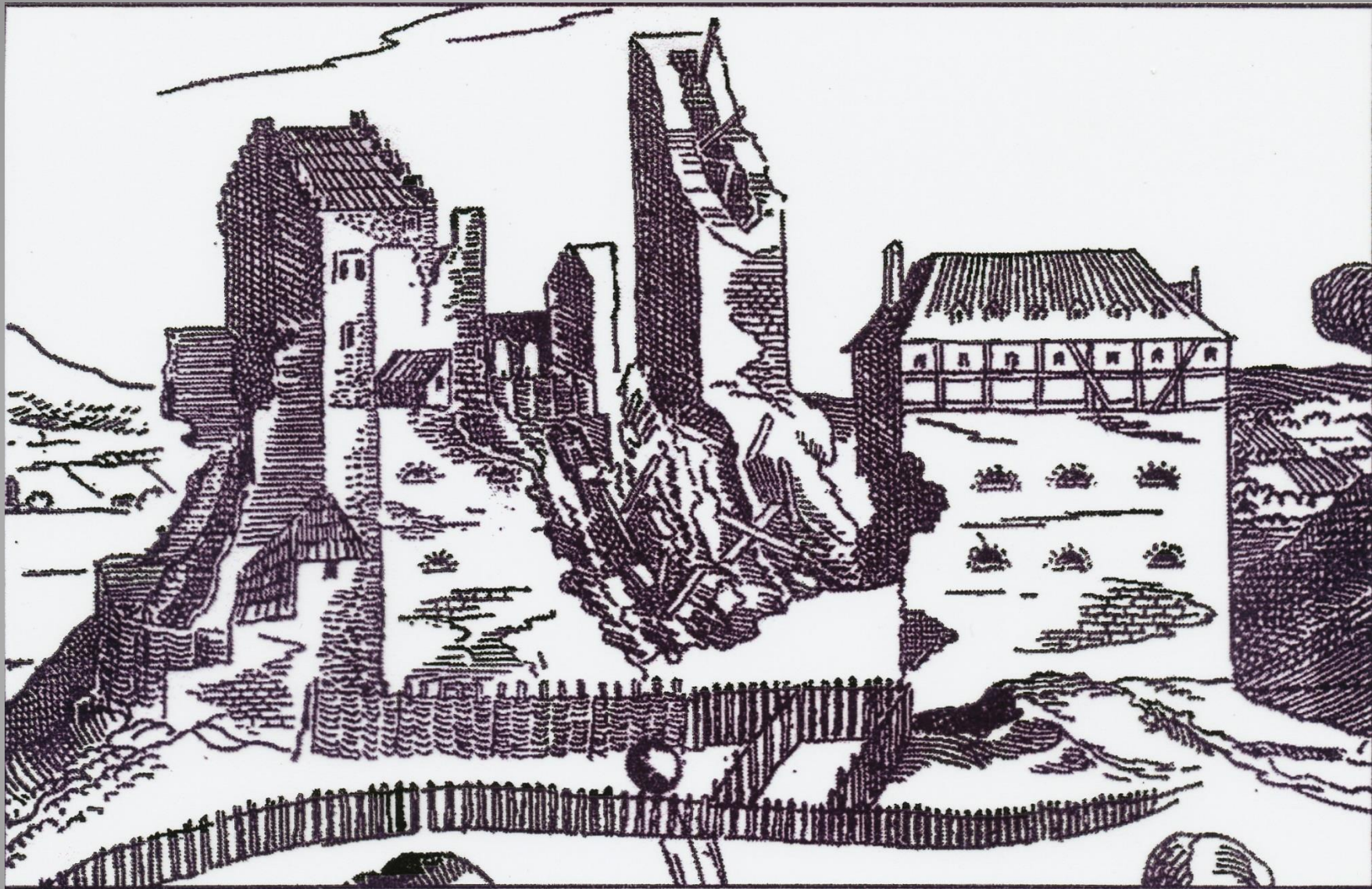


Neubearbeitung: Helmut Budenbender  
Zeichnung: Volker Hange

- a - z: verschwunden
- heutige Reste 1 - 32



*meinen Wein* *nachdem*  
*Salzgasse*  
L O → P 9 · T T 0 7 P L, L 7 0, → 0, L 7 8 3, T T 0 0,  
Z 7 Y 1 1, 7 0 0 1 1 7 C 3 · 1 1 E Y 0 P, 8 2, X 7 3 E 0 Y 1 1 8,  
P 0 Y 1 1 8 3, T T 0 0 7 E P 7 0 P, Z 7 3, 7 0 0 8 8 0 P,  
8 3 T T 7 C 0 P, E P, L E 1 1 0 P, 9 T T 8 Y 1 1 7 0 8 8 0 P!



Nanstein Castle (seen from the mountain) after the gunfiring in Bellum Sickinganum, Straßburg 1626, copperplate print, enlarged clipping in accordance with a rug from the Heidelberg Castle in 1528.





zwarlicher bericht: wie von den drey  
en Churfürsten vnd Fürsten/ Namlich Trier/ Pfalz/  
vnd Hessen/ weyland Frantz von Sickingen vberzo-  
gen. Auch was sich im selbigen mit eroberung seiner vnd  
anderer Schlösser/ vnd sunst von tag zu tag begeben/  
durch den Ernhalt verzeychet.

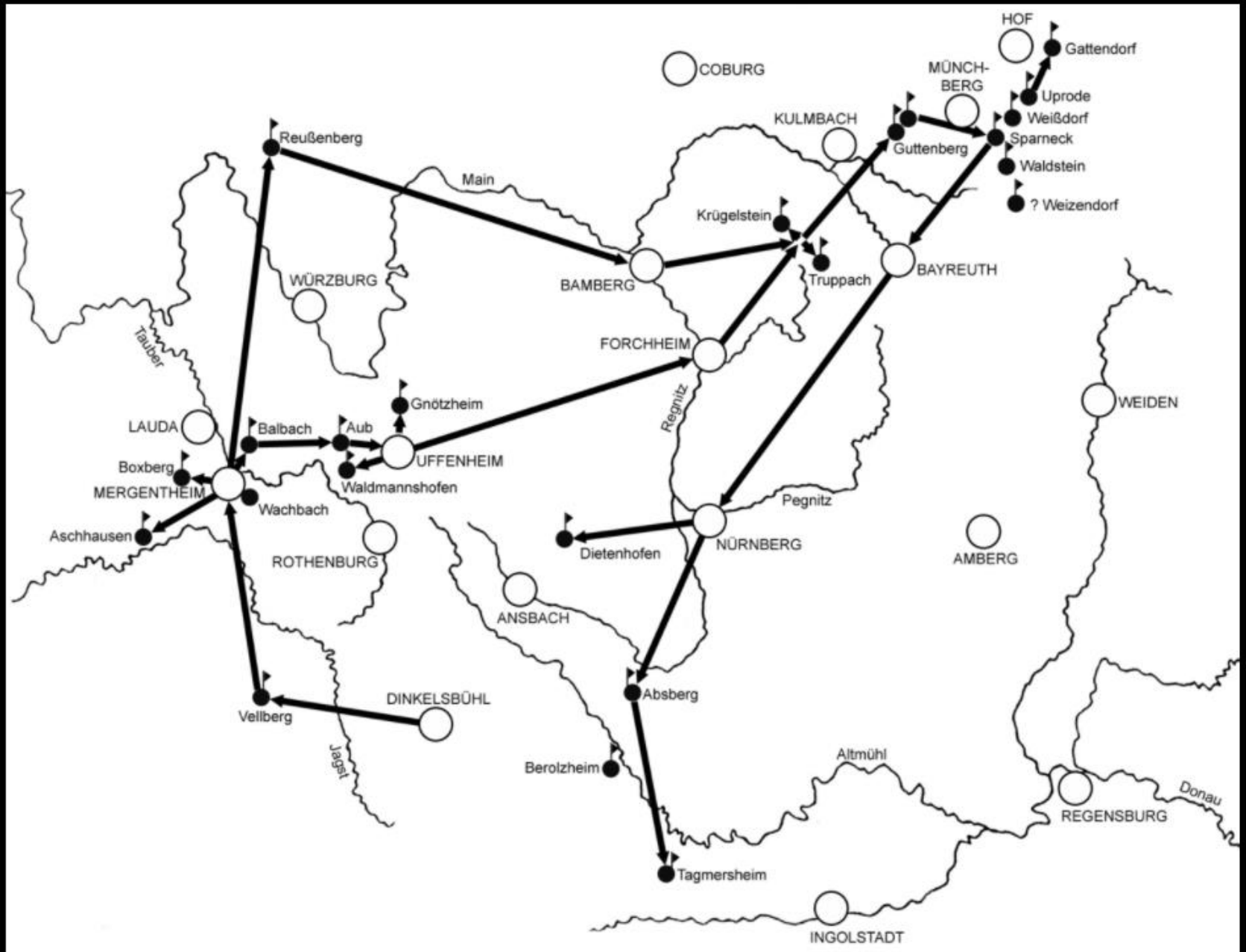
Anno M. D. xxij.







Route of the Swabian League army in the punitive expedition of 1523





## Ulrich von Hutten



Ulrich von Hutten, c. 1522

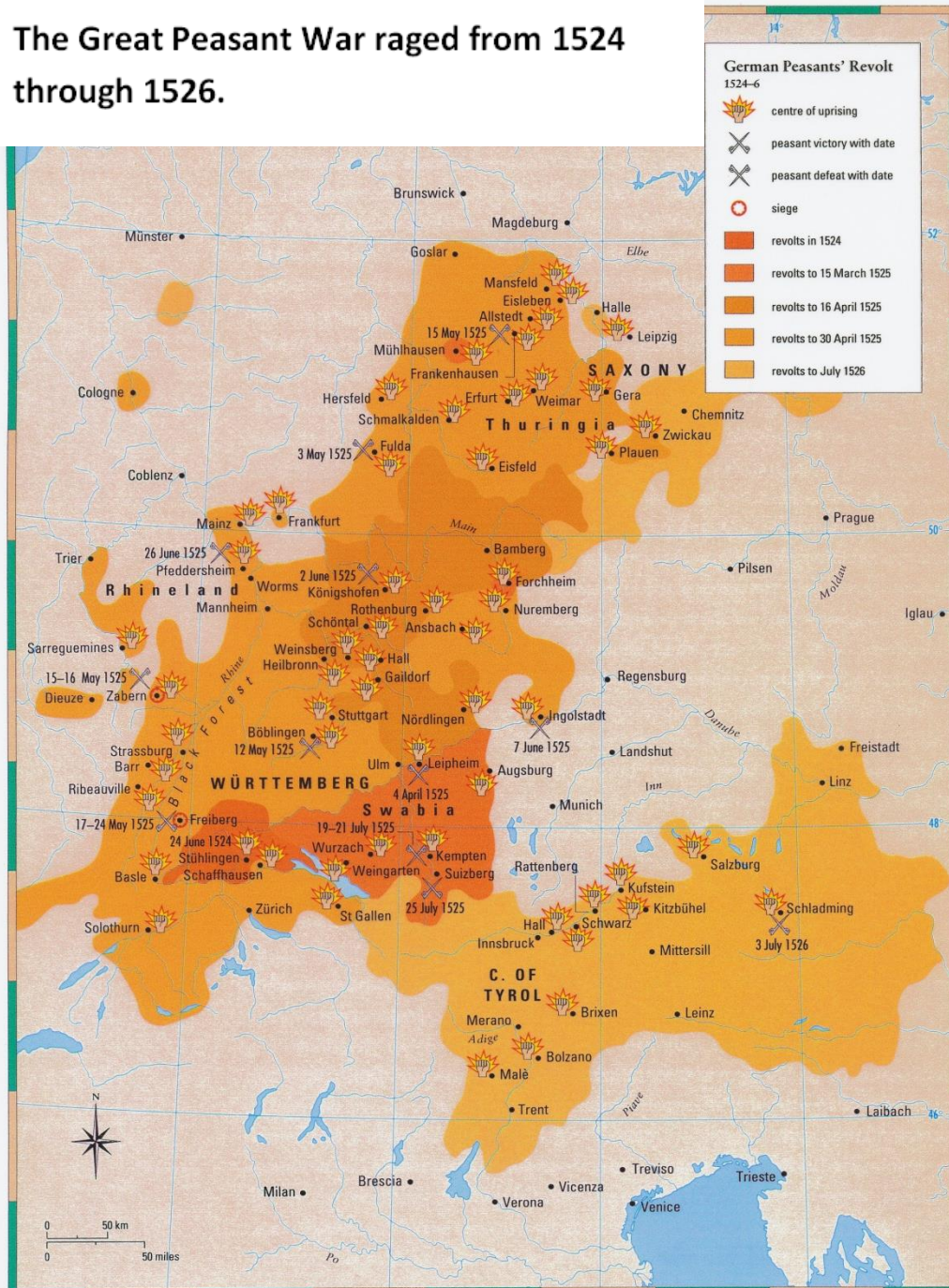
<b>Born</b>	21 April 1488 Burg Steckelberg, near Schlüchtern, Hesse
<b>Died</b>	29 August 1523 (aged 35) Ufenau on Lake Zurich
<b>Occupation</b>	Monk, knight, writer
<b>Education</b>	Theology
<b>Alma mater</b>	University of Greifswald
<b>Period</b>	Reformation
<b>Literary movement</b>	Reformation, Renaissance humanism, German Renaissance
<b>Notable works</b>	Epistolae obscurorum virorum De Morbo Gallico Ars versificandi Nemo

Following the defeat of the Knights' Revolt, Hutten tried to convince the famous humanist Erasmus of Rotterdam to side with the Reformation. Erasmus refused, remaining a Catholic, and he also refused to see Hutten when the latter came to Basel in 1523, mortally ill and impoverished, to see him. Their estrangement culminated in a literary quarrel between the two humanists.

Hutten died in seclusion on the island of Ufenau on Lake Zurich.



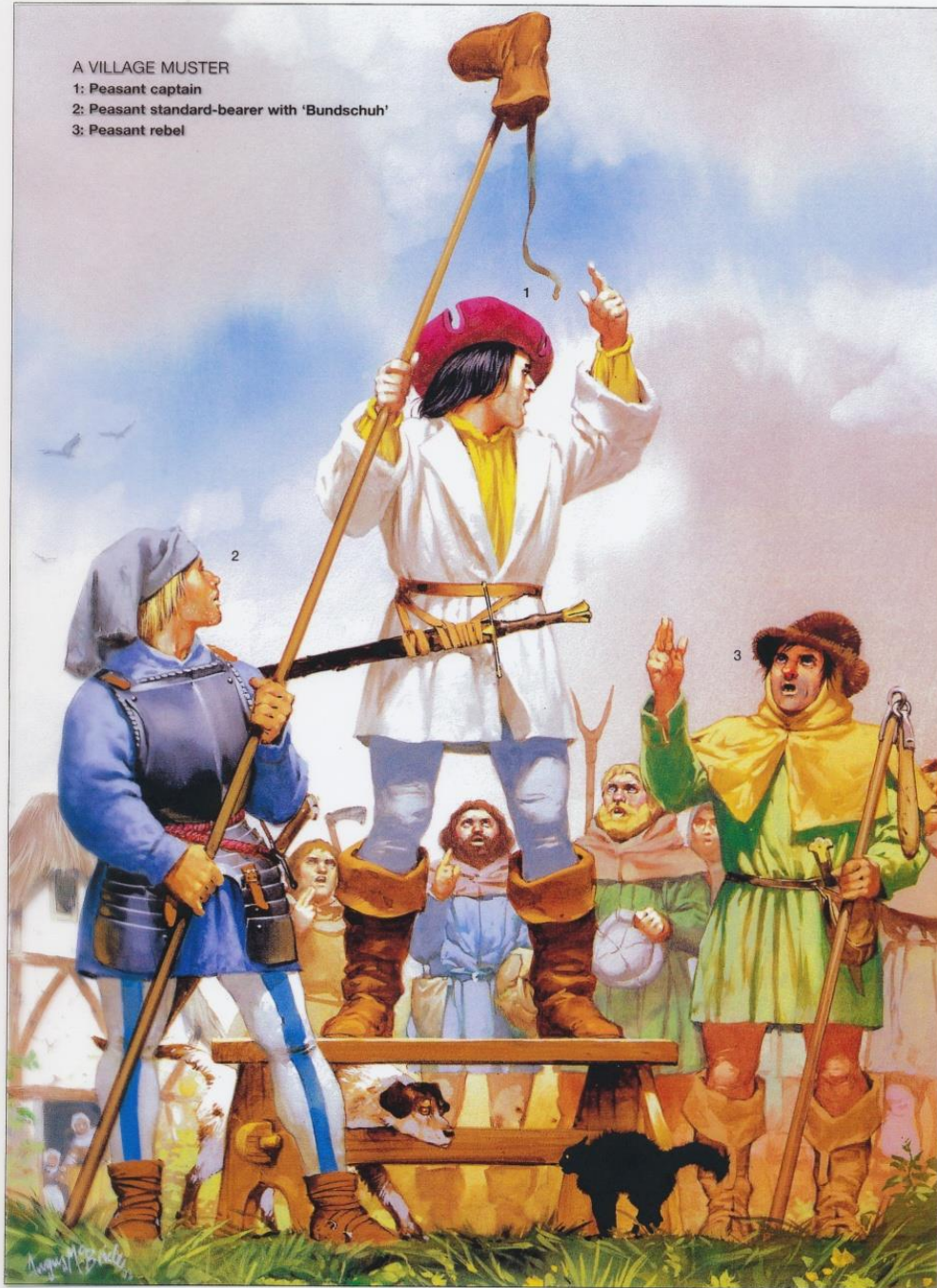
# The Great Peasant War raged from 1524 through 1526.





A VILLAGE MUSTER

- 1: Peasant captain
- 2: Peasant standard-bearer with 'Bundschuh'
- 3: Peasant rebel

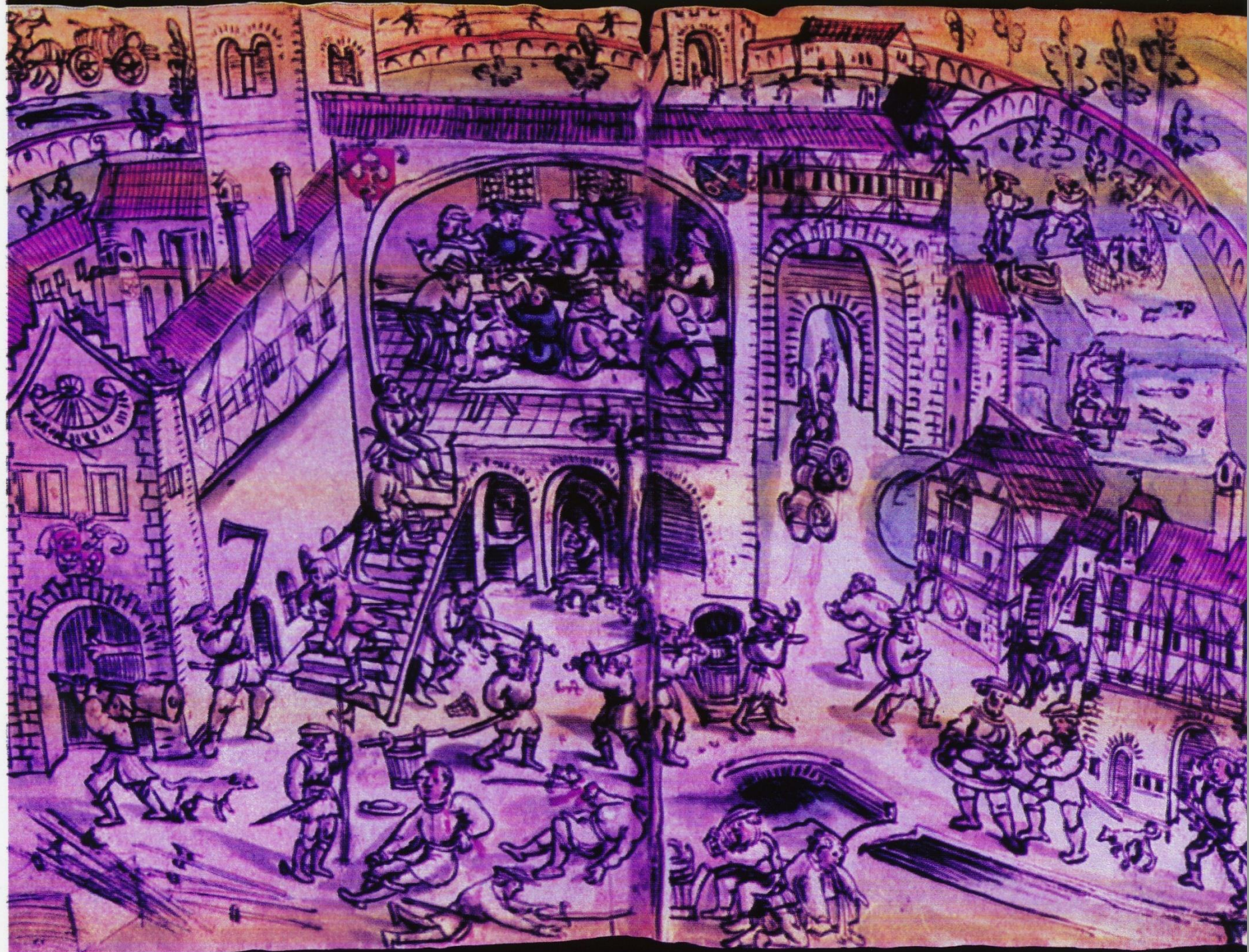


The peasants (and some townspeople) in southwest Germany were angered by attempts at enforcing new “Roman Law,” adding tax burdens to traditional unwritten law.

They were also inspired by the turbulent and unsettled religious developments of the time, and came to believe that a return to Biblical simplicity was possible in society.



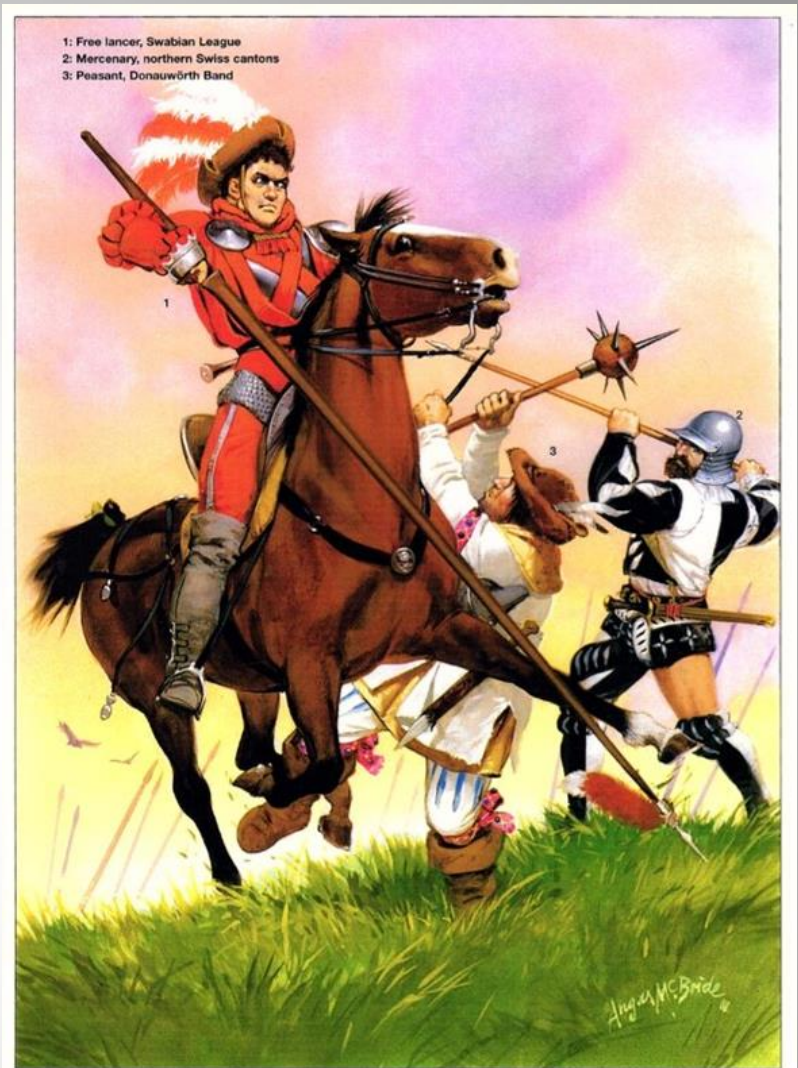
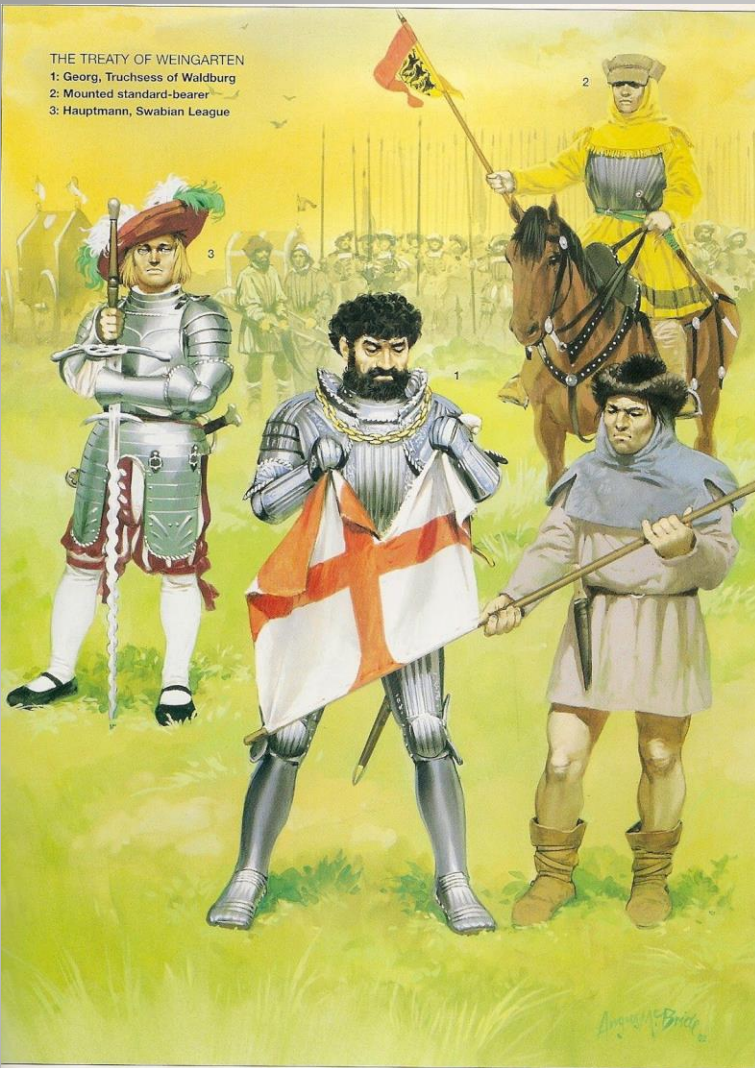
Some of the free Imperial Knights were coerced or threatened into joining the uprising.



PEASANTS STORMING A MONASTERY

- 1: Landsknecht crossbowman
- 2: Gaildorf peasant
- 3: Peasant woman



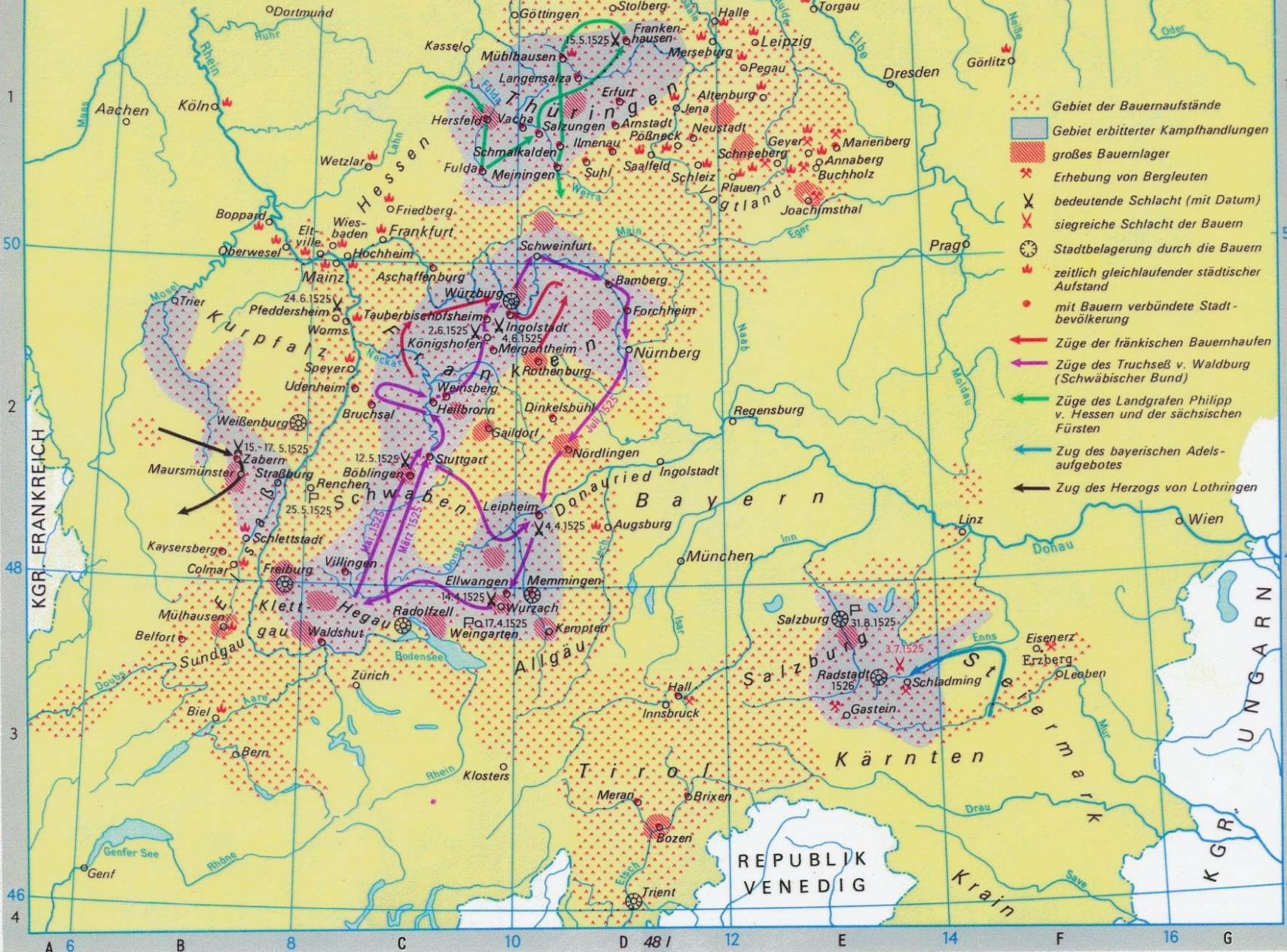


The enthusiastic but untrained peasant armies were crushed by the organized military forces of the German princes.

# Der deutsche Bauernkrieg 1524-1526

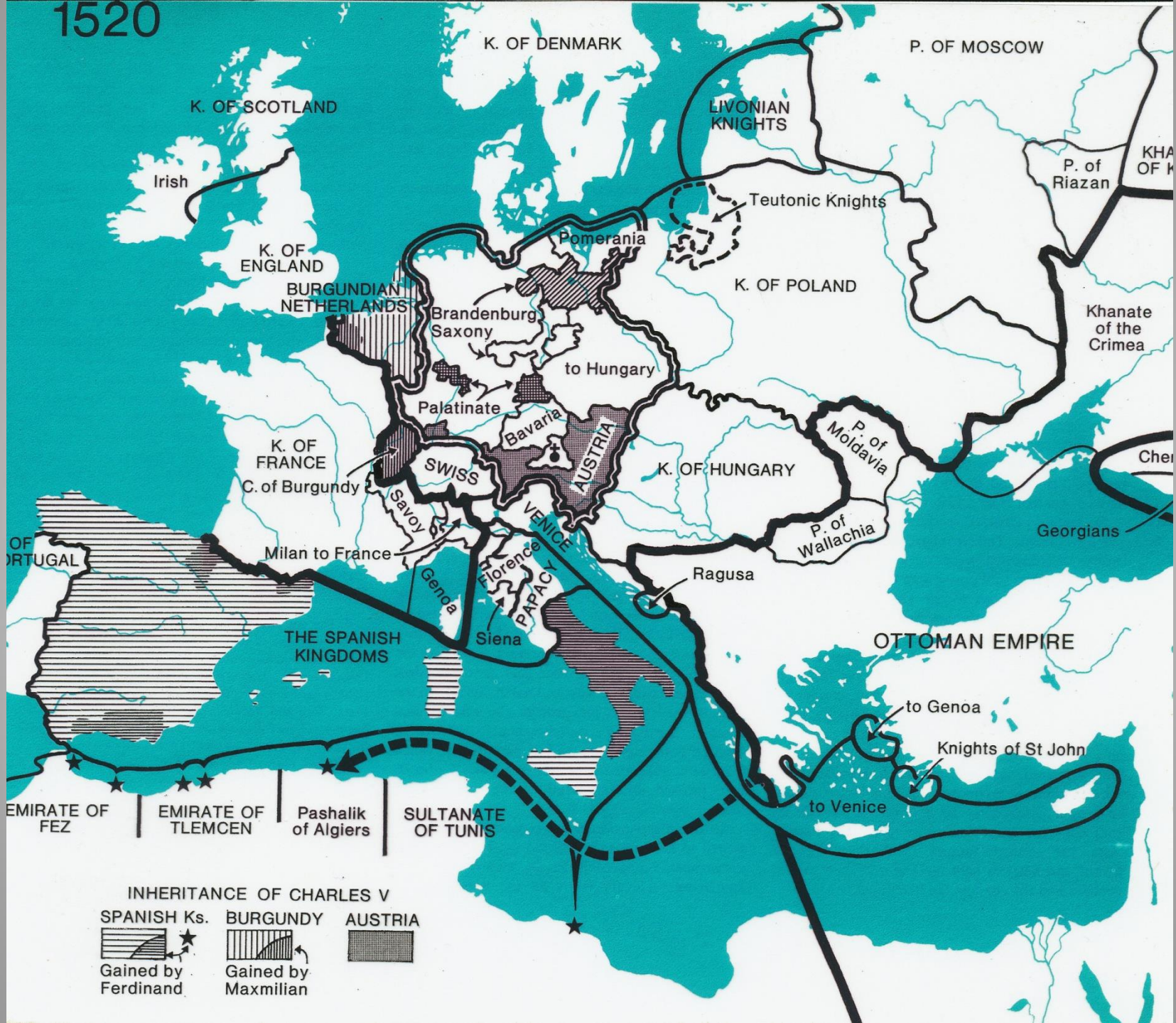
1 : 5 000 000

KGR. POLEN



- Gebiet der Bauernaufstände
- Gebiet erbitterter Kampfhandlungen
- großes Bauernlager
- ✕ Erhebung von Bergleuten
- ✕ bedeutende Schlacht (mit Datum)
- ✕ siegreiche Schlacht der Bauern
- Stadtbelagerung durch die Bauern
- ✎ zeitlich gleichlaufender städtischer Aufstand
- mit Bauern verbündete Stadtbevölkerung
- Züge der fränkischen Bauernhaufen
- Züge des Truchseß v. Waldburg (Schwäbischer Bund)
- Züge des Landgrafen Philipp v. Hessen und der sächsischen Fürsten
- Zug des bayerischen Adelsaufgebotes
- Zug des Herzogs von Lothringen

1520





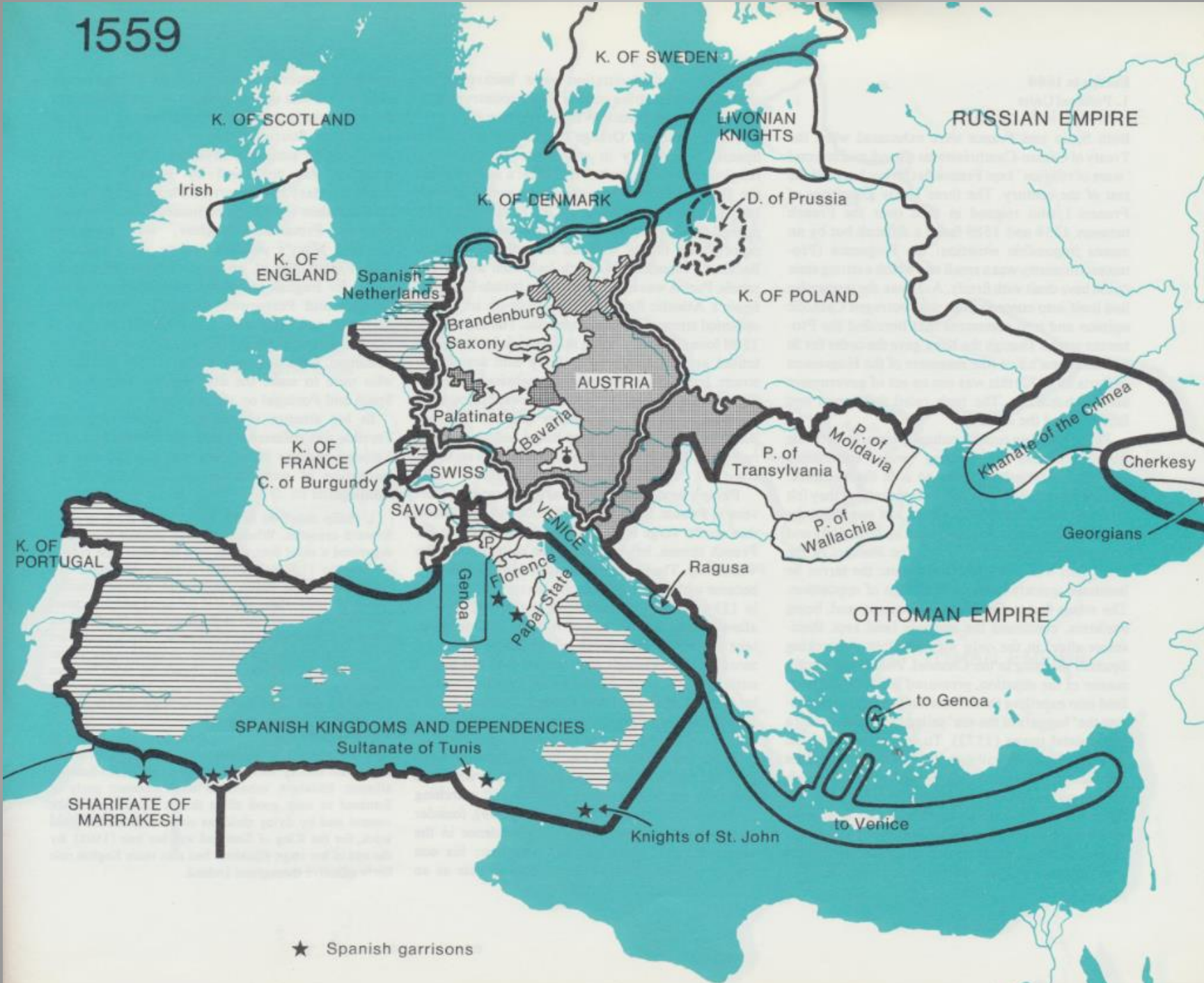


**“It’s always something!”**

## CHRONOLOGY Politics and the German Reformation

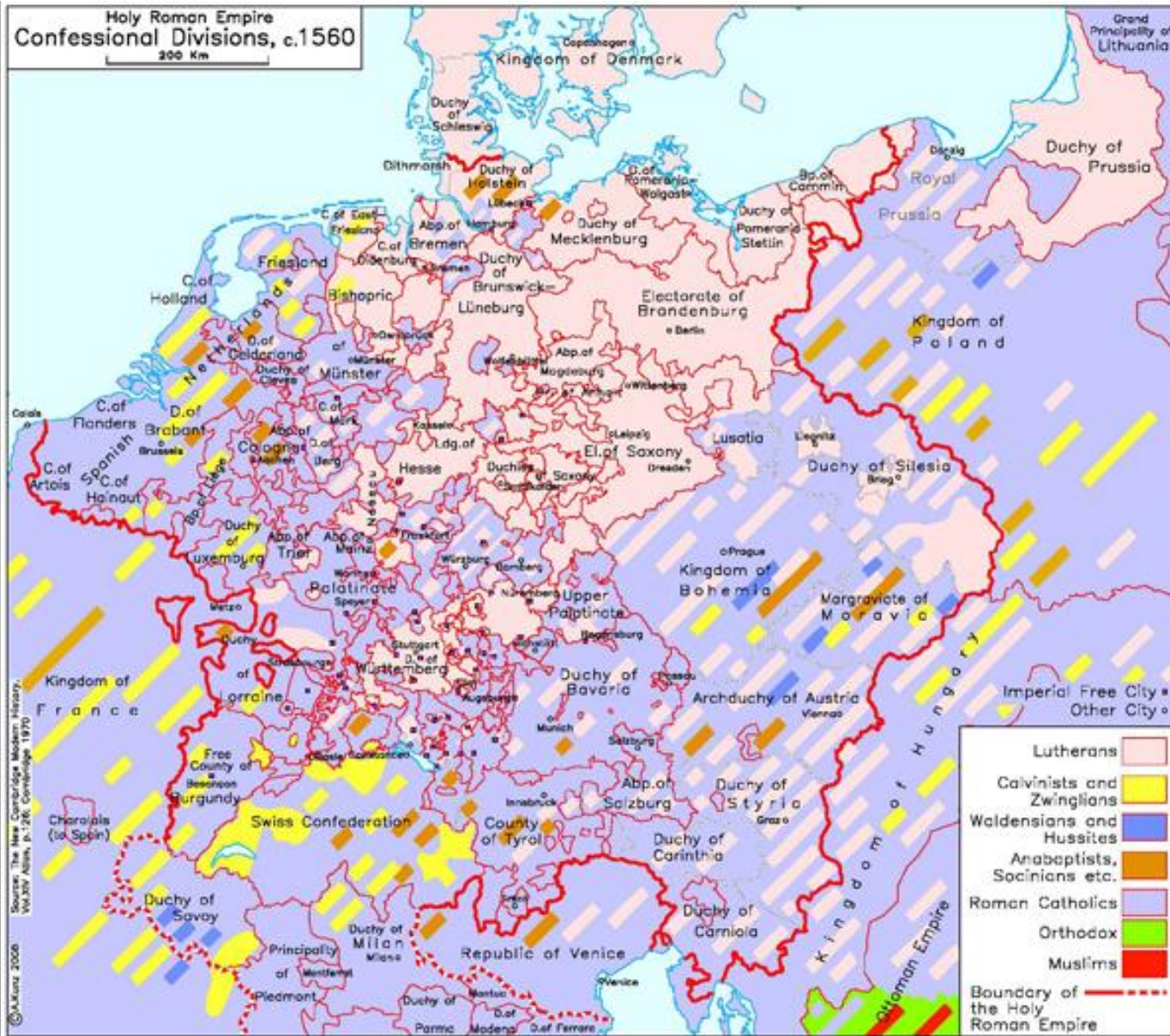
<b>Event</b>	<b>Dates</b>
First Habsburg-Valois War	1521–1525
Second Habsburg-Valois War	1527–1529
Defeat of the Turks at Vienna	1529
Diet of Augsburg	1530
Third Habsburg-Valois War	1535–1538
Fourth Habsburg-Valois War	1542–1544
Schmalkaldic Wars	1546–1555
Peace of Augsburg	1555

1559



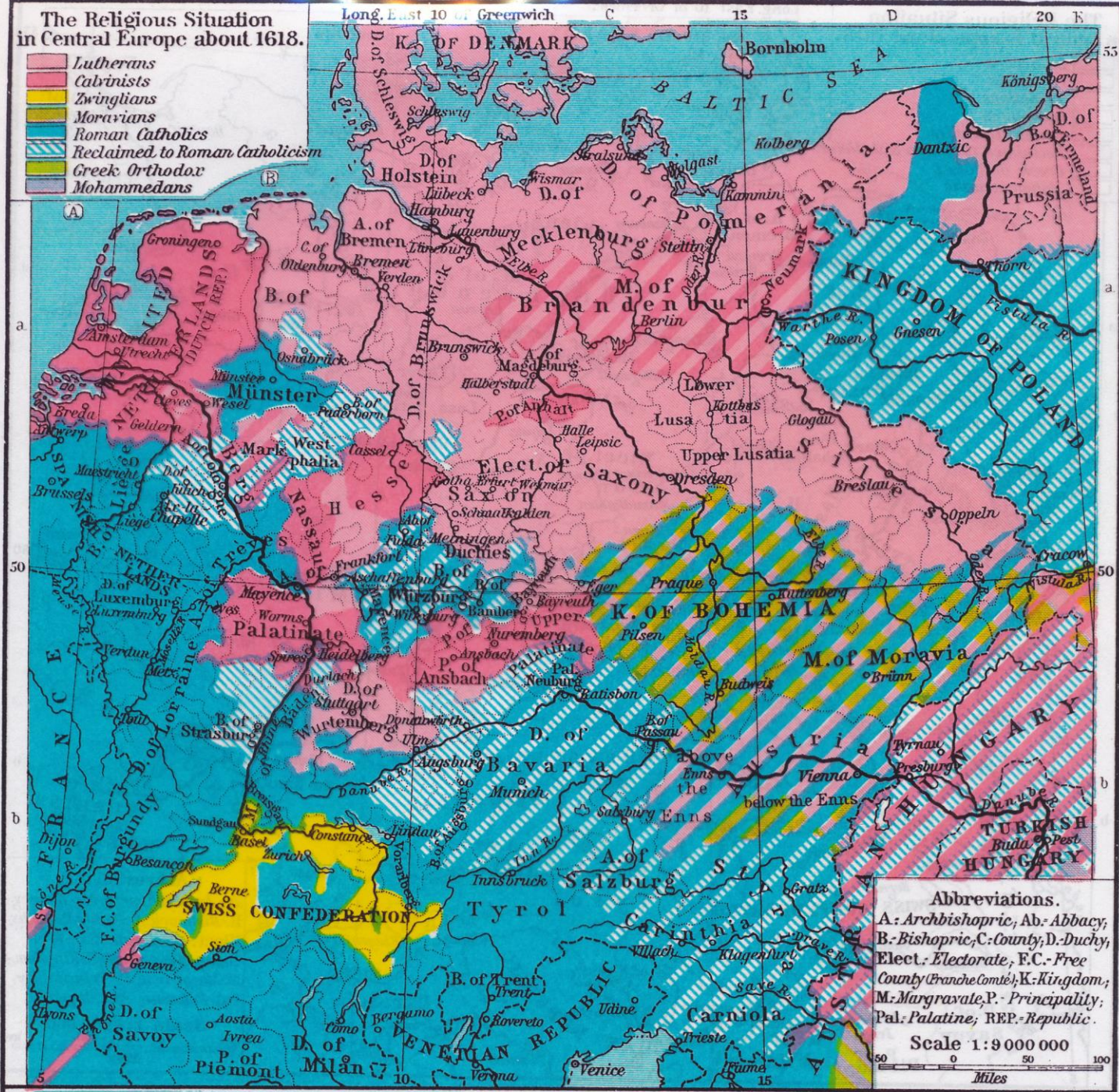
★ Spanish garrisons

1555— the Peace of Augsburg confirms religious division and balance between Catholics and Lutherans.



# The Religious Situation in Central Europe about 1618.

- Lutherans
- Calvinists
- Zwinglians
- Moravians
- Roman Catholics
- Reclaimed to Roman Catholicism
- Greek Orthodox
- Mohammedans



**Abbreviations.**  
 A: Archbishopric, Ab: Abbacy,  
 B: Bishopric, C: County, D: Duchy,  
 Elect: Electorate, E.C.: Free  
 County (Branche Comté); K.: Kingdom;  
 M.: Margravate, P.: Principality;  
 Pal.: Palatine, REP.: Republic.

**Scale 1:9 000 000**

50 0 50 100  
 Miles

1648



SCOTLAND

K. OF SWEDEN

RUSSIAN EMPIRE

IRELAND

K. OF DENMARK

ENGLAND

DUTCH  
REPUBLIC

to Sweden

K. OF POLAND

Brandenburg-Prussia

Spanish Netherlands

Magdeburg  
Palatinate

Saxony

AUSTRIA

to France  
K. OF FRANCE  
C. of Burgundy

Bavaria

SWISS

SAVOY

VENICE

Ragusa

P. of  
Transylvania

P. of  
Moldavia

Khanate of the Crimea

Cherkesy

Wallachia

ALGAL

P. of Catalonia

Genoa

Florence

Papal State

SPANISH  
KINGDOMS  
AND  
DEPENDENCIES

OTTOMAN EMPIRE

RIFATE OF  
ARRAKESH

# The Peace of Westphalia 1648

## • Checkmates Counter Reformation

- Renewed the terms of the Peace of Augsburg
  - Added Calvinism to list as acceptable faiths
  - Catholic claims to church territories were abandoned
  - HRE is downsized
    - Dutch and Swiss are independent
    - French get territories in Lorraine and rights in Alsace
    - Sweden received territories in northern Germany
    - Mouth of the German rivers were controlled by non-Germans
    - Oder, Elbe and Weser by Sweden
    - Rhine and Scheldt by Dutch
    - Constitution of the peace is victory for states rights
    - Marks the advent in international law of the modern European Staatensystem or system of sovereign states
    - Use of balance of power
    - the end of a possible “unified” or universal monarchy in Europe
    - Numerous independent states were to exist

1715



☆ British overseas bases  
---> March of Charles XII 1706-9

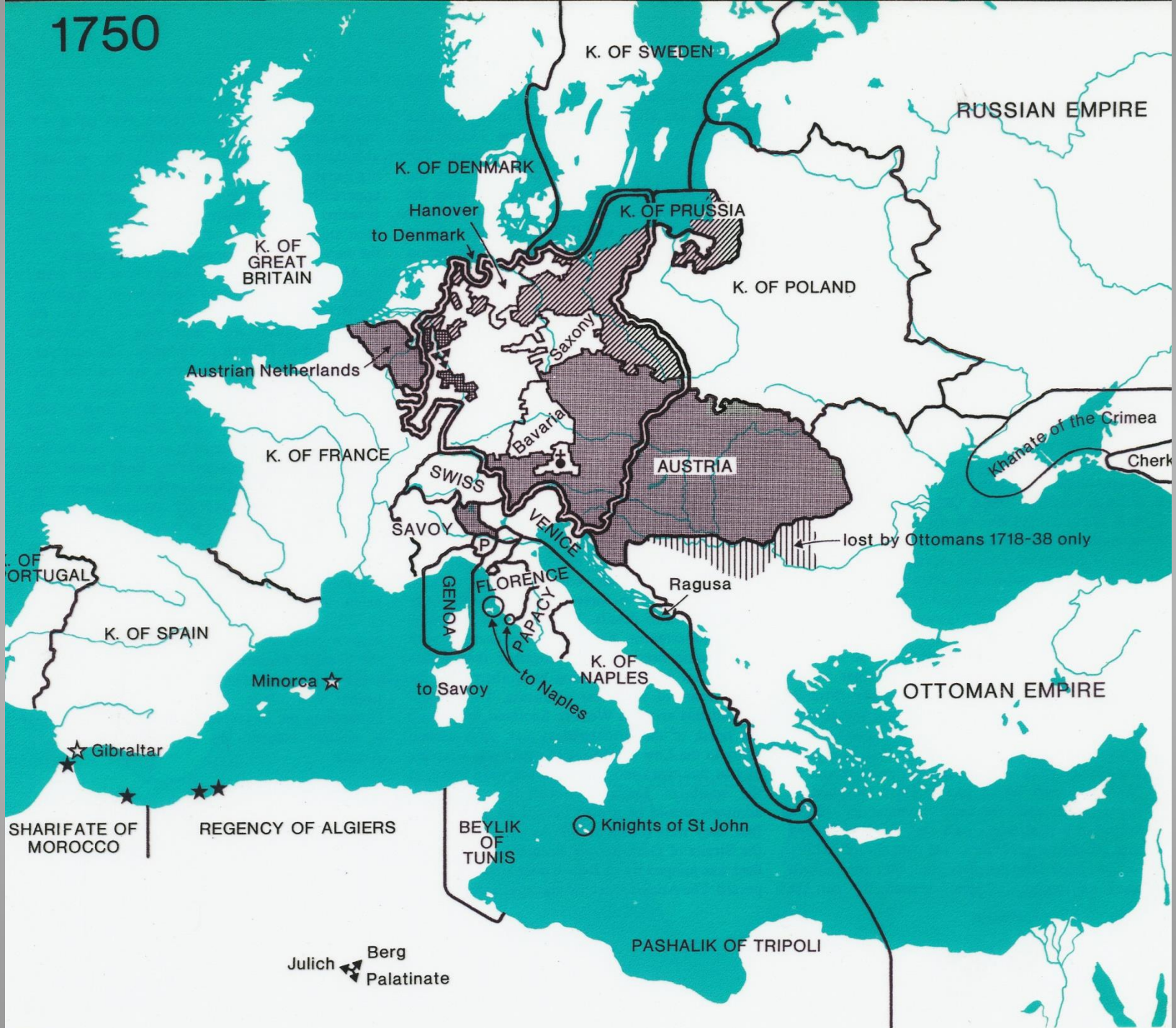
**Power Politics enters Germany.....**



**Frederick II, the Great, King of Prussia**



1750



K. OF SWEDEN

RUSSIAN EMPIRE

K. OF DENMARK

Hanover  
to Denmark

K. OF PRUSSIA

K. OF GREAT  
BRITAIN

K. OF POLAND

Austrian Netherlands

Saxony

K. OF FRANCE

Bavaria

AUSTRIA

Khanate of the Crimea

Cherk

SWISS

SAVOY

VENICE

Ragusa

lost by Ottomans 1718-38 only

K. OF PORTUGAL

K. OF SPAIN

Minorca ★

to Savoy

FLORENCE

PAPACY

K. OF NAPLES

OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Gibraltar ★

SHARIFATE OF MOROCCO

REGENCY OF ALGIERS

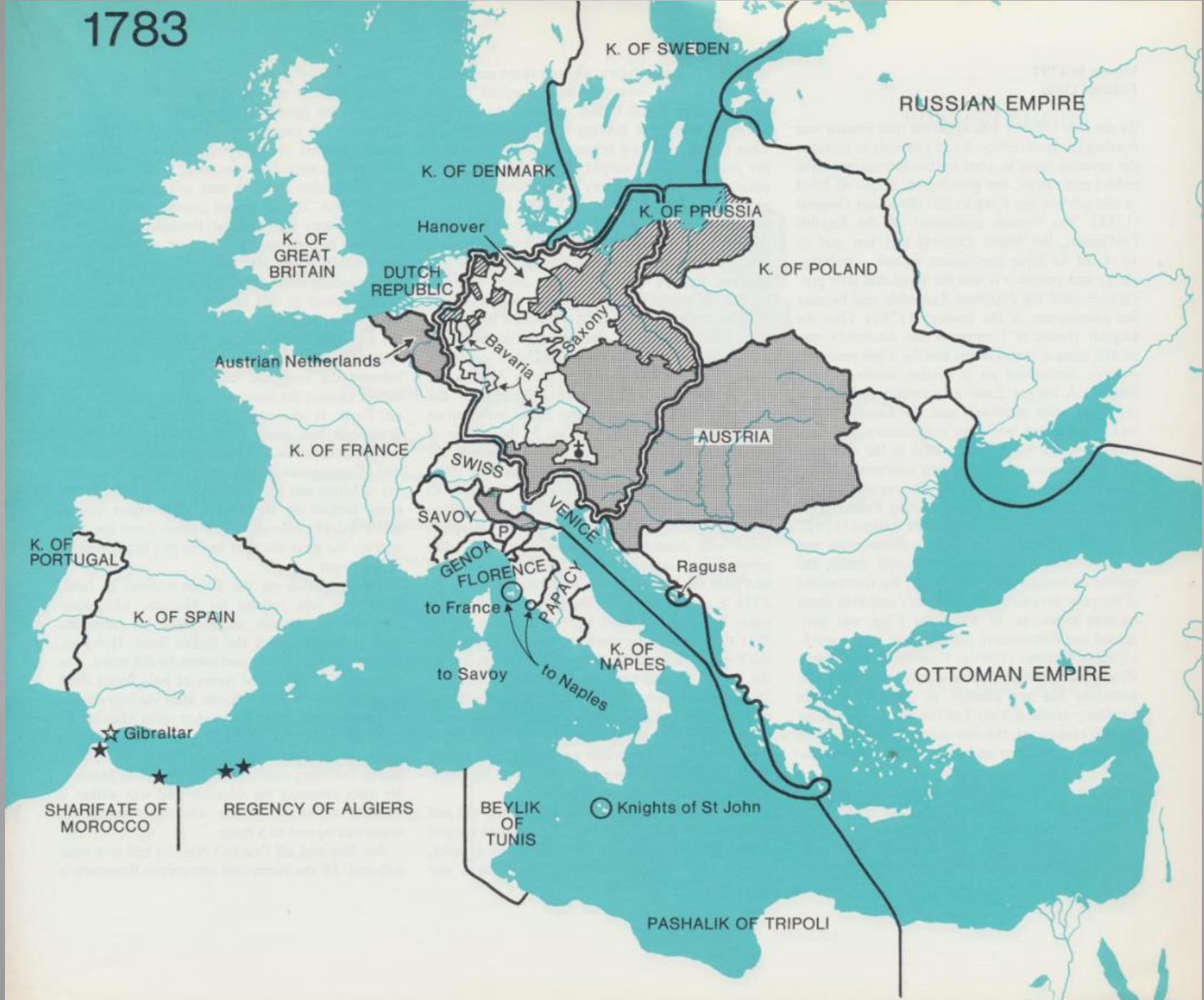
BEYLIK OF TUNIS

Knights of St John

PASHALIK OF TRIPOLI

Julich Berg  
Palatinate

1783



**Abkürzungen:**

anh.	- zu Anhalt	köln.	- zu Köln
bad.	- zu Baden	main.	- zu Mainz
bayr.	- zu Bayern	mein.	- zu Meiningen
bayreuth.	- zu Bayreuth	nass.	- zu Nassau
coburg.	- zu Coburg	saax.	- zu Saaxen
eichst.	- zu Eichstätt	preuß.	- zu Preußen
eidgenöss.	- zur Eidgenossenschaft	regensb.	- zu Regensburg
fränk.	- zu Fränkisch	saalb.	- zu Saalbuch
habsb.	- zu Habsburg	schwab.	- zu Schwaben
hamb.	- zu Hamburg	wald.	- zu Waldeck
hann.	- zu Hannover	wein.	- zu Weimar
hess.	- zu Hessen	würt.	- zu Württemberg
hild.	- zu Hildesheim		



1797



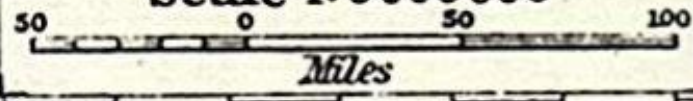


**GERMANY and ITALY in 1803**  
 after the Principal Decree  
 of the Imperial Deputation  
 (Reichsdeputationshauptschluss).  
 Territorial combinations dissolved  
 before 1803 are indicated by hair  
 line type. The smaller divisions  
 of Germany are left uncolored.  
 For examples of the detailed process  
 of mediatisation effected by the  
 Principal Decree of the Imperial  
 Deputation, see pages 142, 143.  
 D. Duchy of E. Electorate. E.A. Terr.  
 of the Electoral Archchancellor.  
 K. Kingdom. N.O. Nassau-Orange.  
 Pr. Prussia. Rep. Republic. S.  
 To Salzburg. Fort. Fort.  
 Imperial Cities.  
 Scale 1:9000000  
 Miles



**GERMANY and ITALY in 1803** after the Principal Decree of the Imperial Deputation (Reichsdeputationshauptschluss). Territorial combinations dissolved before 1803 are indicated by hair-line type. The smaller divisions of Germany are left uncolored. For examples of the detailed process of mediatisation, effected by the Principal Decree of the Imperial Deputation, see pages 142, 143. D. Duchy; E.: Electorate; E.A.: Territory of the Electoral Archchancellor; K: Kingdom; N.O.: Nassau-Orange; Pr.: To Prussia; Rep.: Republic; S: To Salzburg. ★ Fortress.

□ Imperial Cities.  
**Scale 1: 9000000**



The so-called *Rittersturm* ("Assault on the Knights") was the seizure of the territories of the Imperial Knights by the larger German powers in 1802–03.

In 1803, under the new political structures imposed by the "Final Resolution of the Imperial Deputation" (*Reichsdeputationshauptschluss*), the Imperial Knights should have remained untouched, unlike the ecclesiastical prince-bishoprics which were forcibly secularized and annexed. But by the winter of 1802/1803, the territorial states of Bavaria, Hesse-Kassel and Württemberg attempted to take possession of the tiny and fragmented estates belonging to the neighboring Imperial Knights through a combination of Surrender and Transfer Edicts (*Abtretungs- und Überweisungs-patenten*) and military force.

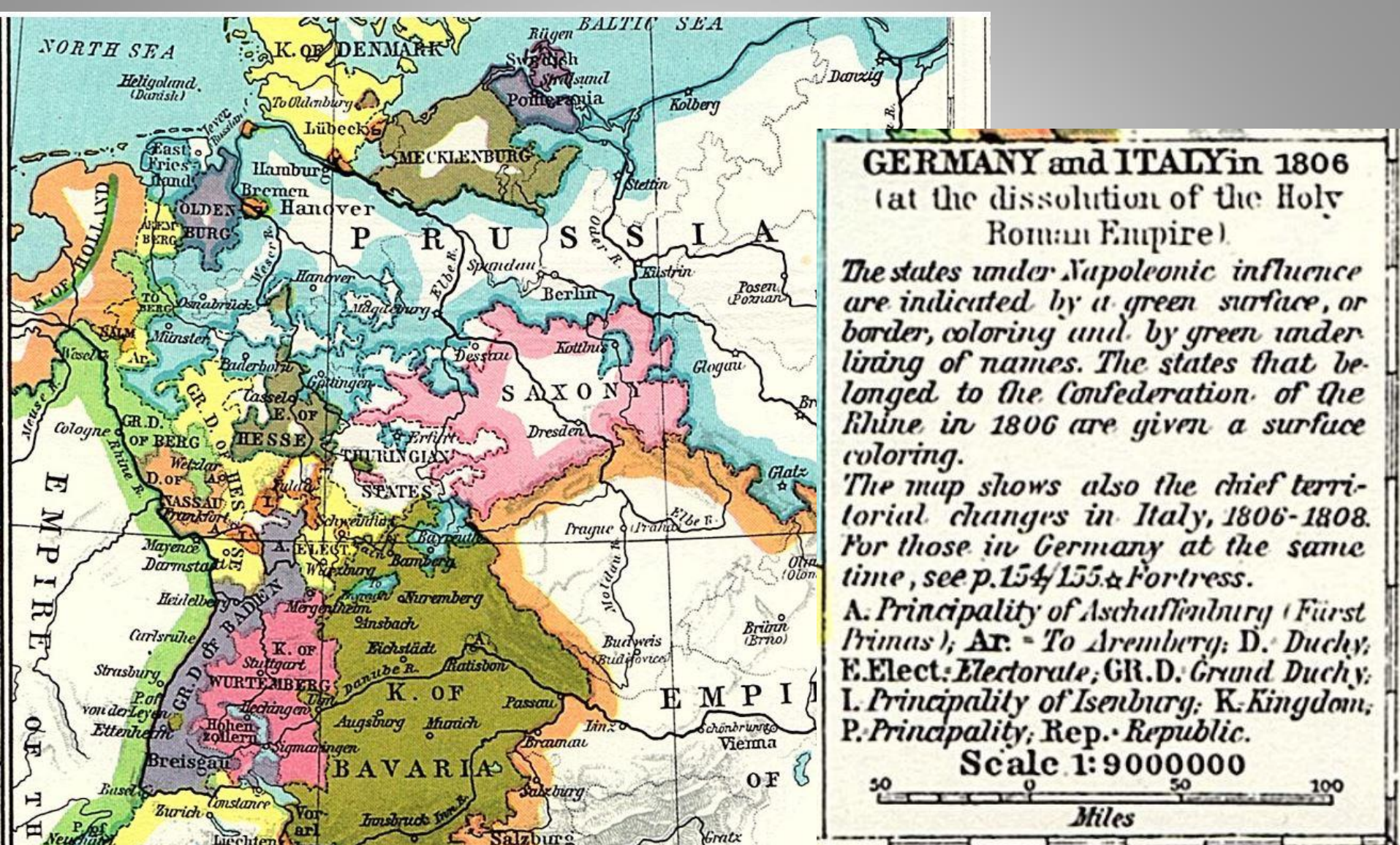
In autumn 1803 the majority of the roughly 300 knightly estates were *de facto* annexed by their larger neighbors.



The measures were denounced by the knights to the Imperial Court Council (supreme court) and, in January 1804, pronounced as illegal by Emperor Francis II. The emperor empowered the states of Austria, Baden, Saxony and Regensburg (Mainz) to enforce his decision. Although Francis was not practically able to reverse many of the annexations, the threat of force put a stop to the *Rittersturm*.



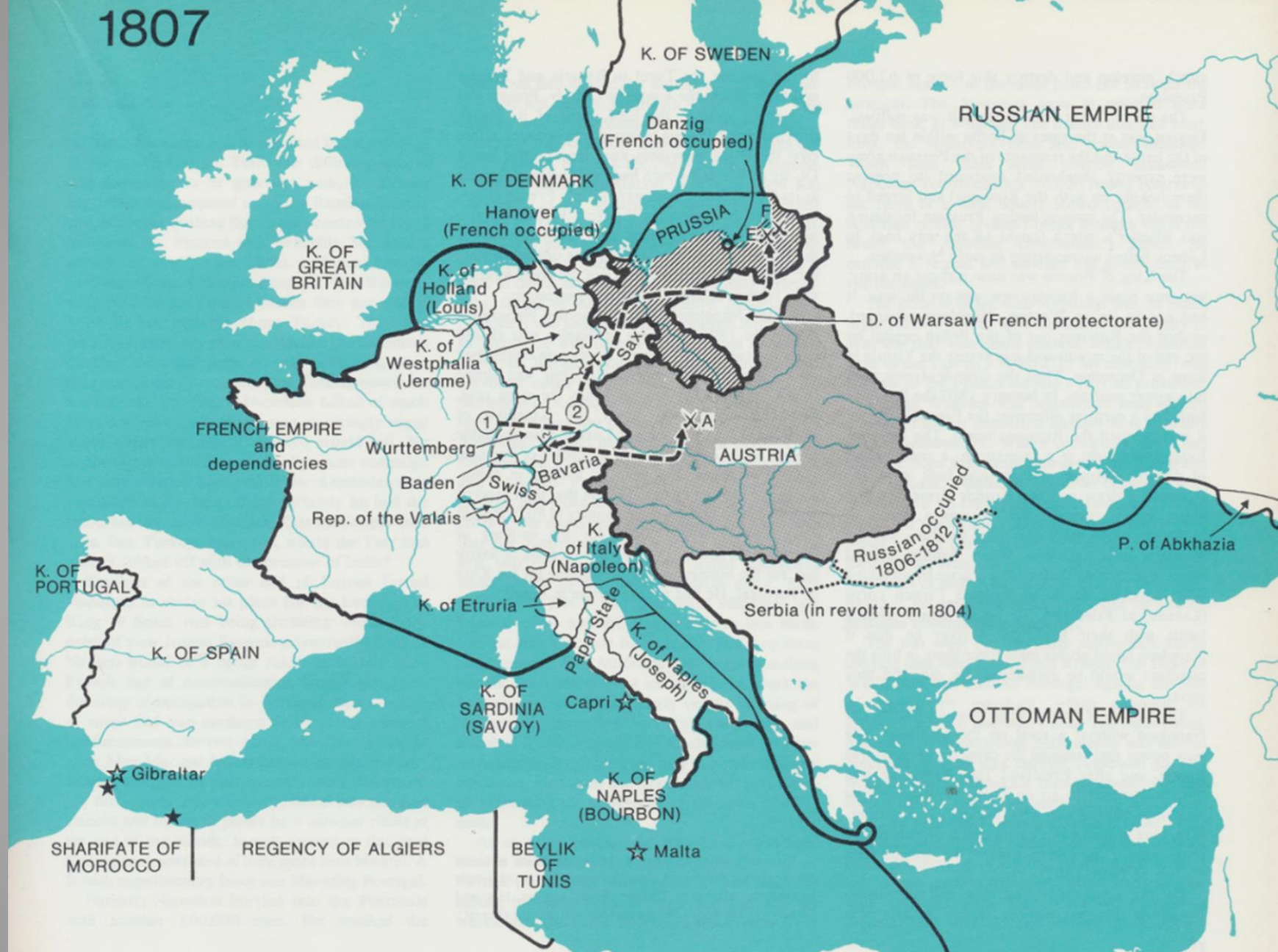




In 1806, with the end of the Empire, the formal mediatisation of the Knights was concluded. Article 25 of the Treaty of the Confederation of the Rhine (*Rheinbundakte*) sanctioned unilateral action by territorial states.

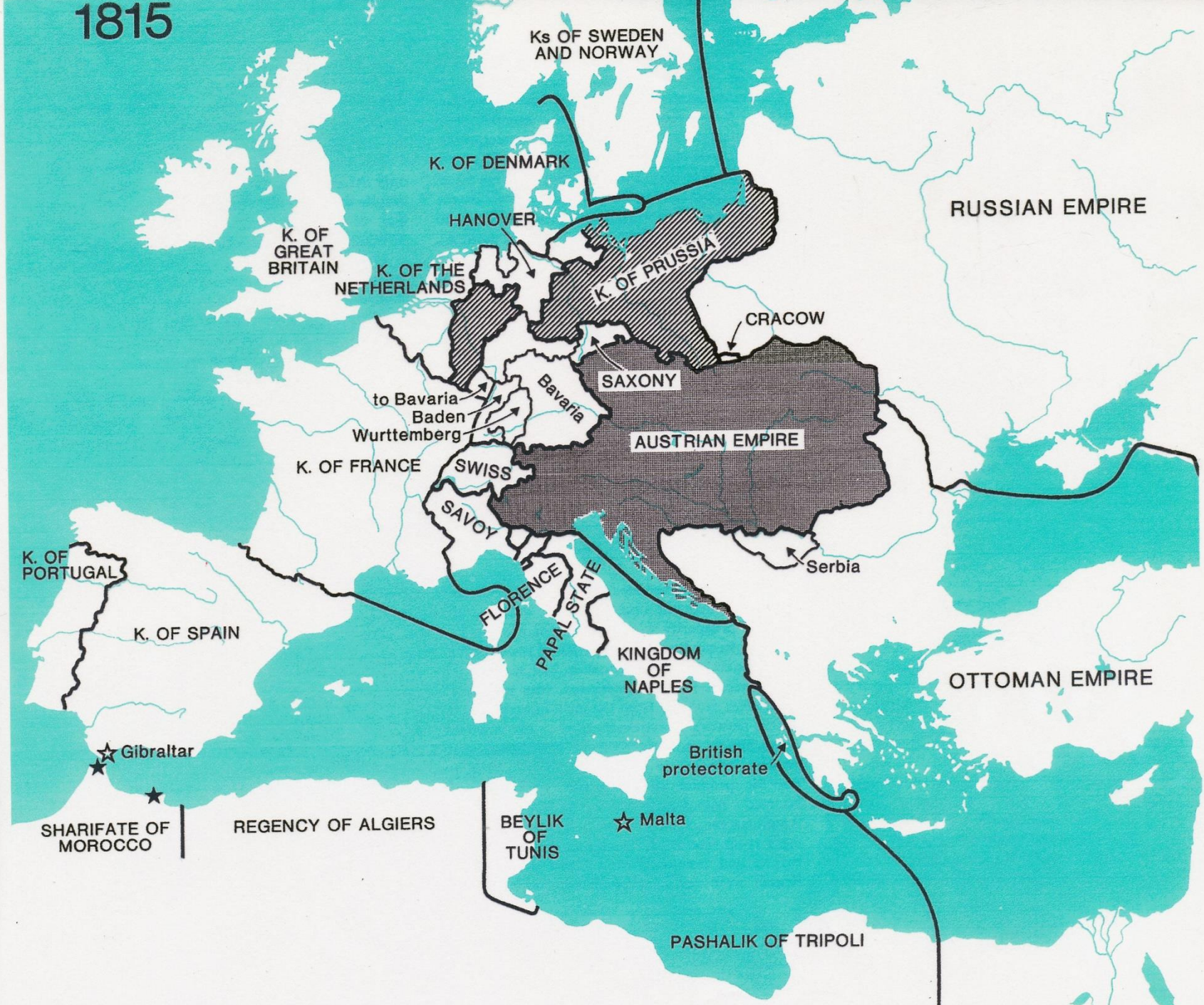
So the end of the free Imperial Knights coincided with the end of the Holy Roman Empire itself.

# 1807



- ① → Campaign of 1805: Ulm (U) and Austerlitz (A)
- ② → Campaigns of 1806 and 1807: Jena (J), Eylau (E) and Friedland (F)

1815







FRANCISCUS À SICKINGEN, EQVES AC MILES  
FORTISSIMUS



FRANZ von SICKINGEN

Geb. 1481 • gest. 7. Mai 1523

Nach dem von Herrn Professor Karl Kauer geschaffenen Denkmal Hutten  
und Sickingen auf der Ebernburg