

# ATROCITY AND RELIGION IN EUROPEAN MEMORY

## *How to Survive a Massacre in Europe's Wars of Religion*

Alec Ryrie



# The Dutch Revolt, or Eighty Years' War

- 'Wonderyear', summer 1566
- Repression under the duke of Alba, 1566-72
- The 'Beggar' fleet seizes Den Briel, 1572: open revolt begins
- Sack of Antwerp, 1576
- Twelve Years' Truce, 1609-21
- Peace of Westphalia establishes Dutch independence, 1648







# The French Wars of Religion

- Protestant (Huguenot) surge, 1560-2
- Charles IX (r. 1560-74) and Queen Mother Catherine de Medici attempt compromise
- The duke of Guise leads the hardline Catholic party



The  
massacre at  
Vassy,  
1 March  
1562



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- Intermittent warfare 1562-95
- Edict of Nantes provided limited rights for Protestants, 1598









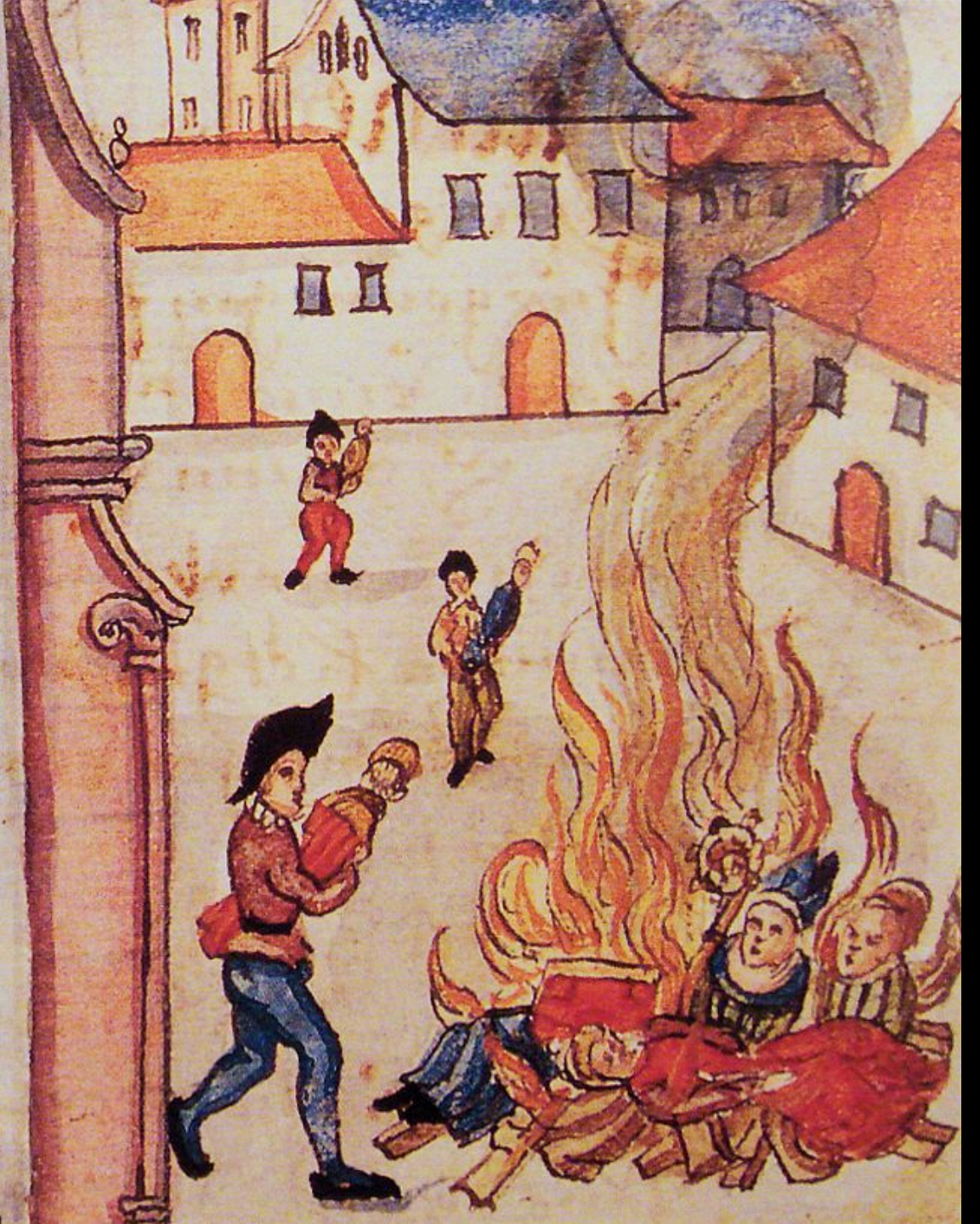




Braunschweig  
cathedral interior,  
1941





























AFBEELDINGE VAN DE BELEGERINGE DER STAD LEYDEN GESCHIEDT Anno. 1574



LE SIEGE DE LA VILLE DE LEIDE EN 1574

The  
siege of  
Leiden,  
1573-4





*La peste pendant la Siège de Leide.*



ANNONÆ

IMPORTATIO.









DOOR GOD GEWROCHT  
DIE VĀ DUIVE BOEDE.



MDL XXIV.  
DOE GOD TOT BODEN  
DUIVEN SCHIKTE  
ONTSET VOOR LEYDENS  
STAD AAN BLIKTE.  
VERNIEUWD 1818

Bones, chewed first by the dogs, were sucked dry by boys, and when a piece of meat fell on the floor at the place where they handed out the meat, they leaped at it and wolfed it down raw. The blood was scooped out of the gutters and slurped down.

Pieter Cornelisz Hooft, *Nederlandsche Historien* (1642)







# The French crisis

- 1570: Peace of Saint-Germain ends the third religious war
- 18 August 1572: marriage between Henry of Navarre and Margaret of Valois, Notre Dame de Paris,
- 22 August: failed assassination of Gaspard de Coligny: duke of Guise implicated
- 23 August: crisis meetings
- 24 August (St Bartholomew's Day), early morning: murder of Coligny: *'le roi le veult'* ...
- ... triggering a general massacre













Medal  
celebrating the St  
Bartholomew's Day  
Massacre struck by  
Pope Gregory XIII



Giorgio Vasari,  
frescoes of the  
massacre in the  
Sala Regia,  
Vatican Palace,  
commissioned  
by Pope  
Gregory XIII















Siege of La  
Rochelle  
1572-3,  
contemporary  
tapestry



THE  
MASSACRE  
AT PARIS:

With the Death of the Duke  
of Guise.

As it was plaide by the right honourable the  
Lord high Admirall his Seruants.

Written by *Christopher Marlowe*.



AT LONDON

Printed by E. A. for Edward White, dwelling neere  
the little North doore of S. Pauls  
Church, at the signe of  
the Gun.



THE  
HISTORY  
OF THE  
Bloody Massacres  
OF THE  
PROTESTANTS  
IN  
FRANCE  
IN THE  
Year of our LORD, 1572.

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WRITTEN  
In Latin by the Famous *HISTORIAN*  
*J. A. AUG. THUANUS*,  
and faithfully rendred into English.

---

L O N D O N;

Printed for John Leigh at the Sign of the Blew-Bell by  
Flying-horse-Court in Fleet-street, 1674.





Édouard  
Debat-  
Ponsan,  
‘One morning  
at the gates of  
the Louvre’,  
1880





A 1790  
performance  
of Chénier's  
*Charles IX*,  
with Saint-  
Prix as the  
villainous  
Cardinal





Ilyas  
Phaizulline,  
'Vision of the  
St  
Bartholomew's  
Day Massacre',  
1998





Doctor Who,  
'The Massacre  
of St  
Bartholomew's  
Eve' (1966)



*La Reine Margot*  
(1994)







John Everett  
Millais,  
'A Huguenot on  
St Bartholomew's  
Day', 1852



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