

2 Religious war and the limits of toleration – Part 2

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Vocabulary

Write each word three times.

English

Write it 3 times (English)

Toleration

Recall

- You know a war can end without either side being convinced.
- You have seen a rule that allowed something without approving it.
- You know a settlement can leave the original question open.

New ideas

Read these first. Each idea has a short worked example. Then do the Practice below.

■ 1 Wars of religion

Religious conflict and political rivalry ran together for over a century. States fought partly over doctrine and partly over power, and separating the two is usually impossible.

Worked example. A ruler defending a confession was also defending the authority that confession gave him.

■ 2 Toleration as a settlement

Toleration in this period usually meant permitting a confession to exist, not accepting it as true. It was a way of ending a war, not a statement of principle.

Worked example. A treaty allowing two confessions in one empire settles the fighting and settles no theology.

■ 3 What the settlements left

The settlements ended particular wars and left the underlying question - who decides what a state believes - unresolved for later centuries.

Worked example. The question returns in unit 3 as a question about the sovereign's authority.

Watch out: Toleration is not approval. Reading a 16th-century settlement as an early statement of religious freedom misreads what the parties thought they were agreeing to.

Practice

2.1 Explain why doctrine and power are hard to separate in this period. [2]

2.2 State what toleration usually meant here. [2]

2.3 Explain why toleration was a way of ending a war. [2]

2.4 State what the settlements left unresolved. [2]

2.5 Explain the error of reading these settlements as religious freedom. [2]
