

CARDINAL RICHELIEU

1585 - 1642

France under RICHELIEU

1. AFTER THE DEATH OF HENRY IV, LOUIS XIII BECAME THE KING OF FRANCE.
2. LOUIS XIII WAS ONLY 9 YEARS AND SO HIS MOTHER QUEEN MARIE DE MEDICI ACTED AS REGENT.
3. HE DISMISSED SULLY.
4. THE HUGUENOTS (PROTESTANT OF FRANCE) HATED HER BECAUSE OF HER RIGOROUS CATHOLIC VIEWS.
5. THERE WAS NO PEACE AMONG THE MEMBERS OF ESTATE GENERAL.
6. THE QUEEN SUMMONED THE ESTATE GENERAL (FRANCE PARLIAMENT) IN 1614.
7. THE QUEEN MADE AN ALLIANCE WITH SPAIN AND ARRANGED MARRIAGE OF LOUIS XIII WITH ANNE OF AUSTRIA, THE DAUGHTER OF THE SPANISH KING PHILIP III.
8. THE QUEEN BECAME VERY MUCH UNPOPULAR AND SO THE NOBLES AND HUGUENOTS REVOLTED AGAINST THEM.
9. LOUIS XIII TOOK THE CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT FROM THE HANDS OF HIS MOTHER IN 1617.

BIODATA

1. HE WAS BORN ON SEPTEMBER 9, 1585 IN PARIS, FRENCH.
2. HIS FULL NAME IS ARMAND JEANS DU PLESSIS, CARDINAL DUE DE RICHELIEU ET DE FRONSAC.
3. HIS FATHER = FRANCOIS DU PLESSIS, WAS A SOLDIER.
4. MOTHER = SUSANNE DE LE PORTE.
5. HIS FATHER DIED WHEN HE WAS AT THE AGE OF 5.
AND HIS FAMILY COULD RECOVERED FINANCIAL PROBLEMS THROUGH ROYAL AIDS.
6. AT THE AGE OF 9 , HE WAS SENT TO THE COLLEGE OF NAVARRE TO STUDY PHILOSOPHY.
7. HIS TWO WELL KNOWN GENERALS WERE TURRENE AND CONDE.
8. HE DIED ON DECEMBER 4, 1642 AT THE AGE OF 57 IN PARIS, FRENCH.

OCCUPATION

1. HE WAS KNOWN TO BE ONE OF THE GREATEST POLITICIAN DURING 17TH CENTURY.
2. HE WAS ORDAINED AS PRIEST IN 1607 AND BECAME BISHOPS OF LUCON (HEAD OVER CHURCH).
3. HE HAD GREAT INFLUENCED OVER THE KING'S MOTHER MARIE DE MEDICI.
4. HE WAS A GOOD ADMINISTRATOR, MEDIATOR AND RELIGIOUS ADVISOR TOO.
5. HE ENTERED INTO POLITICS IN 1617.
6. CARDINAL RICHELIEU WAS A POWERFUL MAN, HE WAS SECRETARY OF STATE IN 1616, AND CHIEF MINISTER OF THE FRENCH KING LOUIS XIII IN 1624.
7. RICHELIEU SOON ROSE TO POWER AND BECAME A CARDINAL IN 1622, AND KING LOUIS XIII CHIEF ADVISOR IN 1624.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

1 HE DECIDED TO REMOVE ALL KINDS OF OBSTACLES THAT DISTURB THE AUTHORITY OF THE KING BE IT NOBLES OR HUGUENOTS.HE TRIED TO CRUSH THEIR POWERS.

2. HE WANTED TO EXPAND FRANCE AT THE COST OF THE NEIGHBOURS AND COMMAND RESPECT AS THE GREATEST NATION IN EUROPE.

HOME POLICY

1. SUPPRESSION OF HUGUENOTS : HE WANTED TO TAKE AWAY THE POLITICAL RIGHTS GRANTED TO THEM THROUGH EDICT OF NANTES AS THEY WERE NOT LOYAL TO THE KING.
2. RICHELIEU DOES NOT WANT TO TAKE AWAY THEIR RELIGIOUS RIGHTS.
3. THE HUGUENOTS REVOLTED IN 1625.
4. THE HUGUENOTS LOST THEIR TOWNS AND FORTRESS.THEY COULD NT DEFEND LA ROCHELLE TOO.
5. THE WAR ENDED BY THE TREATY OF ALAIS.
6. THEY LOST THEIR POLITICAL RIGHTS BUT NOT RELIGIOUS LIBERTY.

2. DESTRUCTION OF POWER OF NOBLES.

1. THE NOBLES ENJOY MANY RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGE IN FRANCE.
2. THEY DID NOT RESPECT THE ORDERS OF RICHELIEU AND THE KING.
3. RICHELIEU WANTED TO WEAKEN THE POWER OF NOBLES BY TRANSFERRING THEIR POWER TO LOCAL OFFICERS. (INTENDENT).
4. HE ISSUED ROYAL ORDER TO KILLED ALL THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE KING.
5. MANY NOBLES RESIGNED AND SUBMIT TO THE KING.

3. CENTRALISATION OF ADMINISTRATION

1. HE APPOINTED ROYAL OFFICERS CALLED INTENDENT TO REPLACE NOBLES.
2. THEY MOSTLY BELONG TO MIDDLE CLASS AND WERE VERY LOYAL TO THE KING.
3. THEY DISCHARGE FUNCTIONS LIKE MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER, ASSESSMENT AND COLLECTION OF TAXES AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.
4. THEY SUBMIT PERIODIC REPORT TO THE KING.
5. FRANCE WAS LOSING ITS FEUDAL CHARACTER UNDER THIS NEW SYSTEM.
6. THE NEW ADMINISTRATION HAD ONE KING , ONE PUBLIC TREASURY AND ONE ROYAL ARMY.
7. IT MADE THE FRENCH KING ABSOLUTE OR DESPOTIC.

4. ELIMINATION OF INSTITUTIONAL CHECKS ON ROYAL POWER

1. RICHELIEU LAID THE FOUNDATION OF ROYAL ABSOLUTISM.
2. HE WEAKEN THE POWER OF FRENCH PARLIAMENT.
3. THE ASSEMBLIES WERE BECOMING LESS ACTIVE AND ONLY ACTS UNDER THE ROYAL POWER.
4. THERE WERE ASSEMBLIES LIKE BRITANNY, BURGUNDY, PROVENCE AND LANGUEDOC.

FOREIGN POLICY

1. TO CHECK THE POWER OF THE AUSTRO-SPANISH HAPSBURG DYNASTY.
2. HE WANTED TO MAKE FRANCE SUPREME IN EUROPE.
3. HE EVEN MADE ALLIANCE WITH PROTESTANT RULERS TO ACHIEVED HIS AIMS ALTHOUGH BEING CATHOLIC IN THE THIRTY YEARS WAR.HE CRUSHED DOMESTIC FACTIONS.
4. HE ENCOURAGE PORTUGAL TO REVOLT AGAINST SPAIN.
5. AFTER HIS DEATH HIS WORK WERE CONTINUE BY MAZARIN.

ESTIMATE AND CONTRIBUTION

1. HE WAS A GREAT PATRONAGE OF ARTS AND LITERATUREHE FOUNDED THE ACADEMIE FRANCAISE,THE LEARNED SOCIETY RESPONSIBLE FOR MATTERS OF FRENCH LANGUAGE.
2. HE WAS ALSO WELL KNOWN AS SOBRIQUET (THE RED EMINENCE) FROM THE RED SHADE OF CARDINAL'S CLERICAL DRESS.

CARDINAL RICHELIEU DEATH

1. HE DIED ON 4TH DECEMBER, 1642.
2. HIS BODY WAS EMBALMED AND KEPT IN THE CHURCH OF THE SORBONNE.
3. DURING FRENCH REVOLUTION, HIS BODY WAS STOLEN.
4. IN 1796, IT WAS OWNED BY NICHOLAS ARMEZ OF BRITTANY.
5. HIS NEPHEW LOUIS PHILIPPE ARMEZ, INHERITED IT AND OCCASSIONALLY EXHIBIT AND LENT IT OUT FOR STUDIES.
6. IN 1866, NAPOLEAN III INSTRUCTED ARMEZ TO RETURN THE FACE OF RICHELIEU AND BODY TO THE GOVERNMENT.