

And how a continuation of failed systems leads to doom, because the society adheres to false principles.

As I said, and I think if you look at the map of the present hotspots that there is no doubt about it, that we are, already, in a global, new Thirty Years' War.

Now therefore, let's take a look at the old Thirty Years' War, which lasted from 1618 to 1648: which, as I said, was limited to Europe at that point, and therefore only devastated parts of the world. Let's take a look at how Schiller deals with this issue of the Thirty Years' War.

Now Schiller, in the Spring of 1786, found a book about the Peace of Westphalia, and according to his own testimony, this triggered his acute interest to study deeply and thoroughly real history. This he wrote in a letter to his friend Körner, on April 15, 1786.

In the beginning of this book, there is a lengthy essay about the character of Wallenstein, who was the general of the Imperial Army of the Habsburg Empire, and who was the opponent of the Swedish King Gustav Adolf. Three years later, Schiller undersigned a contract with his publisher, Göschen, to write a comprehensive study of the history of the Thirty Years' War, on which Schiller worked, then, for three years, until 1793. And soon, it was clear for him, that he not only was writing history, trying to comprehend historical lessons, but that he had found a really, absolutely prime topic for a Classical drama. Because Shakespeare, Schiller, and

others are always looking, "What is a good subject to write a drama?" because you need a good topic, and it's not so easy to find such.

So, after extensive studies, which took him, among others when he went to Carlsbad, which was a famous health spa, he had extensive discussions with Austrian military officers, to study warfare. He visited Eger, which was the main place where Wallenstein's camp stayed. So, Schiller really worked deeply to familiarize himself with the different aspects of this war.

### Wallenstein Builds an Army

Now, let's take a look at the period of the Thirty Years' War, which is relevant for our purpose here. In the Third Book of the *Thirty Years' War*, Schiller describes how Gustav Adolf is making victory after victory in the north of Germany. Wallenstein, at this point, is sitting in Prague, because he has been ousted from the command of the Imperial Army by Emperor Ferdinand, due to an intrigue which involved the Spanish court, which involved the Duke of Bavaria; and therefore, Wallenstein is not completely unsatisfied with the progress of Gustav Adolf. And he even puts out feelers, trying to make friendship with him, and invites him to make a military alliance. He proposes to Gustav Adolf to link 15,000 of his troops with his own troops (which Wallenstein doesn't have yet, but he intends to recruit in Bohemia and Mären), and then attack

## A Brief Chronology of The Thirty Years' War

The Thirty Years' War (1618-1848) ravaged central Europe, and especially what is today Germany, with religious and political wars.

**1618:** The Roman Catholic archbishop of Prague, in Bohemia, ordered the destruction of a Protestant church. The Protestants appealed to Holy Roman Emperor Matthias for protection, but when he ignored their protests, they revolted. In the so-called Defenestration of Prague, rebels threw two of the Emperor's officials out a window. The Catholic King of Bohemia, Ferdinand, was ousted and replaced by the Protestant Frederick.

**1619:** Ferdinand was chosen Holy Roman Emperor.

**1620:** Emperor Ferdinand's forces defeated the Bohemian Protestants.

**1625-29:** Other Protestant countries joined the fray. Danish King Christian IV and others fought Ferdinand's forces in Saxony. Gen. Albrecht von Wallenstein came to Ferdinand's aid, along with forces of the Holy League (a military alliance of German Catholic states), defeating the

Danish King. The Emperor dismissed Wallenstein.

**1630-31:** Sweden's King Gustav Adolf (Gustavus Adolphus), a Protestant, sent troops against Ferdinand. Wallenstein makes unsuccessful overtures to Gustav Adolf for a military alliance. Ferdinand called back Wallenstein, agreeing to his conditions, and also made an alliance with King Philip IV of Spain.

**1632:** Wallenstein's army fought the Swedes at the Battle of Lützen. The Swedes won, but King Gustav Adolf was killed.

**1634:** The Swedish army was destroyed in the Battle of Nordlingen. Wallenstein activated his plan for a revolt against the Emperor. The Emperor ordered him arrested. Wallenstein tried to escape, but was assassinated.

**1635:** France intervened on the side of the Protestants, and the struggle continued, now between the French Bourbons and Austrian Habsburgs.

**1644:** Peace negotiations, under the leadership of France's Cardinal Mazarin, began in two cities of Westphalia (now western Germany), with the Catholics and Protestants meeting separately.

**1648:** The Peace of Westphalia was signed, enshrining the principles of national sovereignty and "the advantage of the other."