

The Emperor who risked all to suppress the Turks and Lutheran Princes



CHARLES V

Born: Feb. 24, 1500 | Ghent, Belgium

Died: Sept. 21, 1558 | Yuste, Spain

CHARLES V BECAME THE HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR AT A POINT IN HISTORY WHEN THE EMPIRE WAS BEGINNING TO SPLINTER. Not only was he continually fending off France and the Turks, but the growing divide between the Catholics and the Protestants in his territories was a persistent matter that also needed his attention.

Charles became emperor at age 20 after the death of his grandfather Emperor Maximilian I. A few months later the Diet of Worms was convened at which Luther gave his impassioned statement that he would not and could not recant his writings. Charles reacted with the Edict of Worms, declaring Luther a heretic who could be killed at will. Although Charles attempted to snuff out the Reformation, he was unable to prevent it from spreading like wildfire. When the *Augsburg Confession* was presented to Charles in 1530, it was backed by the princes of numerous territories. Finally, in 1555, the Peace of Augsburg was negotiated by Charles's brother, Ferdinand. Charles abdicated his throne to Ferdinand in 1556 and retired to Spain for the last two years of his life.



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