

10.22 The Edict of Nantes (April 13, 1598)

Knecht 1996: 121–4

General Articles:

1. That the memory of . . . preceding troubles, and the occasion of the same, shall remain extinguished and suppressed, as things that had never been. . . .
2. We prohibit all our subjects of whatever state and condition they be, to renew the memory thereof, to attack, resent, injure, or provoke one another by reproaches for what is past, under any pretext or cause whatsoever, by disputing, contesting, quarrelling, reviling, or offending by factious words; but to contain themselves, and live peaceably together as brethren, friends, and fellow-citizens, upon penalty for acting to the contrary, to be punished for breakers of peace, and disturbers of the public quiet.
3. We ordain that the Catholic religion shall be restored and reestablished in all places and quarters of this kingdom and country under our obedience, . . .
6. And not to leave any occasion of trouble and difference among our subjects, we . . . permit those of the Reformed Religion to live and dwell in all the cities and places of this our kingdom and country under our obedience, without being inquired after, vexed, molested, or compelled to do any thing in religion contrary to their conscience, nor by reason of the same be searched after in houses or places where they live, they comporting themselves in other things as is contained in this our present edict or statute.
14. [They will not] exercise the said religion in our Court, nor in our territories and countries beyond the mountains, nor in our City of Paris, nor within five leagues of the said city: nevertheless those of the said religion dwelling in the said lands and countries beyond the mountains, and in our said city, and within five leagues about the same, shall not be searched after in their houses, nor constrained to do any thing in religion against their consciences, comporting themselves in all other things according as is contained in our present edict or law.
16. [We] grant to those of the said religion power to build places for its exercise in cities and places where it is granted them, and that those shall be rendered to them which they have heretofore built. . . .

20. They shall also be obliged to keep and observe the festivals of the Catholic church, and shall not on the same days work, sell, or keep open shop, and likewise the artisans shall not work out of their shops, in their chambers or houses privately on the said festivals, and other forbidden days, of any trade, the noise whereof may be heard without by those that pass by, or by the neighbours.
21. Books concerning the said reformed religion shall not be printed or sold publicly, save in the cities and places where its public exercise is permitted. . . .
22. We ordain, that there shall not be made any difference or distinction on account of the said religion in receiving scholars to be instructed in the universities, colleges, or schools, or of the sick and poor into hospitals, sick houses or public almshouses.
23. We will and ordain that all those of the reformed religion shall be obliged . . . to pay tithes to the curates and other ecclesiastics and to all others to whom they shall appertain. . . .
27. [We] declare all those . . . of the said reformed religion to be capable of holding and exercising all estates, dignities, offices and public charges whatsoever. . . .
58. We declare all sentences, judgments, procedures, seizures, sales and decrees made and given against those of the reformed religion, as well living as dead, from the death of the deceased King Henry II . . . upon the occasion of the said Religion, tumults and troubles since happening, as also the execution of the same judgments and decrees, henceforth cancelled, revoked and annulled.

Royal Warrant (30 April 1598)

His Majesty in addition to what is contained in the edict he has recently drawn up . . . has granted and promised them that all the fortified places, towns, *châteaux* which they held up to the end of last August, in which there will be garrisons, shall . . . remain in their hands under the authority and allegiance of His Majesty for the space of eight years, counting from the day the said edict is published. . . . For the upkeep of the garrisons to be stationed in these towns, His Majesty has apportioned a sum not to exceed 180,000 crowns not including those in the province of Dauphiné, which will be paid for in addition to the said sum. . . .