



Universalitas & Pervasivitas

IL COSTITUIRSI E DIFFONDERSI DELLA S.J. E SUOI ECHI (1540 - 1773)
di A. Pisani

Schede autori Contesto teologico e filosofico

Charles de Lorraine, duc de Mayenne

Charles (II) de Lorraine [1] duc de Mayenne (26 mars 1554 à Alençon - 4 octobre 1611 à Soissons) est un noble français de la maison de Guise et un chef militaire de la Ligue pendant les guerres de religion.

Il était le frère cadet du duc Henri de Guise. Capitaine de guerre durant les guerres de religion, il participa à plusieurs campagnes militaires sous le règne d'Henri III. Il était le gouverneur de Bourgogne et possédait à la cour de France la charge honorifique de grand chambellan. Après l'assassinat de ses frères en 1588, il prit la tête de la Ligue et brigua la couronne de France (1593). Il fit sa soumission au roi Henri IV peu de temps après sa défaite à la bataille de Fontaine-Française (1595).

Biographie

Il était le second fils de François Ier, duc de Guise, et d'Anne d'Este, et donc le frère d'Henri Ier de Guise le Balafré. Il fut duc de Mayenne en 1573.

Il accompagna le futur Henri III en Pologne. Il prit Brouage lors de la sixième guerre de religion (1577), et enleva La Mure aux protestants du Dauphiné lors de la prise d'armes suivante. Il fut amiral de France jusqu'en 1582, poste qu'il perdit au profit du duc de Joyeuse, l'un des deux « archimignons » d'Henri III.

Il devient chef de la Ligue après l'assassinat de son frère Henri en 1588. Il se rend à Rouen, une des rares villes qui hésitait à rallier la Ligue, et obtient son soutien. Il est battu une première fois près de Chartres par Châtillon, le fils de Coligny, début 1589 [2]. À ce moment-là, il prend le titre de Lieutenant général de l'État et Couronne de France (1589-1595) [3],[4]. À la mort d'Henri III en 1589, il tente de faire proclamer roi le cardinal de Bourbon.

Il fut vaincu à Arques (1589) et à Ivry (1590) par Henri IV. En 1591, il fit pendre les dirigeants de la Ligue parisienne qui, eux, venaient de faire pendre Barnabé Brisson, premier président du Parlement de Paris, scellant ainsi la rupture entre la Ligue nobiliaire et la Ligue urbaine. Il échoua à se faire élire roi par les États généraux qu'il avait convoqués à Paris en 1593. Le 5 juin 1595, il fut battu par Henri IV à la bataille de Fontaine-Française et fit acte de soumission solennelle à Henri IV





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en novembre 1595, en échange de 2 640 000 livres [5] et de trois places de sûreté en Bourgogne, dont il perdit le gouvernement. Il acquit l'Hôtel de Mayenne en 1605.

Il avait épousé, le 6 août 1576, Henriette de Savoie-Villars († 1611), fille du maréchal de Villars. Ils avaient eu :

Henri (1578 † 1621), duc de Mayenne et d'Aguillon

Charles Emmanuel (1581 † 1609), comte de Sommerive

Catherine (1585 † 1618), mariée en 1599 à Charles Ier Gonzague (1580 † 1637), duc de Mantoue

Renée († 1638), mariée en 1613 à Mario II Sforza [1] (1594 † 1658), duc d'Ognano et de Segni, comte de Santa Fiora

Notes et références

[1] Les historiens ont donné à ce duc le titre de Charles II car il est le deuxième Charles à être duc de Mayenne. Le précédent était Charles Ier de Bretagne, duc de Bretagne et baron de Mayenne, également appelé Charles de Blois (fils du comte de Blois).

[2] Pierre Miquel, *Les Guerres de religion*, Paris, Club France Loisirs, 1980 (ISBN 2-7242-0785-8) p 353

[3] Charles de Mayenne dans *Les Valois* [archive]

[4] Remontrances du Président du Parlement de Paris, Lemaistre, de 1593 [archive]

[5] Pierre Miquel, *Les Guerres de religion*, Paris, Club France Loisirs, 1980 (ISBN 2-7242-0785-8) p 394.

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Henri Drouot, *Mayenne et la Bourgogne : étude sur la Ligue (1587-1596)*, éditions Picard, 1937. 2 volumes - In-8° de LXXIX + 454 et 525pp.

Cfr.: Wikipedia.fr - http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_de_Mayenne - Dernière modification de cette page le 15 février 2013 à 02:59 - Droit d'auteur : les textes sont disponibles sous licence Creative Commons paternité partage à l'identique.

Charles de Lorraine, duc de Mayenne (26 March 1554 – 3 October 1611), or Charles de Guise, was a French nobleman of the house of Guise and a military leader of the Catholic League, which he headed during the French Wars of Religion, following the assassination of his brothers at Blois in 1588. In 1596, when he made peace with Henri of Navarre, the wars were essentially at an end. He was the second son of Francis of Lorraine, Duke of Guise and Anna d'Este, the daughter of Ercole d'Este II, Duke of Ferrara and Renée of France.



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Lieutenant to the Duke of Guise

Charles was absent from France at the time of the massacre of St Bartholomew, but took part in the siege of La Rochelle in the following year, when he was created duke and peer of France. He went with Henry of Valois, Duke of Anjou (later Henry III of France), on his election as king of Poland, but soon returned to France to become the energetic supporter and lieutenant of his brother, Henry I, Duke of Guise. In 1577 he gained conspicuous successes over the Huguenot forces in Poitou. As governor of Burgundy he raised his province in the cause of the Catholic League in 1585. The assassination of his brothers at Blois on December 23–24, 1588, left him at the head of the Catholic party.

The ambassador of the Republic of Venice, Giovanni Mocenigo, states that Mayenne had warned Henry III that there was a plot afoot to seize his person and to send him by force to Paris. At the time of the murder he was at Lyon, where he received a letter from the king saying that he had acted on his warning, and ordering him to retire to his government.

Mayenne professed obedience, but immediately made preparations for marching on Paris. After a vain attempt to recover those of his relatives who had been arrested at Blois, he proceeded to recruit troops in his government of Burgundy and in Champagne. Paris was devoted to the house of Guise and had been roused to fury by the news of the murder. When Mayenne entered the city in February 1589 he found it dominated by representatives of the sixteen quarters of Paris, all staunch supporters of the League.

He formed a council general to direct the affairs of the city and to maintain relations with the other towns faithful to the League. Each quarter sent four representatives, and Mayenne added representatives of the various trades and professions of Paris in order to counterbalance this revolutionary element. He constituted himself "lieutenant-general of the state and crown of France," taking his oath before the *parlement* of Paris.

In April he advanced on Tours. Henry III in his extremity sought an alliance with the Huguenot, Henry of Navarre (the future Henry IV of France), and the allied forces drove the leaguers back, and had laid siege to Paris when the assassination of Henry III by a Dominican monk changed the face of affairs and gave new strength to the Catholic party.

King-maker

Mayenne was urged to claim the crown for himself, but he was faithful to the official programme of the League and proclaimed Charles, Cardinal de Bourbon, at that time a prisoner in the hands of Henry IV, as Charles X of France, although this numbering is not accepted by historians. Henry IV retired to Dieppe, followed by Mayenne, who joined his forces with those of his cousin Charles, Duke of Aumale, and Charles II de Cossé, comte de Brissac, and engaged the forces of the League in a succession of fights in the neighbourhood of Arques (September 1589). He was defeated and out-marched by Henry IV, who moved on Paris, but retreated before Mayenne's forces.

In 1590 Mayenne received additions to his army from the Spanish Netherlands, and took the field again, only to suffer complete defeat at Ivry (14 March 1590). He then escaped to Mantes and in September collected a fresh army at Meaux, and with the assistance of Alexander Farnese, Duke of Parma, sent by Philip II of Spain, raised the siege of Paris, which was about to surrender to Henry IV. Mayenne feared with reason the designs of Philip II, and his difficulties were increased by the death of the Cardinal, the "king of the league."



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Peacemaker

The extreme section of the party, represented by the radical "Paris Sixteen", urged him to proceed to the election of a Catholic king and to accept the help and the claims of their Spanish Habsburg allies. Mayenne lacked the popular gifts of his brother, the Duke of Guise, and had no sympathy with the urban demagogues, inclining to the moderate side of his party, which began to urge reconciliation with Henry IV. He maintained the ancient forms of the constitution against the revolutionary policy of the Sixteen, who during his absence from Paris took the law into their own hands and in November 1591 executed one of the leaders of the more moderate party, Barnabé Brisson, president of the *parlement*. He returned to Paris and executed four of the chief malcontents. The power of the Sixteen diminished from that time, and with it the strength of the League.

Mayenne entered into negotiations with Henri IV while he was still appearing to consider with Philip II the succession to the French crown of the Infanta Isabella Clara Eugenia of Spain, daughter of Elizabeth of Valois and granddaughter of Henri II. He demanded that Henri IV complete his conversion to Catholicism before he was recognized by the adherents of the League. He also desired the continuation to himself of the high offices which had accumulated in his family and the reservation of their provinces to his relatives among the Leaguers.

In 1593 he summoned the States-General to Paris and placed before them the claims of the Infanta, but they protested against foreign intervention (these proceedings are the subject of the satirical work, the *Satire Ménippée*). Mayenne signed a truce at La Villette on 31 July 1593. The internal dissensions of the league continued to increase, and the principal chiefs submitted. Mayenne finally made his peace only in October 1595. Henri IV allowed him the possession of Chalon-sur-Saône, of Seurre and Soissons for three years, made his son Henry governor of the Île-de-France and paid a large indemnity.

Marriage and children

On 6 August 1576, Charles married Henriette of Savoy, Marquise de Villars. Her paternal grandfather was René of Savoy, called le Grand Bâtard de Savoie ("the Grand Bastard of Savoy"), an illegitimate son of Philip II, Duke of Savoy.

They had four children:

Renée of Mayenne (d. 1638).

Henry of Lorraine, Duke of Mayenne (1578–1621). The heirs of Henri de Lorraine form the cadet line of the house of Lorraine called Lorraine-Mayenne.

Charles Emanuel of Mayenne (1581–1609).

Catherine of Mayenne also known as Catherine of Lorraine (1585–1618). Married Charles I, Duke of Mantua. Their daughter Marie Louise married King Władysław IV of Poland, and their daughter Anne Marie married Edward, Count Palatine of Simmern.

References

An *Histoire de la vie et de la mort du duc de Mayenne* appeared at Lyon in 1618.

See also JBH Capefigue, *Histoire de la Réforme, de la ligue et du règne de Henri IV* (8 vols., 1834-1835) and the literature dealing with the house of Guise.

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Vedi anche: [profilo biografico di Charles de Lorraine, duc de Mayenne nel sito dell'Enciclopedia Treccani](#)