

Major Incidents of Protest, 1520-1649

Date	Location	Brief Descriptor
1520-1	Castile and Valencia	The 'Comuneros' and 'Germania'. Major uprisings affecting large areas of both rural and urban Spain and attracting wide support, including notables. Well organised and militarily strong, with defined political objectives
1523-30	Denmark	Rural insurrections, as a minor part of a broader civil war in the context of a succession crisis, in which the urban notability had political objectives, but the peasantry were concerned to protest at their recently enforced status of servility
1524-6	Germany and Austria	The German Peasants War. Major armed insurrection, with different dynamics in different parts of Germany and Austria. Implicated in the early Lutheran Reformation. Some smaller towns either joined the revolt or were captured by well-organised peasant armies, whose grievances were widely publicised and discussed. Major cities included sympathisers to the revolt, but did not join it.

1529	Lyon	'La Grande Rabeine'. Urban insurrection, attacking the grain stocks of the rich
1534	East of Ireland (around County Kildare)	'Kildare Rebellion'. A noble-led insurrection, with wider support from the clan of Thomas FitzGerald, 10th Earl of Kildare (1513–1537) and Catholics, opposed to Henry VIII
1534	North Jutland, Denmark	Peasant Insurrection, fomented by the deposed King Christian II, in which the targets were royal officials and local nobles
1536-7	Northern England	'Pilgrimage of Grace'. A major, armed rebellion with a precise target against religious reform, which enjoyed widespread support from localities, gentry and some towns
1539	Ghent	'Revolt of Ghent'. Urban insurrection, led by some notables, against taxation
1542-3	Småland and Östergötland, Sweden	Major peasant insurrection, led by an outlawed peasant, Nils Dacke, drawing on resentments to customs dues and also aimed at farms held by nobles
1548	South-West France	'Pitaulds'. A major regional insurrection, aimed against the imposition of salt-taxes. It included peasant bands, organised in military-style contingents, and enjoyed the support of some towns. Its supporters seized the provincial capital, Bordeaux.

1549-50	Midlands and South-West England	Series of regional insurrections, in which those in South-West England were the most coordinated. The commons enjoyed the support of local gentry and some towns, and had reasonably precise objectives, including resistance to religious change
1551	East Anglia	'Kett's Rebellion'. Regional insurrection, supported by some gentry and towns, well-organised and led, with military contingents, and defined objectives (against enclosure of commons, etc)
1561-2	France	Popular protest elements in both rural and urban locations, but mixed up in the broader religious riots and protests of the early 'wars of religion'
1566	Netherlands	'Iconoclastic Fury'. Popular religious protest, with some tacit support from aristocratic elements, seeking to use the protest in a broader political context
1569-73	Munster, Ireland	The first 'Desmond Rebellions'. Led by Gerald FitzGerald, 15th Earl of Desmond, who was supported by his kinsmen and clan, and by Catholics opposed to the Elizabethan regime in Ireland
1569-70	Hungary	Major popular insurrection, led by Georg Karacsonyi

1569-70	Northern England	'Northern Rising'. Led by major nobles, but involving significant rural popular elements under their direction, with political and religious aims to overthrow Elizabeth I's government and restore Catholicism
1573	Croatia, Styria, Carinthia, Austria	Regional popular uprising with wide support. Well-organised in military contingents, with aims to defend peasant rights and end the ecclesiastical tithe.
1573-5	Norway	Peasant Uprising
1578-9	France	Rural insurrection in Normandy ('Gaultiers') and in the Rhône valley. Some involvement from towns (the 'Carnival' at Romans, February 1580 being a complex and bloody massacre) – part of the tensions of the French 'wars of religion'
1579-83	Munster, Ireland	Second 'Desmond Rebellions' – as above (1569-73)
1585	Naples	Urban popular protests against price of bread
1589-93	France	Widespread, local, popular insurrection and protest, both in support of the Catholic League (mainly in towns, though with some rural support) and also against the dislocation of the wars
1591-3	Ukraine	Major revolt, leading to two civil wars, led by Krzysztof Kosiński (1545-1593), a Polish noble,

		colonel in the registered Cossacks, against the Ruthenian nobility, and enjoying widespread local support in Ukraine
1593-4	South-West France	Major, coordinated popular insurrection ('Tard-Avisés'; 'Croquants'), mainly rural, but with urban sympathisers, and containing elements of anti-seigneurial protest as well as other elements
1594-7	Austria	Series of major regional peasant insurrections, defending peasant rights, but with links to religious issues
1594-1603	Ulster, Ireland	'Tyrone's Rebellion' ('the 'Nine Years' War') – led by Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone and Hugh Roe O'Donnell of Donegal; major military rebellion, with the support of Irish clans
1596-7	Österbotten, Finland	'War of the Clubs' – uprising against Swedish governor and the costs of quartering Swedish troops, led by peasants whose income came from the production and sale of tar
1597	Hungary	Major popular uprising, protesting at excessive demands of nobility upon the commons
1599	Calabria	Planned uprising, with Turkish support, and expectations of a popular insurrection and millennial elements, foiled by Spanish authorities
1607	Germany	Scattered peasant uprisings, with some urban support (Augsburg, etc)

1607	Midlands, England	'Midlands Rising'. Popular protests against enclosures
1604-6	Hungary	Popular revolt led by István Bocskai; militarised insurrection, involving <i>hadjuks</i> (cattle-drovers, posing as guerrillas) and freed serfs, and directed against Habsburg authority
1607	North-West Ireland	'O'Doherty Rebellion', led by Cahir O'Doherty, with some local clan support
1618-9	Bohemia	Major insurrection, led by nobles but mobilising some popular support
1626-7	Austria	Major regional insurrection, with noble leadership, and enjoying some urban sympathisers, aimed against re-Catholicisation
1628-31	West of England	'Skimmington Rising'. Popular protests against enclosures
1630	France	Miscellaneous urban uprisings (Lyon, Aix-en-Provence ['Cascavoieux'], Dijon ['Lanturelu'] with some support from notables, and aimed against royal taxation
1632	Languedoc, France	Regional noble-led insurrection, with local support in southern Languedoc
1632-3	Vizcaya, Spain	Provincial popular revolt against salt-tax
1632-4	Germany	Miscellaneous popular revolts, particularly aimed against troop depredations in the Thirty Years War

1635-6	South-West France	Major popular insurrection in Saintonge and Angoumois, preceded by popular urban protest in some towns. Mainly directed against tax-farmers and taxation
1637	South-West France	'Croquants'. Major peasant insurrection in Périgord and Quercy
1639	Normandy	'Nu-pieds'. Major regional peasant insurrection, with some support from notables
1639	Scotland	'First Bishop's War'. Major national revolt, aristocratic-led, with significant popular involvement
1640	Catalonia	Popular uprisings as part of a wider provincial revolt, led by the notables and nobles, and organised through provincial institutions
1641-9(+)	Ireland	'Irish Rebellion'. Major popular uprising with noble involvement, and involving political, religious and ethnic elements
1642-9(+)	England	Significant popular protests and involvement as part of the wider 'English Civil War', leading to the emergence of 'clubmen' and 'levellers' in certain areas, protesting against the depredations of royal troops. The 'Levellers' become a significant force in the Parliamentary army and among its urban supporters

1644-9(+)	Scotland	'Scottish Civil War' (1644-5), aristocratic led, with significant popular mobilisation – continued as part of the 'War of the Three Kingdoms'
1647-8(+)	Naples, Palermo, and Sicily	'Masaniello Revolt'. Began as popular protest against taxation and as a bread riot; spreads to Sicily
1648(+)	Moscow	Urban insurrection, led by noble Boyars, against Tsar
1648-9(+)	France	The 'Fronde'. A major rebellion against the government of France during Louis XIV's minority, involving urban notables and popular support (Paris and many provincial cities)