

2. The Edict of Fontainebleau of 18.10.1685

The Edict of Fontainebleau was proclaimed in the royal palace of Fontainebleau to the south of Paris on 18th October 1685 (old style) by King Louis XIV (1638-1715). Like his grandfather Henry IV Louis desired unity, following the old motto "one king, one faith, one law". Unlike Henry IV he aimed to achieve this coercing the Protestants to convert, if necessary by force.

The relatively short text of the Edict of Fontainebleau with its 11 articles revoked the terms of the Edict of Nantes and declared that:

1. all Reformed Churches in the country are to be destroyed.
2. all Protestant worship is forbidden.
3. Protestant services in the houses of the nobles are forbidden
4. Ministers are required to convert to the Catholic faith or leave France within 15 days.
5. Protestant ministers prepared to convert will receive a pension one third larger than their former stipend plus other allowances.
6. Protestant ministers can be retrained as lawyers.
7. Protestant schools are forbidden.
8. The children of Protestants are obliged to have a Catholic baptism and a Catholic education.
9. Protestants who have left the kingdom are allowed to return within 4 months and take possession of their property.
10. Huguenots are forbidden to leave the country.
11. The Protestants who remain in the country are allowed to stay "till it is God's will to enlighten them like the others". They will not be discriminated against because of their "so called" Reformed religion so long as they do not organize public services.