

Lepanto: The Battle and The Poem

A longer (3 CD) studio recording of this lecture is available for purchase along with other lectures in Church History at Christopher Check's table.

Recommended Reading:

Jack Beeching, *The Galleys At Lepanto*
Niccolo Capponi, *Victory of the West*
Roger Crowley, *Empires of the Sea*
Louis De Wohl, *The Last Crusader* **(GREAT FOR BOYS!)**
Dale Ahlquist (Ed.), *Lepanto by G.K. Chesterton*
William Thomas Walsh, *Philip II*
Ernie Bradford, *The Siege of Malta*
John Francis Guilmartin, *Gunpowder and Galleys*
Angus Konstum, *Lepanto 1571*

--A few questions:

The Norman Invasion? 1492?
Great Sea Battles of the 16th Century: 1588 or 1571?

--The Liturgical Calendar

May 24? September 12? August 6? September 14?
September 29? October 7?

c. 622AD—a new religion

October 1564—The viziers of the divan of the Ottoman Empire counsel war.

Suleiman I (The Magnificent) (r. 1520-1566)—the Sultan under whose rule the Ottoman Empire expanded to its zenith

The strategic implications of “the tiny little island”
Jean de la Vallette

1566—Szigetvar, Count Miklos Zrinyi

Selim II—Sultan at the time of Lepanto (“the Soldan of Byzantium”)

July 1570—Siege of Nicosia (Cyprus)

Pope Saint Pius V—the man who puts it all together

March 7, 1571 (Feast of Thomas Aquinas)—Holy League formed, sort of (Santa Maria Sopra Minerva)

Elizabeth I (“the cold queen of England”); **Charles IX** (“the shadow of the Valois”)

Francisco Borgia

Don John of Austria—illegitimate son of Emperor Charles V; half brother to King Philip II of Spain; Captain General of the Holy League

October 1570-August 1571—The Siege of Famagusta (Cyprus)

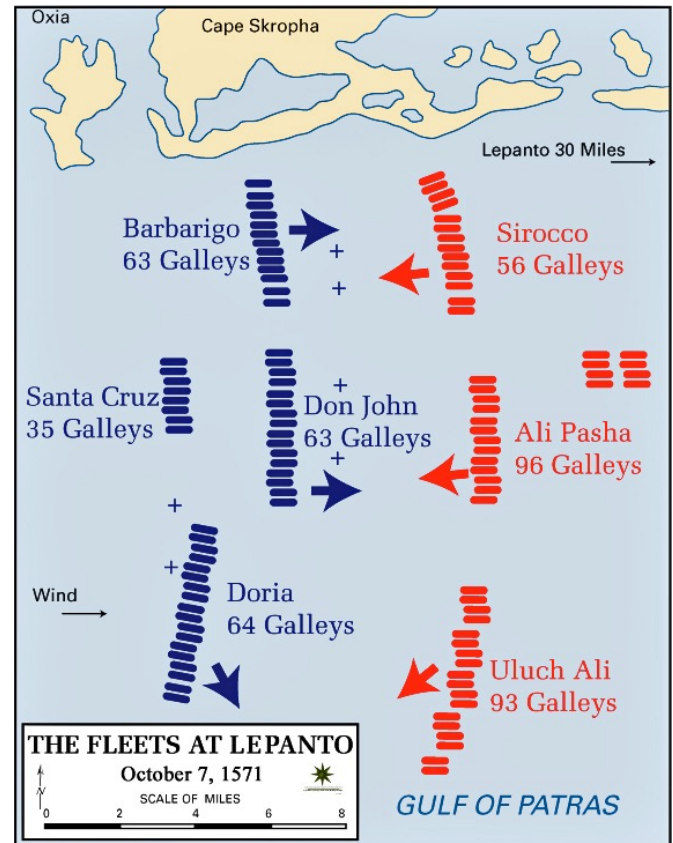
Marcantonio Bragadino—the intrepid Venetian governor of Famagusta

Lala Mustufa—the demonic commander of the besieging Turkish forces

Gianandrea Dorea—Genovese admiral (*condottiere*) and shipowner, commander of the right (southernmost) squadron of the Holy League; a shrewd (very shrewd) (too shrewd) businessman.

Muezzinzade Ali Pasha—commander of the Ottoman Fleet; a decent man and a capable commander

Galley (of the 16th Century)—a two-mast, sailed (augmented to battle) and rowed (in battle), lateen rigged vessel designed for naval combat in the Mediterranean: 40-45 meters (beam, 5-6 meters), 190-210 oarsman, about 150-200 infantry, draft of 1.2 meters, cannons at bow and stern (max. eff. range: 200 meters), sometimes up to four flanking guns; seven knots at dash speed sustainable for 20 minutes with a well-greased and scraped hull.



OVER

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Galleas—a large (three mast) merchant galley (*galia grosse*) refitted for naval combat, 60 meters; the ultimate development of the oared warship; slow and limited maneuverability; many cannons on bow, stern, port and starboard; six of these at Lepanto; had to be towed into place, two before each squadron; historians believe that the galleases for the southernmost squadron did not reach their appointed position by the start of the battle.

Galliot—a small, single-mast (27 meters; 80 oarsmen), shallow draft, swift galley favored by the Barbary corsairs

Arquebus—an early hand held gun. Very heavy. Good as a club, too.

Real—Don John's flagship galley; see the 1:1 replica in the Barcelona Maritime Museum

Agostin Barbarigo—Venetian Commander of the left (northern) squadron of the Holy League. A superb and experienced galley captain

Marcantonio Colonna—Roman commander, vice admiral to Don John, commander of the Papal Galleys

Sebastian Venier—Captain General of Venice and Don John's other Vice Admiral;

very brave; equally hardheaded and arrogant (after all, a Venetian!)

Don Álvaro De Bazán, Marquis de Santa Cruz—Spain's greatest naval commander; he would have commanded the Great Armada against the heretic Queen Elizabeth in 1588 had he not died during the preparations. He commanded the reserve squadron at Lepanto and his unmatched capacity to read a battle and deploy at the critical moment saved the Holy League.

Uluch Ali Pasha—Algerian or perhaps Calabrese (in any event, once a Christian who defected to Islam); commander of the Turkish left (southern) squadron; a superb seaman who went on to serve the Sultan as Supreme Turkish Commander in the Mediterranean until his death (at which point he learned the Truth).

Miguel Cervantes--yes, he was there! (And so was....)

Christopher Check is President of Catholic Answers, the largest lay-run apologetics and evangelization organization in the English-speaking world. Though its radio program, *Catholic Answers Live*, its speakers bureau, its *Catholic Answers Magazine*, its press and product line, its website (www.catholic.com) and online forums, and its team of full-time apologists who field thousands of phone calls, letters, and e-mails each year, Catholic Answers works to deepen the faith of existing Catholics, lead former Catholics home, and guide non-Catholics to the fullness of the Truth.

Chris holds a degree in English Literature from Rice University. He served for two decades as Vice President of The Rockford Institute and before that for seven years as a field artillery officer in the United States Marine Corps in deployments and expeditions in the Far East and the Persian Gulf. His writings have appeared in, among others, *Chronicles: A Magazine of American Culture*, *This Rock*, *Touchstone*, *The Wanderer*, *Angelus*, *New Oxford Review*, *Culture Wars*, and *the Chicago Tribune*. He has addressed audiences at home and abroad including at the University of London, the Pontifical Augustinian University in Rome, the Serbian Writers Union in Belgrade, the National Press Club, Catholic Answers, the American Chesterton Society, Legatus, Catholic Citizens of Illinois, Saint Michael's Abbey, Silverado, California, Saint Gregory's Academy, The Institute for Catholic Culture, The Thomas More College of Liberal Arts, Ave Maria University, Argument of the Month Club, and, most respectable of all, the Irish Rose Saloon in Rockford, Illinois. He is the creator of The Lepanto Lectures, a series of audio lectures on topics in Salvation History from ancient times to the present day. He and his wife Jacqueline and their four sons, Nicholas, Alexander, John Paul, and Nathanael, show and breed Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, famed companions of the Stuart kings. Their kennel name is Top Meadow Cavaliers (www.topmeadowcavaliers.com) named for G.K. Chesterton's Beaconsfield estate.

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