

The period of the Wars of Religion in France and the following reign of Henry IV have always drawn attention of French and foreign historians. All main sources and period documents have been edited. Specialized reviews started to be published and ample syntheses about the Early Modern History of France have been written since the second half of the 19th century. Nevertheless, French historians have always preferred to study the internal development of the state and have largely omitted its relations with foreign countries. In the international context, the interrelationship with Spain has been accentuated, because of more apparent influence of the Spanish Empire to the French policy than that of England or any other power. Excepted several old works at the turn of the 19th and the 20th century the Anglo-French relations in the period have not almost been studied in French Historiography.

The wars of Religion in France covering the period from 1562 to 1598 did not mean only an internal struggle between Catholics and Huguenots, but one of the conflicts between Catholics and Protestants in religiously divided Europe during and after the Reformation. Together with the Revolt in the Netherlands, they represented a focus of international policy in the second half of the 16th century. For France the key relation was naturally that with England, leader of protestant states, and that with Spain, the main catholic power. Its political development was also influenced by the interrelationship between Spain and England.