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- Spark of the war - Archduke Ferdinand, heir of HRE, became king of Bohemia & began to restrict religious freedoms of Prot.
Protestant nobles tossed the HRE ambassadors out the window when they brought the message that Protestantism would no longer be tolerated.
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- The Dutch - sought independence from Spain
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- A Scene from the Thirty Years’ War
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Soldiers plunder a farm during the Thirty Year’s War
A priest blesses hanging victims in this famous etching from the Thirty Years War. (By Jacques Callot, 1592–1635. Metropolitan Museum of Art.)
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  - Big losers - HRE & Spain - broke, divided, lost territory