



RENAISSANCE LITERATURE

الأدب الإنجليزي - عصر النهضة

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Lecture 1

Causes of the Renaissance: The Reformation

(Renaissance Literature)

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Main points

Causes and Consequences of the Reformation

- ❖ Before the Reformation ALL Christians in Europe were Roman Catholic
- ❖ Reformation Ended the Religious Unity in Europe
- ❖ Attack on the medieval church—its institutions, doctrine, practices and personnel
- ❖ The Reformation caused a split in Christianity with the formation of the new Protestant religions

The Medieval Church

- ❖ Mission of the Church: To save the soul of all the members.
- ❖ **Tithe:** People donated one tenth (1/10) of the produce from their lands to the church each year.
- ❖ Wealth: Church became wealthiest group in Europe
- ❖ Church was the Center of daily life. The local church served as a church, meeting place, and shelter during war.
- ❖ Community: The church dominated community life and controlled interaction between Christians .

The Problem of the Catholic Church

Greed, corruption and absenteeism

- ❖ Sales of indulgences: The release of a soul from purgatory (hell) for monetary donation – a HUGE abuse of Church power! Extortion of money from the poor
- ❖ Unfair Land and wealth distribution
- ❖ The corruption of the Papacy
- ❖ European population was increasingly anti-clerical
- ❖ Absenteeism of church leaders during natural disasters (plague, famine) or to solve everyday problems for people

New Socio-economic realities

- ❖ Better educated, urban populace was more critical of the Church than rural Peasantry
- ❖ Renaissance monarchs were growing impatient with the power of the Church
- ❖ Society was growing more humanistic and secular
- ❖ Growing individualism

Technological Developments

- ❖ Scientific developments contradicted Church doctrine
- ❖ Invention of movable type (printing) in 1450 by Johann Gutenberg
- ❖ Manufacture of paper becomes easier and cheaper
- ❖ Spread of ideas faster than the Catholic Church could control them
- ❖ Intensified intellectual criticism of the Church
- ❖ Protestant ideals appealed to the urban and the literate

Calls for Reform

- ❖ The Church's political power started being challenged
- ❖ Unwillingness to depend on the Church and rejection of the constraints it enforced
- ❖ Growing human confidence vs. "original sin"
- ❖ Catholic church becomes defensive and unable to respond to the criticism
- ❖ The confusing nature of scholasticism and of church dogma

Reformers

Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)

- ❖ A Dutch scholar, humanist, and theologian.
- ❖ Was ordained a Catholic priest, but never practiced priestly duties.
- ❖ Studied, instead, theology and classical Greek at the universities of Paris and Cambridge.
- ❖ Was critical of some of the practices and doctrines of the Catholic Church.
- ❖ Sought to reform the Catholic Church.



In Praise of Folly - by Erasmus

- ❖ Written in Latin in 1509
- ❖ Best-seller (only the Bible sold more by 1550)
- ❖ Erasmus was a devout Catholic who sought to reform the Church, not destroy it
- ❖ Criticized immorality and hypocrisy of Church leaders and the clergy
- ❖ The book inspired renewed calls for reform, and influenced Martin Luther

Reformers

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

- ❖ A German Priest
- ❖ Openly addressed the problems in the Church
- ❖ Said that faith is private and church should have no Control over it.





- ❖ Oct 31, 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenburg, Germany
- ❖ The 95 theses summarized his criticisms of Church
- ❖ 1000s of copies distributed throughout Germany and Europe.

Reformation Begins

- ❖ By 1521 Luther was calling for Germany to split from the catholic Church
- ❖ Wanted German princes to overthrow Papal power in Germany and establish a German Church
- ❖ Jan 1521 – Luther is excommunicated
- ❖ He was summoned by Imperial Diet of Holy Roman Empire to the city of Worms by Emperor Charles V and was ordered to change his ideas
- ❖ Luther – “NO” – The Edict of Worms was issued, making Luther an outlaw Luther kept in hiding by German princes

Lutheranism

Lutheranism (Protestantism) Spreads

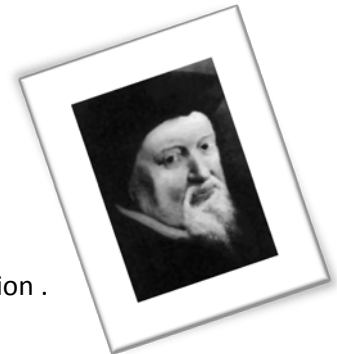
- ❖ Followers of Luther’s religious practices increased
- ❖ Protestantism Gained support among many German princes
- ❖ 1524, German peasants revolted (The Peasants’ Revolt) and hoped Luther would support them, but... because Luther needed the support of German princes, he did not help the peasants
- ❖ Germany is in turmoil – is it Catholic? Is it Lutheran?
- ❖ To establish peace, the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V accepted the Peace of Augsburg, and allowed German princes to choose their own faith and religion.

Protestantism Spreads across Europe

- ❖ Ulrich Zwingli and the Zwinglian Reformation
- ❖ John Calvin and Calvinism
- ❖ Henry VIII and the English Reformation

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) / The Zwinglian Reformation

- ❖ priest in Zurich, Switzerland
- ❖ Revolted against the Catholic Church:
- ❖ Banned all religious relics & images
- ❖ Whitewashed all church interiors.
- ❖ Banned music in church services
- ❖ Did not merge with Luther because he disagreed with him on communion .



John Calvin (1509-1564) and Calvinism

- ❖ Replaced Zwingli (killed in religious war)
- ❖ French, fled to Switzerland for safety
- ❖ 1536 – began reforming Geneva, Switzerland
- ❖ Created a church-government of elect and laity
- ❖ Used consistory (moral police)
- ❖ Sent missionaries throughout Europe to convert Catholics
- ❖ His ideas spread to France, Netherlands, Scotland
- ❖ Mid 16th Century – Calvinism more pop than Lutheranism
- ❖ Anti-Catholic
- ❖ Was influenced by Martin Luther, but..
- ❖ Disagreed with Luther's "Salvation through Faith alone."
- ❖ Established his own Protestant Religion in Switzerland



Calvinism : Started in Switzerland

England and America = Puritans

Scotland = The Presbyterians

Holland = The Dutch Reform

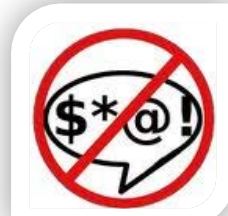
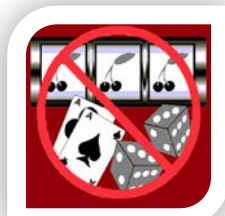
France = The Huguenots

Germany = The Reform Church

South Africa = Boers

Calvinism believes in:

- ❖ Predestination: It is decided, at birth, if people will go to heaven or hell
- ❖ Preach a purified existence and opposed to drinking, gambling, card playing, swearing, etc.



Reformation in England

- ❖ Political, not religious motives for reform
- ❖ Henry VIII – King of England needs a male heir to carry on the Tudor Dynasty

- Married Catherine of Aragon (Aunt of Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor)
- Catherine gave him a daughter, Mary and no son,
- So Henry wanted a divorce!
- In the Catholic Church, you need an annulment, granted by the Church. The Pope ONLY can grant it to a King.



- ❖ Political, not religious motives for reform
- ❖ The Pope refused to grant the annulment, too political
- ❖ Standoff between: The King of England and HRE Emperor
- ❖ After a long argument, Henry decided to break away from the Catholic Church
- ❖ Archbishop of Canterbury granted Henry VIII a divorce
- ❖ Act of Supremacy(1534) established the Church of England
- ❖ King Now controls over religious doctrine, appointments, etc
- ❖ Henry VIII dissolved Catholic claims, sold its land and possessions
- ❖ Took power but remained close to Catholic teachings

Henry and His Wives

- ❖ Henry was desperate for a son. So much so he married 6 times!!
- ❖ The saying goes...Divorced, Beheaded, Died Divorced, Beheaded, Survived



The Church of England

- ❖ 1547 – Henry died
His 9 year old son, Edward VI, took the throne
- ❖ The Church of England or the Anglican Church became more Protestant, which triggered the anger of the Catholic Church
- ❖ 1553 – Edward VI died
His half-sister Mary (Catholic) took throne
- ❖ Mary wanted to restore Catholicism
- ❖ She had over 300 Protestants burned alive as heretics, which earned her the title “Bloody Mary.”
- ❖ Mary increased tensions between Catholics and Protestants

Lecture 2

Gold, God and Glory

Trade routes, Missionary work and Fame

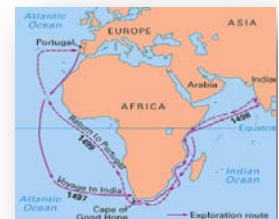
- ❖ Crusades tried to dislodge Muslims from control of trade routes to the East
- ❖ Crusades were a big loss, but Europe learnt to draw maps and sail seas.
- ❖ Fall of Islamic Spain, al-Andalus, put a huge reservoir of wealth and scientific knowledge in the hands of Europe
- ❖ Notice the dates: Fall of Grenada January 1492, Columbus sails in July 1492.

Explorations Begin

- ❖ Portugal, Spain, England, and France led the exploration and colonization movement and built individual empires across the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Australia.
- ❖ Portugal led the way. A land of experienced sailors who had traveled the seas in search of trade for centuries. Portuguese monarchs like Prince Henry the Navigator understood their country's dependence on the sea and eagerly finance exploration ventures.

Portugal

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- ❖ The Portuguese, first, explored the west coast of Africa and established trade in gold and slaves.



- ❖ 1497, Vasco da Gama sailed around the Cape of Good Hope at the southern tip of Africa and Continued to India. He and his crew were the first Europeans to reach India by sea.
- ❖ Then the Portuguese established settlements in Brazil in South America.
- ❖ Brazil provided Portugal gold and sugar.
- ❖ Portugal was more interested in trade than in taking over a land and its people. By the 1600s, Portugal had established trading posts in important coastal areas of Africa and Asia..



The Spanish Empire

- ❖ Spain's exploration and colonization were led by the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus. In 1492, Columbus reached the Caribbean Islands. His aim was to find a new route to Asia.
- ❖ Accidentally found America while looking for a westward route to Asia
- ❖ His voyages considered a turning point in history



- ❖ In 1510, Spain financed the voyage of Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan, who headed south and west, rounding the tip of South America and finally reaching the Philippine Islands after 18 months at sea.
- ❖ Magellan died there, but his crew returned home after circumnavigating the entire world and proving that the earth was round!
- ❖ Spanish explorers soon conquered the powerful Inca and Aztec empires in what is now Peru and Mexico. They established colonies that destroyed the native's civilization and its population. The Spanish empire eventually became the largest and strongest of the colonial empires.
- ❖ The Spaniards used the gold and silver of the Americas to finance military wars and to take over Asian trades in spices, silk and cloth.
- ❖ Spreading the Catholic religion was also an important part of the Spanish colonization.



The English Empire

- ❖ England started by conquering Ireland in the 1500s.
- ❖ In the 1600s and 1700s, the English established tobacco plantations in the Caribbean Island and colonies along the Atlantic coast of North America.
- ❖ The colonists were a mix of religious puritans and pirates and mercenaries.



- ❖ In 1600, England chartered the East India Company to trade in the East Indies (India and Southeast Asia) and soon established a colonial presence in India. India eventually came under British rule in 1858.
- ❖ England first explored Australia in the late 1600s and established a strong colonial presence there in the late 1700s after the American colonies became independent.

The French

- ❖ The French settled in North America once French explorer Samuel de Champlain founded the colony of Quebec as a trading post in 1608. Then they moved down the Mississippi River and claimed the central part of what is now the United States.

Rise of Mercantilism

- ❖ Governments sponsored most early ventures
- ❖ Private sponsorship begins with Joint-Stock Companies
- ❖ Money pooled together = Limited liability
- ❖ World trade shifts from Mediterranean to Atlantic
- ❖ Mercantilism begins:
 - Nations base wealth on gold and silver, gained only through mining or trade.
 - Gov'ts begin forcing colonies to trade ONLY with parent country
 - All raw materials go to parent country, and colonies must buy finished goods from parent country
 - All wealth then stays with parent country

Social Impact

- ❖ Massive population growth in Europe between 1450-1650 (55 mil to 100 mil)
- ❖ Columbian Exchange- new crops, animals, diseases exchanged **Items only in Europe/Asia before 1492:** Beet, Carrot, Cherry, Cinnamon, Coffee, Grape, Lettuce, Melon, Oat, Olive, Orange, Rice, Spinach, Wheat, Cattle, Goat, Pig, Sheep, Cotton, Rat **Items only in America before 1492:** Avocado, Cacao Bean (Chocolate), Chile Pepper, Corn, Peanut, Pineapple, Potato, Pumpkin, Sweet Potato, Tomato, Turkey, Tobacco
- ❖ People begin to migrate to New World colonies for new opportunities

Scientific Revolution

Colas Copernicus

Studied in Poland; questioned old beliefs
Thought Earth was round, it rotated in axis, & revolved around the sun
Wouldn't publish beliefs until near death (afraid of the Church)

Johannes Kepler

Used math to prove Earth revolved around sun
Also discovered planets move in ellipses & at different speeds

Galileo Galilei

Built telescope & observed several moons
Proved theories of Copernicus
Church forced him to recant his beliefs
Also worked with physics and motion

Francis Bacon

Founded the scientific method (truth through evidence)

Rene Descartes

Questioned everything; father of analytical geometry

"I think therefore I am"

Isaac Newton

st 1 European to recognize concept of gravity (apple)

Wrote of laws of universe (*Principia*)

Developed calculus to study changes in forces or quantities

Andreas Vesalius

Recorded information on human anatomy (*The Structure of the Human Body*)

Robert Hooke

Used microscope to study the body

Discovered cells

Conclusions

Of course, Renaissance did not usher only an age of exploration and travels and literature.

It also ushered an age of exploitation and destruction

Many nations were destroyed in the areas that came under European control.

Some like the Mayas and Incas were very sophisticated

The Renaissance also ushered the age of the International Slave Trade, and millions of Africans were kidnapped and taken to plantations in the Americas where they were forced into bondage and servitude.

Not to forget that mercantilism builds the foundations of the modern Capitalist system

New methods of warfare that are far more devastating than anything humanity has ever seen.

The literature of the Renaissance did not appear simply because some writers of genius appeared, but because the new socio-economic realities brought with it new cultures and new ways to look at the world and new ways to think and organize and communicate.