

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



Protestantism Spreads across Europe

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



Protestantism Spreads across Europe

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



Protestantism Spreads across Europe

John Calvin (1509-1564)

- ❖ Anti-Catholic
- ❖ Was influenced by Martin Luther, but..
- ❖ Disagreed with Luther's "Salvation through Faith alone."
- ❖ Established his own Protestant Religion in Switzerland



Protestantism Spreads across Europe

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



Protestantism Spreads across Europe

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.



Reformation in England

- ❖ 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

