**LeeNa.. =)**

**Civilization 4**

In Early 16th century the cries against the spiritual abuses of the church rang loudly in all Europe, and words gave place to actions. That was in Germany, the reformation movement first appeared in Germany.

**Martin Luther** was a priest, a teacher who taught at the University of Wittenberg in Germany.  
In 1514 Germany witnessed a wide spread of the sell of **indulgences** (a withholding of Punishment and it's usually a grant by the pope) the indulgence promise a shorter stay of the erring soul at the Purgatory. These indulgences were sold only to the living people or those who recently died. The indulgences are accompanied by other practices, like the **Penance** (torturing the self) and the performing of **pilgrimage.**

Martin Luther believed that the key to eternal life and salvation is man's individual relation with god. He said that these kinds of practices are not part of Christianity. In 1517 he nailed 95 theses on the door of All saints church, in which he argues against the sell of indulgences. This action created a great controversy among people and soon the discussion shifted from the selling of indulgences to the supremacy of the pope himself. They started to question the authority of the pope. The pope declared martin Luther as Heretic and therefore he was excommunicated and usually its punishment was always death by burning. The execution was always done by the state. The elector of Saxony was in favor of Martin Luther, because he hated the money of Saxony going Rome. The pope appealed to the superior of the Elector of Saxony (Charles V, emperor of Spain) he was the grandson of Ferdinand and Isabella. His response to the pope wasn't quick and this gave time to Martin Luther and his followers to grow stronger.

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