

**History of
Christianity 3.
The Reformation
of the Church**

The Reformation of the Church

Factors Contributing to the Reformation

The Reformation in Germany - Luther

The Reformation in Switzerland - Zwingli and Calvin

The Reformation in England

The Radical Reformation - Anabaptist

The Catholic Reformation

Developments in Protestantism 1560-1700:

Orthodoxy, Puritanism, Pietism

Wars of Religion

Factors Contributing to the Reformation

rise of nation states and nationalism

Humanism and the Renaissance

printing press

discovery of the New World; advances in
medicine, and science

Europe in 1500

Spain

new monarchy formed by marriage of
Ferdinand of Aragon (**1479-1516**) and
Isabella of Castile (**1474-1504**)

Charles I (**1516-1556**) = Emperor Charles V of
the Holy Roman Empire

Germany

divided in nearly 300 independent states, all
loosely under the head of the Holy Roman
Emperor

Switzerland

nominally part of the Holy Roman Empire, but essentially independent

13 cantons, each self-governing republic, united in a loose confederation. Dominant cantons: Bern and Zurich

Holy Roman Empire

Maximilian I (1493-1519)

Charles V (1519-1556) {= King Charles I of Spain}

France

strong monarchy had emerged after the 100 Years War with England (1337-1453)

Louis XII (1498-1515)

Francis I (1515-1547)

Henry II (1547-1559)

Italy

several independent states, including Papal States.

“wretched battleground of France and Spain

1499: Louis XII of France conquered Kingdom of Milan

1503: Ferdinand of Spain conquered Kingdom of Naples

England (allied with Spain)

Henry VII (**1485-1509**), first Tudor king

following the War of the Roses (**1455-1485**)

Henry VIII (**1509-1547**)

Edward VI (**1547-1553**)

Mary Tudor (**1553-1558**)

Elizabeth I (**1558-1603**)

Scotland (allied with France)

James IV (**1488-1513**)

James V (**1513-1542**)

Mary Stuart (**1542-1567**)

Rise of Nation States and Nationalism

end of feudal systems and rise of new monarchies

France

England

Spain

dreams of union and independence

Netherlands

Germany

Latin common bond only for ecclesiastical and scholarly circles

Renaissance

intellectual and artistic movement in Italy, then to

W. Europe, in 14th and 15th century

glorious rebirth of forgotten antiquity

thousand years since fall of Rome “Middle Ages:”

negative intermission between antiquity and the

present

Humanism

literary movement to return to the sources of classical literature and imitate its style

Printing Press

early books Latin or Greek of interest only to scholars

typography tried to imitate handwritten books

“textual criticism” arose. “Critical editions” produced

- authenticity of texts questioned. *Donation of Constantine* judged a forgery

Desiderius Erasmus of Rotterdam (1466-1536) “Prince of the Humanist”

illegitimate son of a priest and physician's
daughter. Reared in Holland

1487: entered Augustinian monastery

1492: ordained a priest

1495: left monastery, unsuited to life of monk
studied in Paris, scholastic theology, then classical
literature

wrote series of best selling satires ridiculing
monasticism and scholasticism, corruption of
Rome

Erasmus

*Handbook of the Christian Soldier, Colloquies,
Praise of Folly*

series editor of Latin and Greek text

1516: produced first Greek New Testament (first ever published)

commandments of Jesus subject passion to reason
Church must abandon the vices of pagans
(Renaissance popes)

monasticism ideal unacceptable distinction: all are called to be “soldiers of Christ”

theology & doctrine important but righteous more important

true Christian warfare is an inner warfare

“Erasmus laid the egg and Luther hatched it”

-- popular 15th century saying

“I wish that the scriptures might be translated into all languages, so that not only the Scots and the Irish, but also the Turk and the Saracen might read and understand them. I long that the farm laborer might sing them as he follows his plough, the weaver hum them to the tune of his shuttle, the traveler beguile the weariness of his journey with their stories.”

- Erasmus

“I detest dissension, because it goes against the teachings of Christ and against a secret inclination of nature. I doubt that either side in the dispute can be suppressed without grave loss. It is clear that many of the reforms for which Luther calls are urgently needed. My only wish is that now that I am old I be allowed to enjoy the results of my efforts. But both sides reproach me and seek to coerce me. Some claim that since I do not attack Luther I agree with him, while Lutherans declare that I am a coward who has forsaken the gospel”

- Erasmus

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Reformation in Germany

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

1483: born Eisleben. Father copper miner, 2nd of 8 children

1501: University of Erfurt (most humanistic of German Universities)

May 1505: entered law school

moved by death of classmate, close escape from lightning; vowed to St. Anne to become monk

1505: entered monastery of Augustinian hermits in Erfurt

1507: ordained as priest.

overpowering sense of his own sinfulness.

Despaired that sin was deeper than what he could consciously account for and confess

Martin Luther

spiritual advisor suggested he read the Christian mystics: love God, rest will follow
difficult to love a just God who demanded an account of all his sins
spiritual advisor ordered him to University at Wittenberg

1512: doctor of theology

1515: began lecturing on Romans

struggled with Romans 1:17, the righteous and justice of God. But it is not “good news” that God is just and judges sinners

“I felt that I had been born anew and that the gates of heaven had been open.” Faith and justification are the work of God, a free gift to sinners

Martin Luther

1517: wrote *Disputation against Scholastic Theology* - 97 theses radically attacking all of medieval Scholasticism.
- to his surprise, aroused little interest beyond University

Ninety Five Theses

Background

Albert of Brandenburg (who already had two episcopal sees) paid Pope Leo X 10,000 ducats for Archbishopric of Mainz, who also authorized him to large sale of indulgences

Dominican John Tetzel put in charge of indulgence sale: “cleaner than when coming out of baptism,” “cleaner than Adam before the Fall,” “the cross of the seller of an indulgence has as much power as the cross of Christ,” “as soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs.”

many appalled, most kept silent

Ninety Five Theses

Oct 31, 1517: posted Ninety Five Theses on door of Castle of Wittenberg

- written in Latin; Luther expected same response as his 97 theses. Did send a copy with a respectful cover letter to Albert of Brandenburg
- Printer spread copies and German translation throughout Germany
- Albert sent his copy and letter to the Pope

Pope told Augustinian Order to deal with it

Cardinal Cajetan sent to Diet of the Empire; met with Luther

Luther protected by Frederick the Wise, Elector of Saxony, Pope's choice for the new Holy Roman Emperor instead of King Charles I (Spain) or Francis I (France)

April 18, 1521: Diet of Worms before Emperor Charles V "Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise."

- Luther hid by Frederick at Wartburg Castle
Luther still under Emperor's death sentence,
returned to Wittenburg

1521-1525: Emperor busy with wars with France

1523: Diet of Worms adopted policy of toleration with Lutheranism

1525: Imperial troops captured King Francis I of France.

- Charles V signed peace treaty; freed Francis I.

- Counting on support of Francis, the Pope, he was ready to crush Lutheranism and the Turks

- instead King Francis I and Pope Clement VII ally and declare war on Emperor Charles V

1526: Diet of Spire withdrew Edict of Worms against Luther; each German state given freedom to choose its own allegiance

1527: Imperial troops invade Italy and march on Rome

1529: peace agreed to by Pope and Francis

1529: Second Diet of Spire: reaffirmed Edict of Worms. Lutheran princes presented formal protest = called “Protestants”

1530: Diet of Augsburg. Emperor Charles V back
- listened to “Augsburg Confession”
- demanded recantation by April 1531

Protestant territories formed League of Schmalkald

1532: Turks threaten Vienna again; Francis I
threatens wars

1532: Peace of Nuremberg

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Reformation in Switzerland

Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531)

born in small Swiss village 2 mos. after Luther
studied in Basel, Bern, University of Vienna
became priest village of Glarus; chaplain on Italian
campaigns with Swiss mercenary troops

1515: met Erasmus; deeply influenced

1518: papal chaplain

1519: priest at Great Minster Church in Zurich.

Convinced:

- justification by faith alone
- must return to original sources: bible
(humanism). Anything not explicitly in
Scripture must be rejected

Ulrich Zwingli

Rejected:

- Lenten fasts
- celibacy of clergy
- veneration of saints
- absolution
- indulgences
- merits of good works
- crucifixes, tapestries, statues
- relics
- organ playing, chanting, bell ringing
- liturgy of the Mass
- Christ's real presence in Eucharist (only symbolic)

Ulrich Zwingli

city council gradually supported his views,

- **June, July 1524:** gangs of workers removed pictures, statues from city churches, marking open breach with Rome

- **Dec 1524:** monasteries dissolved

- **After Holy Week 1525:** Mass abolished

Pope made no intervention, needed the Swiss mercenary soldiers from Zurich

aided spread to other cantons of Switzerland

1528: Protestant cantons form “Christian Civic Alliance.” Roman cantons counter with “Christian Union.”

1531: Zurich tried to force evangelical preaching on Roman cantons by embargo on food to them

Roman cantons swiftly attacked Zurich, Zwingli found severely wounded and was killed

Reformation in Switzerland

John Calvin (1509-1564)

the most important systemic theologian of the 16th
century Protestantism

born Noyon, Picardy, France

father, secretary to bishop; obtained for John

income from two minor ecclesiastical posts

studied theology in Paris; law in Orleans and

Bourges

1533: sudden conversion “God subdued and
brought my heart to docility” Broke with
Roman Catholicism

1534: gave up his ecclesiastical posts

1535: went into exile Basel, Switzerland

John Calvin

1536: first edition of *Institution of the Christian Religion* or *Institutes*

- 516 pages, 6 chapters;

- final edition **1559:** four books, 80 chapters

predestination

gospel could not be ineffective; yet some people do not respond to the gospel.

Therefore “We assert that by an eternal and immutable counsel God hath once for all determined both whom he would admit to salvation and whom He would admit to destruction”

Eucharist: view intermediate between Zwingli and Luther. Presence real but spiritual

John Calvin

decided to settle in Strasbourg; got sidetracked on way in Geneva

- William Farel, Protestant missionary from Bern, urged him to stay

Geneva became “Rome of Protestantism”

1564: Geneva Academy founded

John Calvin

Experiment in Geneva

goal in Geneva: an effective form of religious and moral totalitarianism

- **1541:** *Ecclesiastical Ordinances* to govern the religious and moral lives of citizens
- elders to keep eye on citizens, report to Venerable Company of Pastors

dissension

Sebastian Castello: expelled from Geneva for interpreting Song of Songs as a poem of erotic love

Jerome Bolsec: former Carmelite friar attacked Calvin on predestination: made God into tyrant, implied Christ died only for the elect. Imprisoned and exiled

Michael Servetus: condemned by Inquisition for views against Trinity. Arrested and burned at the stake

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Reformation in England

gradual Protestantization of the English church and people over the reigns of four monarchs
act of state imposed from above by willful king
received in a ground of political rebellion,
movements for church reform

Erasmus visited **1499**, **1506**, and lectured at
Cambridge **1511-1514**

- John Fisher (**1459-1535**) bishop of Rochester
- Sir Thomas More (**1478-1535**)

1520: group of Cambridge scholar routinely gathered at White Horse Inn “Little Germany” to discuss new doctrines of Luther

Henry VIII

impressive intellect, leader, well-read in Scholastic theology and humanism, popular

Thomas Wolsey (**1474?-1530**), superb diplomat,

1515 made Cardinal by Pope Leo X

use of Luther's writings forbidden

1521: Henry published *Assertion of the Seven Sacraments* against Luther. Pope called him "Defender of the Faith"

Henry VIII

1509: married **Catherine of Aragon**, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain

Pope Julius II gave special dispensation, as Catherine had been married to Henry's older brother Arthur

six children; only Mary survived infancy

1527: scruples about validity of marriage (Lev 20:31)

Wolsey favored divorce; saw potential French alliance; Henry infatuated with **Anne Boleyn**, sister of his mistress Mary Boleyn

Lord Chancellor and Cardinal Wolsey tried to get annulment from Pope Clement VII

Henry VIII

Thomas Cranmer: suggested getting opinions from Catholic Universities on annulment question. Started lasting friendship with Henry

Jan 1531: “sole protector and supreme head of English church” “as far as the law of Christ allows”

Pope Clement VII appointed **Thomas Cranmer** archbishop of Canterbury under Henry’s threat of losing annates

Thomas Cranmer (1489-1556)

born Asclacton, Nottinghamshire

educated at Cambridge

Lutheran in his theology

preferred reformation by general persuasion

firmly believed in Luther's idea of a "godly prince"

Great Bible (1538)

Litany (1545)

Prayer Books of 1549 and 1552

Henry VIII

Split with Rome

Jan 1533: secretly married **Anne Boleyn**

May 1533: Cranmer annulled marriage to Catherine; declared marriage to Anne lawful
(**Sep 1533** had daughter Elizabeth)

Jul 1533: Pope threatened excommunication

Nov 3, 1534: Parliament passed the Supremacy Act. “the only supreme head in earth of the Church of England”

mastermind of the “Reformation Parliament” was

Thomas Cromwell (1485-1540) King’s secretary and vicar general ecclesiastical affairs

Henry VIII

Split with Rome

May 1535: monks of the Carthusian order barbarously executed for denying King's supremacy

June and July 1535: Bishop John Fisher and Sir Thomas More beheaded. More: "the king's good servant, but God's first"

monasteries dissolved (800 between **1536-40**); monies given to state

Heir at Last

1536: Henry tired of Anne Boleyn, who had not produced a male heir. Charged with adultery

May 17, 1536: Cranmer pronounced marriage null and void

May 18: beheaded

May 30: Henry married Jane Seymour

Oct 12, 1537: Edward born.

Edward VI (1547-1553)

nine years old; rule by head of the privy council

England moved towards a more radical

Protestantism

1548: images removed from churches

1549: marriage of clergy made legal

1549, 1552: mandated books of Common Prayer
(largely by Cranmer)

July 6, 1553: Edward VI died of tuberculosis, age
15

Mary Tudor (1553-1558)

Catholic

Cranmer imprisoned

public worship restored to what it was last year of Henry VIII's reign

married Philip (soon to be King Philip II of Spain), son of Emperor Charles VI,

late 1553-middle 1555: 800 Protestant leaders left for German and Swiss cities

1554: Parliament restored papal authority

Mar 21, 1556: Cranmer had signed recantation of Protestantism, but then publicly repudiated it before being burned at stake

“Bloody Mary:” 300 persons burned.

absence of Philip who had left England **Nov 1555;** her childlessness: judgement of God

Elizabeth I (1558-1603)

moderate Protestant

proceeded cautiously with change

Apr. 29, 1559: New Supremacy Act (“Supreme Governor”)

modified Prayer Book of **1552**

Act of Uniformity: all worship in new liturgy, with vestments and ornaments of 2nd year of Edward VI

new Anglican episcopate established

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Anabaptists

only adult baptism of those with faith valid “We are not regenerated because we are baptized. . . . We are baptized because we are regenerated.”

(Menno Simons)

abandoned anything not clearly sanctioned in the Bible

- refused to bear arms
- would not swear allegiance to rulers

loosely allied under tenets of “Brotherly Union” adopted at the Schleithem Synod **1527**

most of Christianity regarded as people of lukewarm piety only partly obedient to the gospel

Anabaptists

Menno Simons (1496-1561)

born Holland

1524: ordained Catholic priest

1536: converted to Anabaptism, served
congregation in Groningen

extremely literal in interpreting Bible.

rejected Trinity because word not in Bible

Mennonite church bears his name

Anabaptists

Jakob Ammann (1644-1711)

Mennonite elder in Alsace and Switzerland
felt other Mennonite not sufficiently zealous in
separating themselves from the rest of the
world

1693: left with 4000 followers and founded the
Amish Mennonites

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Pope Leo X (1513-21)

comments on Luther's 95 Thesis **1518**

“Luther is a drunken German. He will feel different when he is sober”

“friar Martin is a brilliant chap. The whole row is due to the envy of monks.”

“...only a monk's quarrel.”

The Catholic Reformation

Oratory of Divine Love **1517**

Reformed Papacy

Pope Clement VII (**1523-1534**)

Pope Paul III (**1534-1549**)

Pope Paul IV (**1555-1559**)

Council of Trent **1545-47, 1551-52, 1562-63**

new religious orders

Jesuits

revival of the Inquisition; Index of prohibited

books

Catholic mysticism in Spain

Oratory of Divine Love

1517: informal society of 50 clergy and lay people meeting at Rome to reform the church through love and moral improvement along ideas of Erasmus

among members:

future Cardinal Gasparo Contarini (**1483-1542**).

In **1541** as papal delegate he tried to reach a theological compromise with Protestants at Colloquy of Regensburg

future Pope Paul IV

Reformed Papacy

Pope Paul III (1534-1549)

most sincere reforming pope of 16th century
appointed reformers to College of Cardinals
called Council of Trent

appointed papal reform commission **1536**. *Advice
Concerning the Reform of the Church*

- papal office too secular; should stop flirting
with the world
- documented corruption:
 - bribery in high places
 - abuses of papal power
 - evasions of church law by laity and clergy
 - laxity in monastic orders
 - abuse of indulgences
 - high number of prostitutes in Rome

Council of Trent

location involved intense negotiation with
Emperor and French king
met in three main sessions

1545-1547

1551-1552

1562-1563

results

clarified and reasserted most of the doctrines of
the late medieval Roman church

elevated the papacy

improved church organization

eliminated flagrant abuses pointed out by the
Protestants

response

Protestants bitterly disappointed

Ignatius of Loyola (1491-1556)

born **1491** or **1495** at Loyola, near Pyrenees
professional soldier; suffered leg wound. Resolved
to become “soldier of Christ.” Waited for
guidance

1524-1534: studied at Barcelona, Alcalá,
Salamanca, Paris

wrote *Spiritual Exercises*. 4-week retreat:

1. sin
2. Christ's kingship
3. Christ's passion
4. Christ's risen life

1535: he and six friends took vows of poverty and
chastity, vowed to become missionaries to
Palestine and convert the Muslims

worked in northern Italian cities

Jesuits

1540: new order approved by Pope Paul III
head chosen for life

four elected assistants, who can depose head

membership: robust health, handsome in

appearance, intelligent, eloquent in speech

1. two year rigorous novitiate

2. indefinite scholasticate: period of study,
vows of poverty, chastity, obedience

3. “third probation” or “tertianship”

4. acceptance as “formed spiritual coadjutor” or
fully professed member taking vow of
personal obedience to pope (“professed
fathers of the fourth vow”)

no fixed hours of worship or dress, no common
recitation of divine office

Jesuits

combined individualism of Renaissance with
sacrifice and obedience of the will

three missions:

education

counteracting the Protestants

missionary expansion

sent foreign missionaries to India, Indonesia,
Ethiopia, Japan, China and the New World:
Mexico, Paraguay, Brazil, SW United States

1556: >1,500 Jesuits

1626: 15,544 Jesuits

Inquisition

“Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office”

“Roman Inquisition” began **1542** through work of Cardinal Caraffa

heretics traitors against God, a cancer destroying the body of the church that must be eradicated before they contaminate other immortal souls
commonly used terror and torture to get confessions. Executions done by civil authority widely used in Italy, Spain. Modified in France. Rare in Germany. Common law prevented use in England

Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

born Avila in central Spain from noble family
committed herself to converting the heathen and
healing the divisions with Protestants

1536: entered Carmelite Convent

worked for reform of religious houses

books *The Book of Her Life, The Road of
Perfection, Concepts on the Love of God, The
Inferior Castle*

religious ecstasy approaching the erotic

first conversion: oneness with God through

contemplation and prayer “mystical marriage”

second conversion: union through love. Described

an ecstasy of a seraphim plunging fire tipped

spear into her heart, leaving her aflame with

love

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Leading Features of Protestantism

Rejection of Papal Authority

Emphasis on the Priority of the Bible

Rejection of Medieval Sacramental System

Communion in “Both Kinds” vs “One Kind”

“Priesthood of All Believers”

Rejection of Purgatory and Prayers for the dead

Suspicious attitude towards veneration of Mary
and other Saints as potential idolatry

Developments in Protestantism 1560 to 1700

Orthodoxy

Puritanism

Pietism

Orthodoxy

after **1560**, concern grew in movement to defend itself, emphasize “doctrinal purity,”
“theological correctness”

emphasis on rational justification and defense of key doctrines

a response to:

- renewal of Catholic confidence after Council of Trent
- tensions between Lutheran and Reformed movements

led to:

Pietism

Puritanism

abusive term applied to Church of England members who wanted adoption of Reformed beliefs, practices

small separatists groups, congregations formed

- often found refuge in Netherlands
- most important separatist groups: “Brownist” after Robert Browne (**1550-1633**)
- notable separatist group est. Scrooby, Nottinghamshire **1606** by John Robinson (**1575-1625**) moved to Leiden **1609**. On **Sep 6, 1620**, 102 members set sail on the Mayflower for America

Puritanism

some separatist groups returned from Netherlands to England, became forerunners of modern Baptists

English Civil War (**1642-9**)

- King Charles I executed **1649**
- Puritan Commonwealth under Oliver Cromwell during **1649-1660**
- monarchy restored **1660** with Charles II

Pietism

reaction to Orthodoxy; emphasis on issues of everyday life

inaugurated with “Pious Wishes” by Philip Jakob Spener lamenting state of German Lutheranism
- proposed personal bible study

Nikolaus Ludwig Graf von Zinzendorf (**1700-60**)

“Herrnhuter” community in village of Herrnhut
- stressed “religion of the heart,” role of “feeling”

- slogan “a living faith”

Pietism

John Wesley (1703-91)

- founder of Methodist movement in Church of England
- visited Herrnhut 1738
- emphasized the experiential side of Christian faith

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Catholics versus Calvinists (“Huguenots”) in France (**1562-1598**)

Dutch War of Independence (**1560-1618**)

- Calvinist Dutch population vs. Catholic Spanish colonial power

English Civil War (**1642-1649**)

- Royalists vs. Puritans

Thirty Years War (**1618-1648**) in Germany

- Catholics and Lutherans vs. Calvinists