

THE GIANT EHAP REVIEW OUTLINE!

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The Reformation

The Short Term Causes of the Reformation

- **John Wycliffe** → (1320 – 1384) was an English reformer who argued that the Church was becoming too remote from the people and advocated for simplification of its doctrines and less power for the priests. He believed that only the Scriptures declared the will of God and questioned **transubstantiation**, the ability of the priests to perform a miracle turning the wine and bread into Christ's blood and body. His views were branded heretical, but he was able to survive in hiding though his remains were dug up by the Church in 1428 and burned. He left an underground movement called the **Lollards** who faced constant persecution.
- **Jan Hus** → (1369 – 1415) was a Bohemian who argued that priests weren't a holy group, claiming instead that the Church was made up of all of the faithful. He questioned transubstantiation, and said that the priest and the people should all have both the wine and the bread. He was burned at the stake in 1415, but his followers, led by **Zizka**, raised an army and won against the emperor, who let them to set up their own church (the Utraquist Church) in which both the wine and bread were eaten by all.
- **The Avignon Exile and Great Schism** → were both events that greatly undermined both the power and prestige of the Church, and made many people begin to question its holiness and the absolute power of the Papacy. People realized that the Church was a human institution with its own faults.
- **The Printing Press** → before the invention of the printing press in the mid-1400s, many people didn't have access to information or changes in religious thought except through word of mouth and the village *viellées*. With the printing press, new ideas, and the dissatisfaction with the church, could spread quickly, and people could read the Bible for themselves.

The Long Term Causes of the Reformation

- The growth in the power of the secular king and the decrease in the power of the Pope.
- The popular discontent with the seemingly empty rituals of the Church.
- The movement towards more personal ways of communicating with God, called lay piety.
- The fiscal crisis in the Church that led to corruption and abuses of power – IMPORTANT!

Abuses of Church Power

- **Simony** → the sale of Church positions, which quickly led to people becoming Church officials purely for economic motives, and not for spiritual ones.
- **Indulgences** → the sale of indulgences was the biggest moneymaker for the Church. When a person paid for an indulgence, it supposedly excused the sins they had committed (the more \$, the more sins forgiven) even without them having to repent. Indulgences could even be bought for future sins not yet committed and for others, especially those who had just died, and were supposed to make a person's passage into heaven faster.
- **Dispensations** → payments that released a petitioner from the requirements of the canon law.
- **Incelebacy** → church officials getting married and having children.
- **Pluralism** → having more than one position at a time.
- **Nepotism** → control by a particular family.

The Definition of the Reformation

- The Reformation was the final splitting of the Western Church into two halves.
- The two branches of the Church were Catholicism and Protestantism.

Martin Luther

- Luther (1483 – 1546) was born into a middle class family in Saxony, Germany. He got a good education and began studying law. After almost being hit by lightning, he decided to become a monk.
- As a monk, he became obsessed with his own sinfulness, and pursued every possible opportunity to earn worthiness in God's eyes (for example, self-flagellation) but he was still not satisfied, for he felt that God would never forgive a sinner like himself.
- Finally, he had an intense religious experience that led him to realize that **justification in the eyes of God was based on faith alone and not on good works and sacraments.**

- Then, in 1517, he saw a friar named Johann Tetzel peddling indulgences and claiming that by buying them, people could save themselves time in the purgatory. Since he said that by buying the indulgences, people could excuse sins, people were coming to buy the indulgences in droves. This outraged Luther, and on **October 31st, 1517** he posted his **Ninety-Five Theses** on the church door.
- The theses explained that the Pope could remit only the penalties he or canon law imposed, and that for other sins, the faithful had only to sincerely repent to obtain an indulgence, not pay the Church.
- The theses made the profits from the indulgences drop off, and angered the order that supported Tetzel. Luther and the rival monks began to have theological discussions, which were at first ignored.
- But, by 1520 Luther had written three radical pamphlets:
 1. *An Address to the Christian Nobility of the German Nation* → made a patriotic appeal to Germans to reject the foreign Pope's authority.
 2. *The Babylonian Captivity* → attacked the belief that the seven sacraments were the only means of attaining grace, saying that only two, baptism and the Eucharist (which were mentioned in the Bible) were important.
 3. *The Liberty of the Christian Man* → explained his principle of salvation by faith alone.

The Diet of Worms

- Luther's writings could no longer be ignored, and, in 1520, Pope Leo the Fifth excommunicated him, and Luther responded by calling the Pope an anti-Christ. So, Charles the Fifth ordered him to offer his defense against the decree at a Diet of the Empire at Worms.
- At Worms, Luther refused to retract his statements, asking to be proved wrong with the Bible. So, Charles ordered that Luther be arrested and his works burned, but Prince Frederick of Saxony came to Luther's aid and allowed Luther to hide in his castle. There, Luther established the Lutheran doctrines.

Lutheran Doctrine and Practice

- Codified in the **Augsburg Confession** the Lutheran beliefs are as follows:
 1. Justification by faith alone, or the belief that faith alone, without the sacraments or good works, leads to an individual's salvation.
 2. The Bible as the only authority, not any subsequent works.
 3. All people are equally capable of understanding God's word as expressed in the Bible and can gain salvation without the help of an intermediary.
 4. No distinction between priests and laity.
 5. Consubstantiation (the presence of the substance and Christ coexist in the wafer and wine and no miracle occurs) instead of transubstantiation.
 6. A simplified ceremony with services not in Latin.

The Appeal of Protestantism

- Appeal to the peasants:
 1. Message of equality in religion, which they extended to life in general.
 2. A simplified religion with fewer rituals, which made it easier to understand.
 3. Luther rebelled, which inspired many of them to do the same.
- Appeal to the nobles:
 1. No tithe to pay, so \$ stays in the country.
 2. Since they are against Charles for political reasons, they can justify it by becoming Protestant.
 3. No more church owned land, so they can get more land.
 4. No tithe for peasants, so they can tax them more.
- Appeal to the middle class:
 1. No tithe to pay, so more \$ for them.
 2. Now they can read the Bible and interpret it in their own way.
 3. Concept of individualism – you are your own priest.

Other Forms of Protestantism

- **Zwingli** → (1484 – 1531) had beliefs very similar to Luther, except that he believed that NONE of the sacraments bestowed grace, and that they were purely symbolic. He also felt that for people to lead godly lives, they had to be constantly disciplined and threatened – Calvinism without predestination.
- **Radicals** → many radical sects broke out, and after Munster (where a sect called the Melchiorites gained political control of the city and began to establish a heavenly Jerusalem on earth) they were all persecuted. Since some believed that Baptism should only be administered to adults who asked to be baptized, they were all called the *Anabaptists* (rebaptisers).

- **Calvin** → (1509 – 1564) formed the second wave of the Reformation. Though Lutheranism and Calvinism both believed in people's sinfulness, salvation by faith alone, that all people were equal in God's eyes and that people should follow existing political authority, Calvin believed in **predestination** or the concept that God, being all knowing, already knows if a person is going to go to heaven and become part of the elect or not. Though behavior on earth technically had no effect on the decision, it was established that moral people tended to be part of the elect. Calvinist communities were model places, with very strict moral codes that were vehemently imposed. The church and its doctrines were also very well defined in the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* and all Calvinists were supposed to make their communities worthy of the future elect.