

# The Reformation (1517-1600)

## POLITICAL

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- 1529: German Lutheran princes *protest* = **Protestants** against the Emperor Charles V policies
- 1531: Lutheran princes form **Schmalkaldic League** against Charles V
- 1530's: Charles V fighting Turks & French
- 1545: Luther dies; war breaks out. Divisions among Catholics weaken support for Charles V.
- 1555: Peace of Augsburg: *cuius regio eius religio* ("whose region, his religion") A great victory for Protestants.
- **FRANCE**: Francois I supports Turks against Charles. His successor Henry II manages to keep France stable despite the fact that the Huguenot (Calvinist) population is growing .
- **ENGLAND**: Henry VIII divorces Catherine of Aragon, splits the English (**Anglican**) Church from Rome with **Act of Supremacy** in 1529. **Thomas More** does not sign and is executed. Marries **Anne Boleyn**. Henry initially did not want to change doctrines of Catholic Church. However, over time Protestant influence grows. He is succeeded by:
  - Edward VI (Protestant)
  - **Mary** (Catholic – "Bloody Mary")
  - **Elizabeth** (Protestant – but not fanatic) ascends in 1558.

## ECONOMIC

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- Protestant England and Holland soon undergo rapid capitalist development. Lands were confiscated from Catholics in England and form the great estates that will dominate Parliament in future. The competition between the faiths on both a religious and economic level led to unprecedented growth and ingenuity.

## RELIGIOUS

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- **Martin Luther** issues *95 Theses* (October 31, 1517)
  - † Believes that Salvation is by faith alone
  - † Bible is the ultimate source of authority
  - † Criticizes indulgences sold by church
  - † Two sacraments only: baptism and communion
- Confronts the young Emperor, Charles V at **Diet of Worms**. Emperor issues Edict of Worms: Luther is forbidden to preach.

## OTHER RELIGIOUS GROUPS

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- **Anabaptists**: take over city of Münster. John of Leyden later killed. Persecuted and drowned, they were the forerunners to Baptists.
- **Calvinists**: **John Calvin** writes *Institute of Christian Religion*, flees to Geneva.
- Calvin emphasizes **predestination**.
  - † does not recognize subordination of church to state.
  - † favors remaking all of society into a religious community.
  - † encourages a strong work ethic and self-improvement.
  - † churches will be very plain.
  - † will influence the Netherlands, France (**Huguenot**), Scotland (Presbyterian), and England (Puritan).
- **Catholic Counter-Reformation**:
- **Council of Trent** met from 1545-1563.
  - † Salvation is by faith and works combined.
  - † Upholds seven sacraments.
  - † Papal/clerical authority is supreme.
  - † Tries to define proper use of relics, saints, & indulgences.
  - † Prints an Index of Prohibited Books.
- **Jesuits** formed in 1540. **Ignatius Loyola** uses a military model to recruit and train missionaries who were told to re-gain Protestants, or travel throughout the globe so that the Catholic church can make converts. Jesuit priests serve kings, form schools and educate much of Europe's Catholic elite. They will be powerful for over 200 years. Many lapsed Catholics re-convert. The Northern part of Europe remains Protestant while the South is Catholic.

## INTELLECTUAL

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**Christian Humanists** combine love of classical learning with emphasis on Christian piety: They were very influential during reformation. Sir **Thomas More**: Writes *Utopia*, about an imaginary land where economic and social structure end poverty and greed.

**Erasmus** (1466-1536) from Rotterdam (Netherlands) was a Northern Renaissance Humanist. Erasmus criticizes church corruption but not doctrine. His two important works were *In Praise of Folly* and *Handbook of a Christian Knight*. Later, he is blamed for inspiring Luther to criticize the church. Erasmus belongs to both the Renaissance and Reformation.

## **SOCIAL**

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Religion reform prompts social reform. **Peasants' Revolt** (1524-25) is brutally suppressed by princes of Germany. Luther supports state authority over peasants. Protestants establish State schools to indoctrinate youth. Protestants strongly support marriage and family as ideal state.

*Women* were now placed firmly in the home, whereas in the Catholic Church, many women had positions of power in the abbeys. Literacy will now advance less slowly in Southern (Catholic) Europe. Bible now read in vernacular. The State will start to support public charity. Work ethic rises, but disdain for poor develops.

## **ARTISTIC**

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Hymns sung by congregation. Luther himself writes many hymns. Printing developed in 1450: diffusion of printing produces more literacy. Mannerism, then Baroque: Flamboyant facades of churches, ornate decoration with ceiling paintings. St. Peter's in Rome is Baroque. Titian's paintings capture Charles V's power.

There is some overlap between Renaissance and Baroque.