

Protestant Reformation

A *PROTEST* against Church Abuses
and a *REFORM* movement in the
Christian Church.

General Background

- ✦ In Medieval times **Catholic** Christianity dominated the lives of people.
- ✦ Since most people were uneducated, however, their understanding of Christianity was often distorted with some superstitions and imaginary concepts.
- ✦ Fear of damnation in an afterlife was of major concern.

Foundations for Reform

- ✦ Renaissance education which emphasized critical thinking.
- ✦ Availability of printed books such as the Bible.
- ✦ Humanist values and increased focus on this life vs. afterlife.
- Abuses of the Church:
 - Pope Leo X's lifestyle.
 - Sales of Indulgences.
 - Sales of Relics
 - Sales of Church Offices.

Martin Luther

- ✦ Martin Luther—professor at Wittenberg University.
- ✦ Criticized Church practices and the leadership of the Church in **95 Theses**.
- ✦ Religious truth found in the Bible.



Sales of Indulgences

"Once you hear the money's ring, the soul from purgatory is free to spring."
-- Tetzel

- ✦ Fundraiser for the Catholic Church
- ✦ Pay for the arts and lavish lifestyles of Church leaders.
- ✦ Reduce / Cancel punishment for sins or even future sins.
- ✦ Ensure admission to Heaven.



Lutheranism Emerges...

- ✦ Pope Leo X summons Luther and asks him to recant.
- ✦ Pope Leo issues a Papal Bull to excommunicate Luther.
- ✦ Luther founds the Lutheran Church based on "Justification of Faith"

Bulla contra Erro
res Martin Lutheri
et sequacium.



Zwinglianism

- ✦ Huldrych Zwingli (1484 – 1531)
- ✦ Zurich, Switzerland
- ✦ Key Doctrine:
 - Salvation by faith alone.
 - No sales of indulgences
 - Theocracy in Zurich.



Calvinism / Presbyterianism

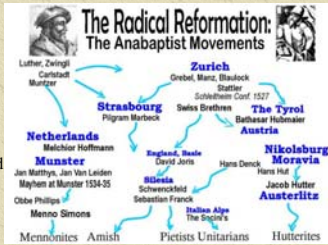
- ✦ John Calvin (1509AD)
- ✦ Geneva, Switzerland
- ✦ Key Doctrine:
 - Predestination: a belief that God alone directs past, present, future.
 - Consistory: Church body regulated behavior – drinking, gambling, card playing
- ✦ France & Scotland



The Anabaptists / Mennonites

- ✦ Conrad Grebel (broke away from Zwinglianism)
- ✦ Netherlands/Germany

- ✦ Key Doctrine:
 - Only people capable of making a free, informed decision should be baptized
 - Denied local authority of governments to direct lives
 - Radicals seized property and burned books



Anglicanism: Church of England

- ✦ King Henry VIII wanted to divorce Catherine of Aragon to marry Anne Boelyn.
- ✦ Pope refused to grant the divorce.
- ✦ Henry with approval of Parliament forms Church with similar doctrine to Catholic Church.



Catholic Reformation

- ✦ Goals:
 - Counter growth of Protestants
 - Restore faith of members.
 - Eliminate Abuses
- ✦ Chief Events:
 - Inquisition (1542AD)
 - Council of Trent (1545-1563AD)
 - Jesuits—Ignatius of Loyola spread Catholicism.



Protestantism's Success

- ✦ Religious conviction of converts to their new faith.
- ✦ Princes/Monarchs made them their state religion by decree.
- ✦ Towns people saw that it supported their business practices and gave them greater opportunity to participate.
- ✦ People were wary of the monetary drain from the "Sales" to the Catholic Church.

Protestant Reformation Map

