

The Reformation

September-16-11
11:30 AM

Readings for this Lecture:

- Nicholas, Davis. "Antiquity and Modernity: The Religious Division of Europe in the Sixteenth Century." *The Transformation of Europe, 1300-1600*. London: Arnold, 1999 Page 378-415.

Reformations:

- Reformation is at the very centre of Christianity... Christ's "reformation" of Judaism
- **Martin Luther** (restoring a church corrupted)
- **John Calvin** ("Reformed" Church)
- Christianity is a religion of the book (the Bible) susceptible to as many interpretations as there are readers
- Whether religious revelation continues or ended with the Bible. If yes (Catholics/Judaism) then commentaries also
- Luther/Calvin made the Bible the only source of authority

The Renaissance and the Church:

- Written text and observed reality
- "The Word" (Scripture) called into question contemporary practices
- "**Anti-Clericalism**"... Criticism of the clergy (arrogance, excesses, ignorance, etc.)
- How to judge contemporary practices, beliefs
- The Bible gave the laity the authority by which they could criticize the Church
- **Erasmus**:
 - Scholarly edition of the Greek New Testament
 - Most authentic (authoritative) text of the Holy Scripture
 - Any reading should be tempered by "tradition" (certain traditions should be followed... He didn't want to completely change the Church)
- **Luther**:
 - Sola Scripture (by scripture alone)... Rejected traditions
 - Sola Fide (by faith alone)
- **The Papacy**:
 - **The Schism** (Avignon - Rome)... Three Popes at the same time.
 - Its prestige gravely damaged
 - Lavished money on learning and the arts (tax burden)... Why should the people in England pay for buildings in Italy?
 - Affairs of the state (the Reformation(s), Italy)
 - Public distaste more against a foreigner than a church figure (the pope)... Accepted as spiritual leaders, but criticized as being foreigners
 - Resentment over the institutional abuses / doctrinal heresy

Martin Luther, 1483-1546:

- Monk, professor of Theology (in Wittenberg)
- Faith not works would lead to salvation.. Faith is the most important part of being a Christian.
- Against the sale of **indulgences** to support the rebuilding of St. Peter's in Rome
- On October 31st, 1517, he posted his **95 Theses**
- **Pope Leo X** (r. 1513-1521), a Medici, involved in Italian politics
- Luther refused to recant his propositions
- Luther placed the authority of Scripture over the authority of the papacy
- Luther rejected the authority of **Emperor Charles V**
- In 1521 Luther was excommunicated and outlawed... Hidden by German princes where he translated the Bible into German.
- Reasons for Luther's success:
 - Appeal for faith over works and the printing press
 - Protection from the Saxon Elector
 - Exploitation of Germans by Italians
 - The vernacular, nascent nation identity
 - Relative disorganization of the opposite (young Emperor, Turks attacking, etc.)
 - "Protestant" (1529), "protest" at the Imperial Diet
 - The League of Schamkalden (1531) fought for the right of religious freedom, however, they were defeated by Emperor Charles V in 1547
 - The Peace of Augsburg (1555) recognized the Lutherans as a religion, but not the Calvinists
 - *Cuius regio, eius religio* (he who rules, his religion)... If the Prince is Catholic, the population would be Catholic. If they didn't like it, they could leave. Lead to religious peace in Germany for the next century

John Calvin (1509-1564):

- French refugee to Geneva
- 1536, Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
- Complete break with the Catholic Church (difference in organization and ritual)
- City of God (Geneva), the early Christians
- **Predestination** (God's choice, "elect")... Even the strongest faith can not granted a spot in heaven, it is God's choice to determine who would reach salvation.
- Omnipotent God vs. free will (if God is omnipotent, how can human choice truly be free?)
- **The Presbyterian system** (the elders)
- Avoid displays of luxury
- Calvinism (Scotland - John Knox, and Plymouth, New England)

Huldrych Zwingli

- Zurich, Switzerland
- To realize the "true Church" within community
- **The Zurich Town Council** assumed moral/religious supervision and administration over the Church
- The world (*saeculum*) - the spirit (*spiritus*) linked

Henry VIII (1509-1547):

- Annulment of his marriage with Catherine of Aragon
- Excommunicated by the Pope in 1527 (for his marriage to Anne Boleyn)
- **The Act of Supremacy of 1534** (the King supreme head of the church)
- Opinion favourable to break with Rome
- Closed monasteries, landed gentry
- Hoped to retain Catholic doctrine and rituals (aside from marriage/divorce)
- First national church (**the Church of England**)

The Catholic Reformation / The Counter Reformation:

- It's "tradition" back to St. Peter should not be discarded... Tradition/history is power.
- The reform of the training and discipline of clergy, new religious orders... **The Society of Jesus (the Jesuits)**:
- Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556), "Soldier's of God"... Modeled on the army structure.
- Responsible only to the Pope
- 1540, the Bull *Regimini Militantis Ecclesiae*
- Education of children as a centrepiece
- Founded new colleges
- **The Inquisition**... Torture used.
- The powerful house of Hapsburg, French monarchs

The Council of Trent (1545-1564):

- Protestant variation promoted Catholic unity
- **Paul III** (1534-1449), the first of the reforming Popes
- On and off for about 20 years (codifying doctrine in 1564)
- Conservative Protestants invited (but declined to come)
- The council reaffirmed:
 - The role of priesthood
 - All seven sacraments (Lutherans only recognized baptism and marriage)
 - The importance of both faith and works
- Once the Catholic Reformation was well launched, few further territorial gains were made by the Protestants.

