

The Catholic Reformation

Chapter 12.2

I. Catholic leaders worked to reform the Catholic Church and spread Catholic teachings.

A. The influence of the church created a Catholic culture in Spain.

- The effort to reform the Catholic Church from within is called the **Catholic Reformation**, or Counter-Reformation. The leaders of the church in Spain worked to strengthen the church from within to stop the spread of Protestantism.

— Had fought to make Catholicism the only religion in the kingdoms for hundreds of years

B. The Growth of Roman Catholic Spain

- After the reunification of Spain under Spanish rule, the leaders of Spain turned their attention to the Catholic Church.

— Home to three religions who all lived and worked together and had prospered.

- The rulers of Spain wanted only Catholics to live in Spain. Muslims and Jews were forced out of Spain after hundreds of years of religious wars in the Spanish countryside.

— Catholic officials punished Muslims, Jews, and even Christians.

— Made important advancements in art, literature, philosophy, mathematics and science → Referred to as The Golden Age.

- The Spanish Inquisition was organized to seek out and punish non-Catholics. The Catholic Church was ruthless in carrying out this duty.
- The Catholics had very little opposition left in Spain, and the ideas of the Reformation had little influence.

C. Catholic reforms emerged in response to the Reformation.

- Catholics responded to criticism in many ways. Some formed new orders, others tried to change church policy, and others tried to stop the spread of Protestant teachings.

- Catholic reformers all wanted to win back support for the Catholic Church from people who had turned away from it

— They created many new religious orders in Southern Europe.

— Ordered the Inquisition to seek out Christians (Protestants), whose ideas differed from the church's ideas.

- Once all had been punished by 1400s and 1500s the Spanish church was strong.
- Spanish clergy first to fight back against Protestant Reformation.

D. New Religious Orders

- The first new order in Spain was created by Ignatius of Loyola.
 - Founded in 1534.
 - One goal was to teach people about Catholic ideas.
- The order was called the Society of Jesus, or the **Jesuits**.
- The Jesuits were a religious order created to serve the pope and the church. They were charged with teaching Catholic education to boys.
- Another order was created in Italy. It taught girls and was known as the Ursuline order. They thought Catholic education was the key to strengthening the Catholic Church and limited the impact of Protestant teachings.
 - Created in 1535
 - Taught by Angela Merici
 - Catholic education was key to strengthening the Catholic Church.

E. The Council of Trent

- Catholic leaders met together to discuss ways to reform the Catholic Church. This meeting was known as the **Council of Trent**.
 - New order was a response to the reform.
 - Europe came together to discuss, debate and reform Catholic teachings.
- The council restated the importance of the clergy interpreting the Bible.
 - Created new rules for clergy to follow.
 - Council of Trent met three times between 1545-1563
 - Decisions led to major reforms in Roman Catholic Church.
- The council ordered the bishops to live in the areas where their churches were located.
- The council endorsed Catholic teaching and instituted reform of Catholic practice.
- There was a clear distinction between Catholic and Protestant beliefs and practices.

F. Missionaries worked to spread Catholic teachings.

- Rather than change the church, many Catholics decided to dedicate their lives to helping it grow. They became missionaries.

- Thought Protestants were heretics who should be punished.
- To lead fight, Pope created religious courts.
- Courts used to punish Protestants.
- Religious courts in Italy.
- Pope created a list of books that were dangerous to read.
 - Many of the books were by Protestant leaders.
- People who were caught reading books from this list could be excommunicated.

G. Catholic Missionaries

- Missionaries were people whose goal was to take Catholic teachings around the world.
 - Christians had been sending missionaries into non-Christian areas for 100s of years.
 - Mid 1200s group of Catholic missionaries traveled as far as China.
- They also hoped to win Protestants back to the Catholic Church.
- Many of the new Catholic missionaries were Jesuits. These priests went to Africa and Asia to spread Catholicism.
- One of the most important missionaries was a Jesuit named **Francis Xavier**.
- Missionaries baptized millions of people, and through their work the effects of the Catholic Reformation reached far beyond Europe.