

The Protestant Reformation

Chapter 12.1

I. Unsatisfied with the Roman Catholic Church, religious reformers broke away to form their own churches.

A. The Catholic Church faced challengers who were upset with the behavior of Catholic clergy and with church practices.

- By the late Renaissance, people had begun to complain about problems in the Catholic Church. They called on the church to make changes. Their calls led to a reform movement of western Christianity, called the **Reformation**.

B. Complaints against the Church

- People felt that the clergy and the pope had become too political.
- The way the church raised money was also considered unfair. The sale of pardons or *indulgences* was unpopular.
- An indulgence provided a relaxation of penalties for sins people had committed.
- The idea that someone could pay for their sins with money made many Christians angry.
- These unpopular practices weakened the church, and people began calling for reform.

C. Martin Luther urged reform in the Catholic Church, but he eventually broke away from the church.

- On October 31, 1517, a priest named Martin Luther added his voice to the call for reform. He nailed a list of complaints to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. These became known as the **Ninety-Five Theses**.

D. The Teachings of Martin Luther

- Luther thought that anyone could have a direct relationship with God.
- He did not believe that priests had to speak to God for the people.
- Beliefs should be based on the Bible, not interpreted by priests or the pope.
- Luther translated the Bible into German so that Europeans could read it for the first time.

E. Other reformers built on the ideas of early reformers to create their own churches.

- Following in the footsteps of Martin Luther, other reformers broke away from the Catholic Church to form churches of their own.

F. Other Reformers

- William Tyndale was an English professor. He believed that everyone should be able to read and interpret the Bible. He decided to translate the Bible into English. He had to flee England since he had angered the clergy with his ideas, but he continued to send Bibles back to his home country.
- John Calvin believed that God knew who would be saved even before they were born. This is called predestination. Nothing that people did during their lives would change God's plan, but it was important to live a good life and obey God's laws.
- Henry VIII was also a major figure in the Reformation. Henry wanted to get married again so he could have a son to be his heir. The pope refused Henry's request, so he left the Catholic Church and created his own church.
- The Church of England, or Anglican Church, was much like the Catholic Church, but it opened the door for other churches to form.

The Catholic Reformation

Chapter 12.2

II. 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.

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.
- 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.
- 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

D. New Religious Orders

- The first new order in Spain was created by Ignatius of Loyola.
- 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.

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**.
- The council restated the importance of the clergy interpreting the Bible.
- 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.

G. Catholic Missionaries

- Missionaries were people whose goal was to take Catholic teachings around the world.
- 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.

Effects of the Reformation

Chapter 12.3

III. The Reformation changed religion in Europe and led to political and cultural conflicts.

A. Religious division occurred within Europe and the Americas.

- At the beginning of the 1500s, nearly all of Europe was Catholic; however, by 1600 things had changed. While most of southern Europe was Catholic, the northern areas were Protestant.

B. Religious Division

- In Spain and southern Europe, nearly everyone was still Catholic.
- In northern countries such as England, Scotland, Norway, and Sweden, people were mostly Protestant.
- In the Holy Roman Empire, each prince chose the religion for his territory, so it became a patchwork of different kingdoms, some Protestant and some Catholic.
- In the Americas, the areas settled by Catholics remained Catholic. The thirteen colonies were mostly Protestant.

C. Religious wars broke out between Protestants and Catholics.

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E. Religious Wars in France

- Protestants in France were called **Huguenots**. The Huguenots and the Catholics began a war when the Catholic king decided to rid France of all Protestants. After many years of conflict, the king finally decided to allow Protestants to stay in France, but only in certain towns.
- Fighting broke out again but was ended by the Edict of Nantes, which granted religious freedom to the Protestants in France.

F. Religious Wars in the Holy Roman Empire

- Major violence began when unhappy Protestants threw two Catholic officials out of a window in Prague.
- The king decided to close all the Protestant churches. This led to the **Thirty Years' War**, a long series of wars that involved many of the countries in Europe.
- The war grew, and the king had to call on other countries to come to his aid.
- After thirty years of fighting, an agreement was reached—The Treaty of Westphalia.
 - It allowed rulers to decide whether their countries would be Catholic or Protestant.
 - The states of Germany became independent with no single rule, ending the Holy Roman Empire.

G. Social changes were a result of the Reformation.

- Through the Protestant Church, people began to make decisions about their churches. Now that they had that power, they also wanted political power.
- Local towns began to govern themselves, and the national government had to share power.
- The sharing of power between local governments and a strong central government is called **federalism**.
- On an individual level, people began to think more for themselves and to investigate on their own.