Effects of the Reformation
Chapter 12.3

I. 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.
     — Keeping peace between kingdoms was often a difficult task.
   • In the Americas, the areas settled by Catholics remained Catholic.
     — When explorers and missionaries set out from Europe, they took their religions with them.
     — This distribution of religions in Europe shaped religious patterns around the world.
     — Americas settled Catholics from Spain, France and Portugal
     — In the areas of Canada and most of Mexico, Central American and South America became Catholic.
   • The thirteen colonies were mostly Protestant.

C. Religious wars broke out between Protestants and Catholics.
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D. Religious wars broke out between Protestants and Catholics.
   • Disagreements about religion and violence often went hand in hand. Sometimes the disagreements were political, but mostly they were religious.
     — During the Reformation, this violence was sometimes tied to political concerns.
Ex: German peasants rebelled against their ruler in 1534 after reading Luther’s Bible.
- Bible states all people are equal
- Peasants wanted to be treated as equal
- Led to a revolt that the peasants were soon defeated.

**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.
  - Conflicts between Catholics and Huguenots led to years of bloody war.
  - King’s efforts to eliminate Protestants created tension.
  - Violence broke out in 1862 where a Catholic noble attacked and killed a group of Protestants in northwestern France.
  - Angry Protestants rose up in arms against both the noble and France’s Catholic monarchy.
  - After a year both sides agreed to stop.
  - As a gesture of peace the king allowed Protestants to stay, 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.
  - Fighting lasted for 20 years.
  - The worse incident was the St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre. On August 24, 1572.
    - One night Catholic rioters, killed about 3,000 Protestants in Paris
    - Led to riots all over France.
  - War between French Catholics and Protestants ended in 1598.
  - King Henry IV, who was raised Protestant, issued the Edict of Nantes.
    - Which granted religious freedom in most of France.
    - It allowed Protestants to live and worship anywhere except in Paris and a few other cities.
  - Henry’s law stopped the war but not the resentment between Catholics and Protestants.

**F. Religious Wars in the Holy Roman Empire**

- In 1618, Major violence began when unhappy Protestants threw two Catholic officials out of a window in Prague.
  - Reaction was a response to a new policy issued by the king of Bohemia.
Part of the empire.
- Bohemia King made everyone in the kingdom Catholic.
- He decided to close all Protestant churches in Bohemia.
- The unhappy Protestants overthrew the king and replaced him with a Protestant ruler.
- This action added religious conflict to the Holy Roman Empire.

- 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.
  - Including Spain.
  - The war grew worse and the Protestants looked for more allies who weren’t even Protestant.
  - Catholic king of France agreed to help because he didn’t like the Holy Roman Emperor.

- After thirty years of fighting, an agreement was reached—The Treaty of Westphalia.
  - Especially in German states where most of the fighting had taken place.
  - 1648 Europe’s leaders worked out a peace agreement.
  - It allowed rulers to decide whether their countries would be Catholic or Protestant.
  - Treaty introduced political changes, which one affected the Holy Roman Empire.
  - The states of Germany became independent with no single rule,
  - This ended the Holy Roman Empire.

G. **Social changes were a result of the Reformation.**
- People began to question the role of government and the role of science in their lives.
- Before Reformation most Europeans had NO voice in governing the Catholic Church.
- People simply followed the teachings of their priest and bishops.

- Through the Protestant Church, people began to make decisions about their churches. Now that they had that power, they also wanted political power.
  - Many Protestant churches didn’t have priests, bishops or other clergy.
  - Protestant churches had congregations or church assembly.
- The church made its own rules and elected leaders to make decisions for them.
- People began to think of their own ideas, not just the ideas of the clergy.

- Local towns began to govern themselves, and the national government had to share power.
  - Some congregations began to rule their towns, not just the churches.
  - In Scotland, England and some English colonies in America, **congregations** met to decide how their town would be run.
  - Town meetings were an early form of self-government, in which people rule themselves.
  - As time passed, some congregations gained more power.
    - Their decisions came to affect more aspects of people’s lives or to control events in larger areas.
    - The power of these congregations did not replace the national government, but national rulers began to share some power with local governments.

- 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.
  - It raised more questions.
  - Wanted to know more about the natural physical world around them.
  - People refused to accept information about the world based on someone else’s authority.
  - People desired to investigate, to figure things out on their own.
  - Led to people turning more and more to science
  - Reformation paved the way for the Scientific Revolution.