



RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION... PT3

S. Anderson

World History

The Protestant Reformation

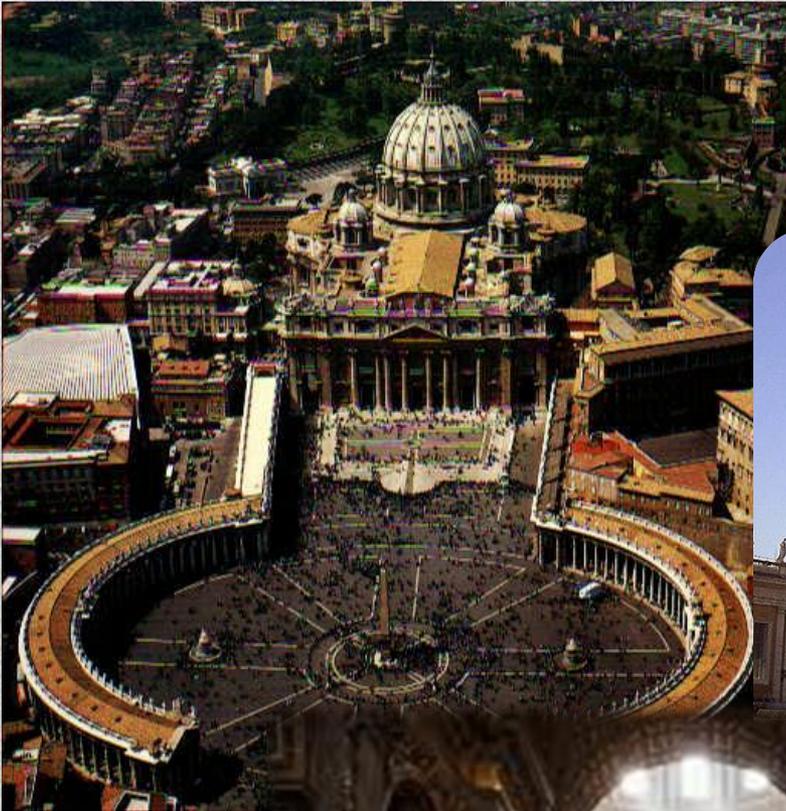
- The spirit of inquiry of the Renaissance, as well as the knowledge of the widespread corruption of the Church, led to new challenges to the Pope's authority. Many had entered the clergy to gain power and wealth rather than because of faith. They sometimes held more church positions than they could properly fulfill, or had secret spouses or children. The Papacy experienced a growing loss of spiritual influence, as the Pope and members of the Church hierarchy acted more like secular princes than spiritual leaders. People like **Erasmus** in Holland and **Sir Thomas Moore** in England sought reform within the Catholic Church, but Church leaders were slow to respond.

Luther and His Ideas

- In the early sixteenth century, the Catholic Church had fallen into the practice of selling **indulgences** – pardons from punishment for committing a sin, allowing the sinner to enter Heaven. This practice brought in a great deal of revenue for the Church. The Pope was using money from the sale of indulgences to construct St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.
- **Martin Luther** (1483 – 1546) was an Augustinian monk. In 1517, Luther posted **Ninety-Five Theses** (*statements*) on a church door in Germany. His theses challenged the Pope's right to sell indulgences.



St. Peter's Basilica



95 Theses



Luther and His Ideas, cont'd

- Luther believed that neither priests nor the Pope had special powers to provide salvation to individuals. Like St. Augustine, he valued faith in God. Luther concluded that only through faith in God could a person be saved and go to Heaven. He also believed that each individual must read and understand the Bible for himself or herself to achieve this faith.
- Because of his writings, the Pope **excommunicated** Luther – expelling him from the Church. In defiance, he publicly burned the Pope's decrees. Luther was next summoned to appear before **Charles V** (the Holy Roman Emperor) and representatives of the German states at the city of Worms. When Luther refused to recant at the Diet (*assembly*) of Worms, Charles V banned him as an outlaw.

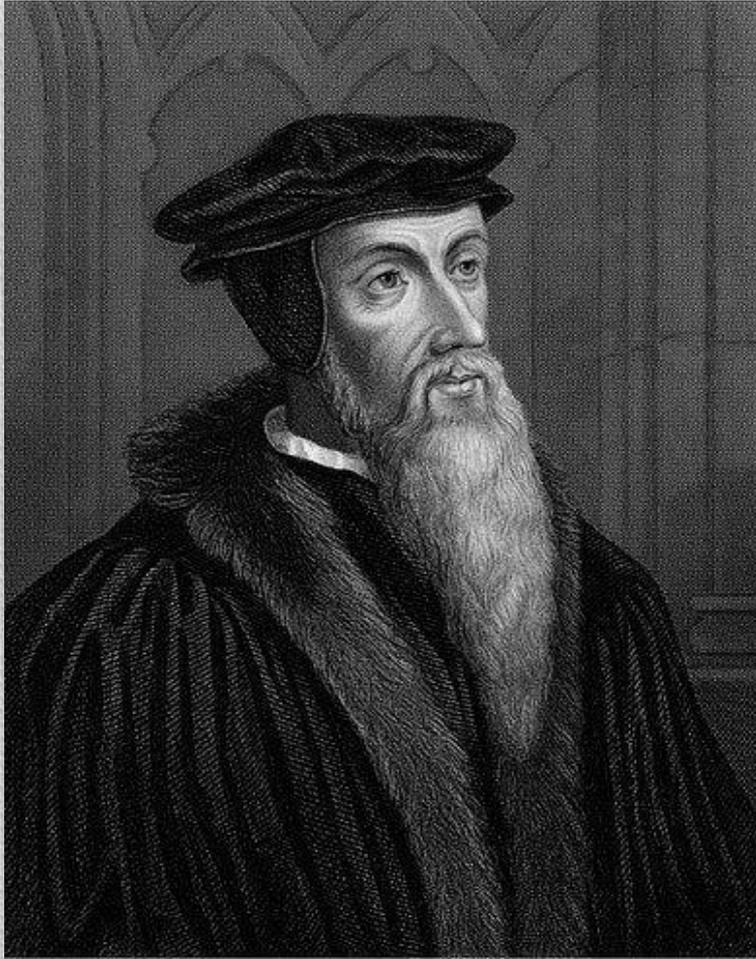
Luther and His Ideas, cont'd

- Luther was able to obtain protection from several German princes, who helped him to succeed. He appealed to their feelings of German patriotism against sending money to a Pope in Italy. Luther responded to the Pope's condemnation by establishing the **Lutheran Church**. He felt believers did not need special priests: each person could read the bible on his or her own. For this reason, Luther translated the **New Testament** into German and wrote a number of pamphlets to persuade others. The reformers became known as **Protestants**. Many German princes adopted Protestantism. They also used this as an opportunity to seize Church lands and close monasteries. When German peasants rebelled in 1524-1525, Luther sided with the princes. He had attacked the Pope, but he supported secular authority.

Martin Luther



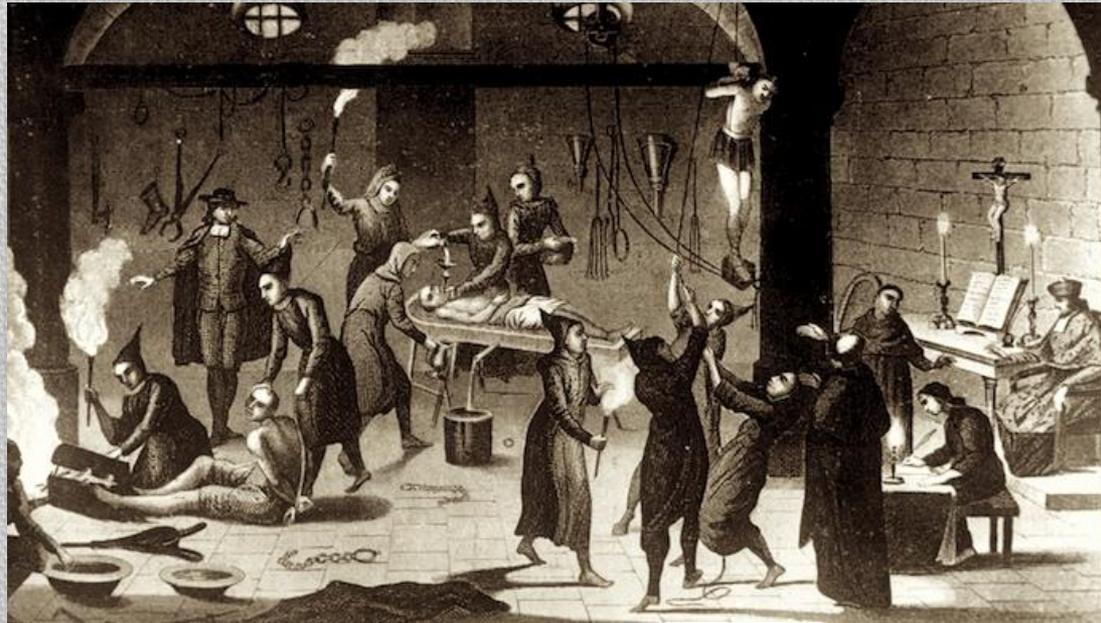
Later Reformers



- Gutenberg's invention of movable type helped Luther and his followers spread their ideas throughout Europe. Other reformers followed Luther's lead. **John Calvin** (1509 – 1564) started a new Protestant Church in Geneva. Calvin reasoned that since God was all-knowing, it was **predestined** (*already decided by God*) who would be saved and who would be damned. While faith was the key to salvation, it was God who gave faith to some and denied it to others. Only the "Elect" would be saved. Calvinists encouraged hard work and a strict moral code. They saw worldly success as a sign of God's favor.

The Catholic Counter-Reformation

- As Protestantism swept across many parts of Europe, the Catholic Church reacted by making limited reforms and curbing earlier abuses. This movement is known as the **Catholic Counter-Reformation**. At the **Council of Trent**, the Church redefined Catholic beliefs and ended the sale of indulgences. The Church also banned Protestant books and established the **Inquisition**, a court whose purpose was to punish **heretics** – those who denied Church teachings.



The Political Impact of the Reformation

- Under the leadership of the Pope and with the support of the Holy Roman Emperor, Catholics checked the further spread of Protestantism and even won some areas back to Catholicism. In general, France, Italy, Spain, and Southern Germany remained Catholic. Northern Germany, Holland, and Scandinavia became Protestant.
- At first, England remained Catholic. However, when the Pope refused **Henry VIII's** demand for a divorce from his Spanish wife, Henry broke with the Catholic Church and turned to Protestantism. Henry closed English monasteries, seized all Church lands, and declared himself head of the English Church in the **Act of Supremacy**. (1534).

Henry VIII



The Political Impact of the Reformation, cont'd

- Wars between Catholics and Protestants began in the 1520s and lasted for more than a century. During the **Thirty Years War** (1618 – 1648), as many as one-third of the German population was killed.
- The Reformation tended to strengthen the power of secular rulers. In Protestant countries, people no longer had allegiance to the Pope: the secular ruler became the highest authority. In Catholic countries, the Church gave more power to secular rulers to help fight Protestantism.
- **Queen Elizabeth I** of England was a good example of a strong secular ruler. Although a woman, she won the loyalty and affection of her subjects. Elizabeth maintained a moderate form of Protestantism and defended England from attacks by Catholic Spain.

The Artistic and Economic Impact

- The Reformation affected art, as different styles emerged in Catholic and Protestant countries. Catholic art glorified Jesus, Mary, and the Saints. Many Protestants felt it was wrong to depict God. They specialized in landscapes or “still life” scenes. By creating art about secular subjects, Reformation artists could glorify God by portraying the natural beauty of God’s creation. The weakening of Papal authority may also have stimulated economic growth in Northern Europe, where the Church no longer collected taxes. Religious wars resulted in widespread destruction, but also stimulated economies by creating a need for new goods.

The Renaissance

