CH 15: Cultural Transformations: Religion & Science, 1450-1750

Protestant Reformation
In what ways did the Protestant Reformation transform European society, culture, & politics?

★ Created a **permanent schism** within Catholic Christendom.
★ Gave some kings & princes a **justification for their own independence from the Church** & an **opportunity to gain lands & taxes held by the Church**
In what ways did the Protestant Reformation transform European society, culture, & politics?

★ Provided **urban middle classes** a new religious legitimacy for their growing role in society

★ Common people's expression of **opposition to the whole social order - Clergy/Church, Nobility/King**

★ **Less impact on the lives of women**, although it did stimulate female education & literacy, even if there was little space for women to make use of that education outside the family.
In what ways did Protestant Reformation transform European society, culture, & politics?

★ Religious difference led to **sectarian violence**, to **war**, & ultimately to **religious coexistence**.
★ Successful challenge to immense prestige & power of the pope & the established Church.
★ Encouraged a **skeptical attitude** toward **authority & tradition**.
★ Fostered **religious individualism** as people were encouraged to read & interpret the scriptures themselves.

**And why could people now READ books?**
Because of the full scale implementation of the Printing Press.
Erasmus and Christian Humanism

Best known Christian humanist was **Desiderius Erasmus**

Developed: “**The philosophy of Christ,**” meant to

show people how to live good lives on a daily basis rather than how to achieve salvation.

He did not wish to break from the church, just reform it.

1509: *The Praise of Folly*, he especially criticized the monks
Major goal of humanism in northern Europe: Reform Christendom

Martin Luther’s religious reforms led to the emergence of Protestantism

Christian humanists believed: humans can reason & improve themselves

Reform would occur through developing:

inner piety - religious feeling, based on studying the works of Christianity – Not rules & rituals
Catholic Church Corruption: Sale of Indulgences

Between 1450 & 1520 a series of popes failed to meet the Church’s spiritual needs. More concerned with political interests of the Papal States.

Julius II, “warrior-pope,” even led armies against his enemies. Papacy marked by an active foreign policy, ambitious building projects, & patronage for the arts.

Commissioned the destruction & rebuilding of St. Peter's Basilica, plus Michelangelo's decoration of the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. This cost was monumental. $$$

Many grew disgusted with him & the Catholic Church.
Catholic Church Corruption: Sale of Indulgences

Church officials seemed ignorant of their spiritual duties especially instructing the faithful on achieving: **Salvation** – acceptance into **Heaven**

Obtaining salvation became *mechanical*

Ex.) *Collecting relics*

Venerating a saint could earn: **Indulgence** - Release from all or part of punishment for sin, according to the Church

**Johann Tetzel’s Slogan:**

“As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs!”
Movie "Luther" screenshots that depict his pilgrimage to Rome. Martin Luther sees first hand the corruption of the city, the church, & the practices of **indulgences**.
In “Luther” the scene depicts Martin Luther attempting to purchase an indulgence for a family member. As he climbs each step saying a hail mary, he is to hand the receipt of indulgence to the church member at the top of the steps. However, he is bewildered by the impoverished people's attempts to win favor for their relatives. Disillusioned at the trinkets for sale at the top of the steps, he crumples the sheet of paper in his fist & lets it fall to the ground.
Martin Luther: University of Wittenberg monk & professor, lectured on the Bible. Luther came to reject the Catholic teaching that both faith & good works were necessary for salvation.

Believed human deeds were powerless to affect God & that salvation was through faith & faith alone.
“I do not accept the authority of popes & councils
my conscience is captive to the word of God.
...Here I stand and I can not do otherwise.
God help me. Amen.”

– Martin Luther April 18th, 1521
Edict of Worms: Made Luther an outlaw in the empire
His books were to be burned & Luther was to be delivered to the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.
However, Luther’s local ruler protected him.
June 15th, 1520: **Pope Leo X ordered Martin Luther to recant** 41 of his 95 Theses, **Stop preaching about those items**. If Luther did not recant, **he would face excommunication** from the Church.

The Pope also ordered that Luther's works, based on the disputed points, had to be burned.

Luther responded to the Pope on the Dec. 10, 1520. Standing near the Elster Gate, in Wittenberg, **Luther publicly burned not only the Pope's order** (a Papal Bull entitled *Exsurge Domine*) but **also other Church documents with which he disagreed**.
St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, painting by François Dubois

Massacre marked a turning point in French Wars of Religion

Huguenot political movement was crippled by loss of many of its prominent leaders, re-conversions by the rank & file, and those who remained were increasingly radicalized. Though by no means unique, it was "the worst of the century's religious massacres."
Major branches within **Protestantism** (excludes Restoration movements):
Diagram of Protestant denominations & movements.
The Reformation in England

Not religion but politics brought about the English Reformation.

King Henry VIII wanted to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, whom he thought could not give him a male heir.

The pope was unwilling to annul (declare invalid) his marriage, however, & Henry turned to England’s church courts.

The archbishop of Canterbury ruled that Henry’s marriage to Catherine was null & void.
The Reformation in England

Henry then married Anne Boleyn, who was crowned queen & who gave birth to a girl!

The child later would become Queen Elizabeth I.

The Six Wives of Henry VIII

Catherine of Aragon
Anne Boleyn
Jane Seymour
Anne of Cleves
Catherine Howard
Catherine Parr

The child later would become Queen Elizabeth I.
Anne Boleyn

In Catherine of Aragon’s court caught the ‘eye’ of Henry VIII

Could not produce male heir & Anne was Executed!
Henry was a very busy man.

However, the break from Rome and the Catholic church was centuries in the making. The **land that the Catholic church *owned* on English soil** bothered some Englishmen. The **taxes** that England had to pay to Rome did not seem right to some Englishmen.

So this reformation was not totally due to Henry's marriage needs, but it was accelerated by it.
Luther Rap
PBS Empires - Martin Luther Reluctant Revolutionary (55:20)

Luther Movie - Full movie
History Teacher's Anne Boleyn ("Girl" by The Beatles)
History Teacher's Henry VIII (Money, Money, Money by Abba)