

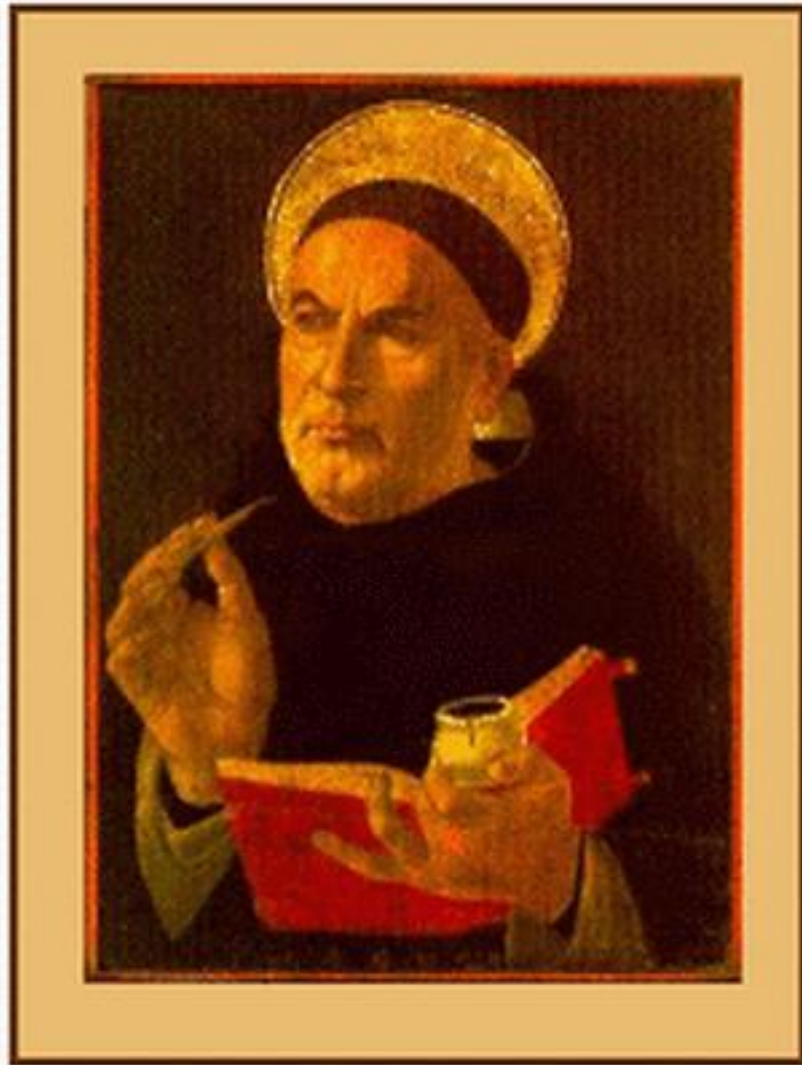
The Protestant Reformation (1450-1565)



Key Concepts

- ◆ End of Religious Unity and Universality in the West
- ◆ Attack on the medieval church—its institutions, doctrine, practices and personnel
- ◆ Not the first attempt at reform, but very unique
- ◆ Word “Protestant” is first used for dissenting German princes who met at the Diet of Speyer in 1529
- ◆ A convergence of unique circumstances

I. The Church's Problems



- ◆ Charges of greed
- ◆ Worldly political power challenged
- ◆ Weariness of dependence on the Church and the constraints it enforced
- ◆ Growing human confidence vs. “original sin”
- ◆ Catholic church becomes defensive in the face of criticism
- ◆ The confusing nature of scholasticism

II. Convergence of Unique Circumstances

Political



- ♦ Henry VIII - Pope denies request for annulment from Queen Katherine
- ♦ Charles V - waning political power over German Princes
- ♦ Response to Inquisition
- ♦ Renaissance monarchs were growing impatient with the power of the Church

Spiritual



- ♦ Growing piety, mysticism and religious zeal among European masses
- ♦ Dutch Christian humanist Erasmus inadvertently undermines the Church from within
 - In Praise of Folly* (1510)
- ♦ Call for a translation of the New Testament into Greek
- ♦ Call for a return to the simplicity of the early Church

Technological & Cultural



- ◆ Printing press in 1450 by Johann Gutenberg
- ◆ Better educated, urban populace was more critical of the Church than rural peasantry
- ◆ Renaissance monarchs were growing impatient with the power of the Church
- ◆ Society was more humanistic and secular
- ◆ Growing individualism

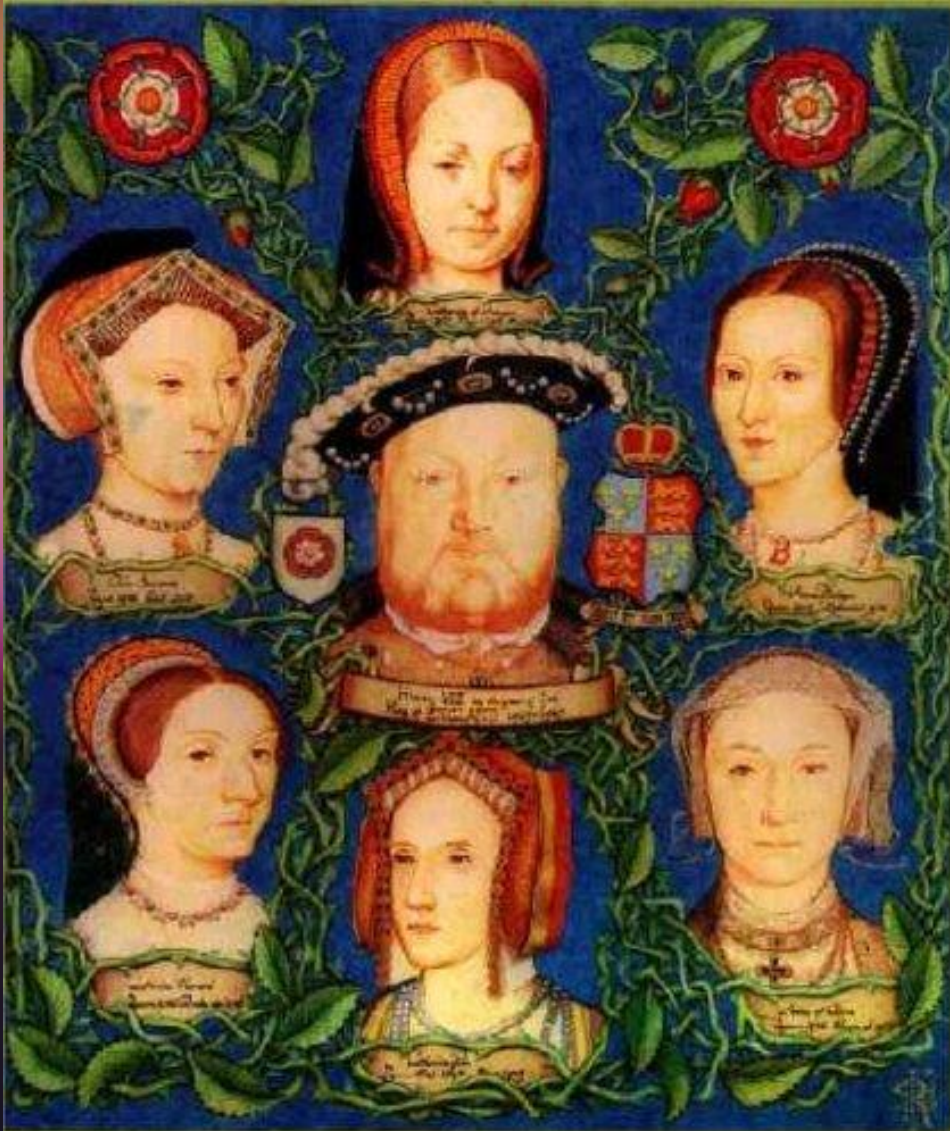
III. The Emergence of Protestantism in Europe

Germany (Northern)



- ♦ Luther troubled by the sale of indulgences
- ♦ Dominican friar Tetzl was selling indulgences in Wittenberg in 1517
- ♦ Luther posts his 95 theses on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517
- ♦ Luther attacks the Pope and his bull of excommunication
- ♦ Luther goes into hiding in 1521

England



- ◆ Henry creates the Church of England and establishes his own supremacy over it
- ◆ A “political reformation” only at first

England (cont)



- ◆ The rule of “Bloody” Mary
- ◆ Return of the Marian exiles to England from Geneva
 - “Puritans”
- ◆ Queen Elizabeth I
- ◆ The attack of the Spanish Armada in 1588

Switzerland



- ◆ Reformer Ulrich Zwingli opposed purgatory, clerical celibacy, intercession of the saints, and salvation by works
- ◆ John Calvin's stress on order and the "Protestant Work Ethic" - self-discipline
- ◆ Predestination

Other Parts of Western Europe



- ◆ No Protestant inroads into Spain or Italy
- ◆ Protestantism succeeded only where it was urban and supported initially by the nobility
- ◆ After 1540, no new Protestant territories outside of the Netherlands

Radical Reformers



- ◆ Desire to return to the primitive, first-century Church
- ◆ High standard of morality valued and pursued
- ◆ Bitterly persecuted by both Catholics and other Protestants
- ◆ The descendants of the “Anabaptists”
- ◆ Ardent missionaries who were harassed for their zeal

“Radical” Teachings



- ♦ Free will—all can be saved
- ♦ Predestination
- ♦ Adult, “believer” baptism
- ♦ Social and economic equality
- ♦ Pacifism
- ♦ Separation of Church and State
- ♦ Stressed role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer— “inner light”

Teachings of all Protestantism

- ♦ Mary and the saints not venerated
- ♦ Transubstantiation denied
- ♦ Religious representations (cross v. crucifix)
- ♦ Infallibility of Pope denied
- ♦ Pope as head of the church denied
- ♦ Direct access to biblical teachings supported
 - Bibles translated to the vernacular
 - Ministers as “teachers” (not conduits to God)

The Counter-Reformation: The Catholic Response



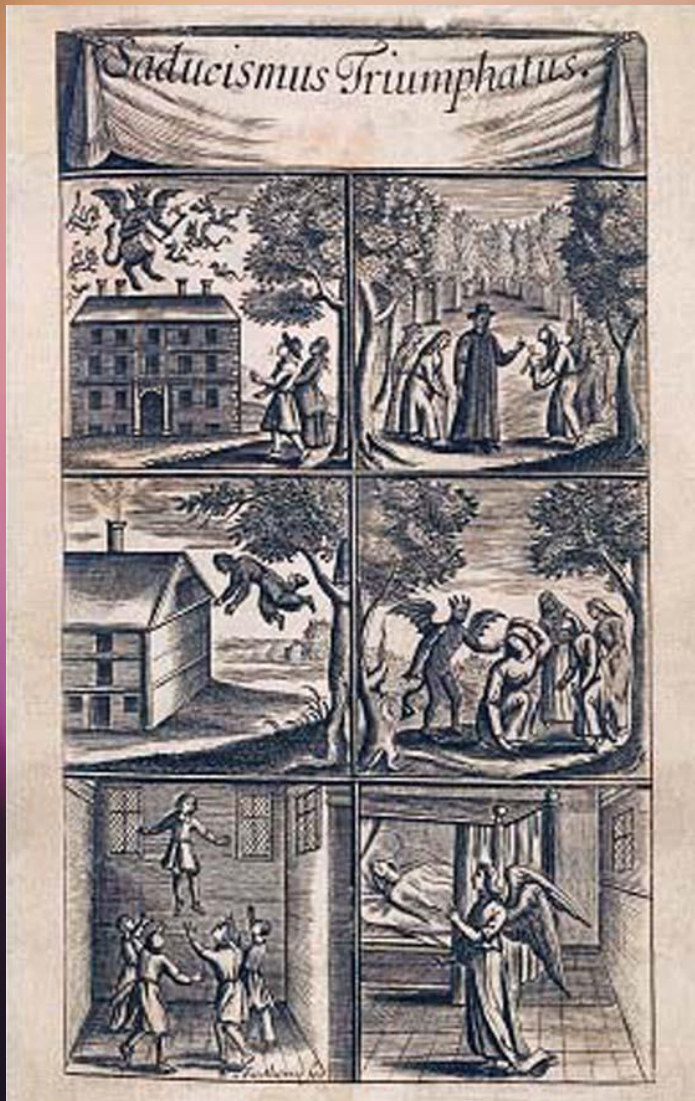
- ◆ Council of Trent (1545-1563)
 - church & bible auth
 - Latin Vulgate
 - seven sacrament
- ◆ The Society of Jesus (“Jesuits”)—1534
 - Ignatius Loyola scholarship stressed
- ◆ Renewed religious emotionalism
 - Baroque Art

V. Results of the Reformation



- ♦ Germany was politically weakened and fragmented
- ♦ Christian Church was splintered in the West
- ♦ 100 Years of Religious Warfare
- ♦ Right of Rebellion introduced by both Jesuits and Calvinists
- ♦ Pope's power increased
- ♦ Furthered societal individualism and secularism
- ♦ Growing doubt and religious skepticism

V. Results of Reformation



- ♦ Political stability valued over religious truth
- ♦ Calvinism boosted the commercial revolution
- ♦ Witch craze swept Europe in the 1600's
 - Between 1561-1670, 3000 people in Germany, 9000 people in Switzerland and 1000 people in England were executed as witches