

## The Reformation

**Key Terms/ people : Papal authority (Supremacy of Pope)**

**Corruption of Church**

**Indulgences**

**German Monk Martin Luther (Lutheran) (95 theses)**

**John Calvin (Calvinism)**

**Henry VIII – England**

**1534 – Act of Supremacy**

**Anglican Church**

**Dissolution of the Monasteries**

### **An Introduction:**

The Reformation (alternatively named the **Protestant Reformation** or the European Reformation) was a major movement within **Western Christianity in 16th-century Europe** that posed a **religious and political challenge** to the Catholic Church and in particular to papal authority, arising from what was perceived to be errors, abuses, and discrepancies by the **Catholic Church**. The Reformation was the **start of Protestantism** and the **split** of Protestantism from the Roman Catholic Church.

The Reformation also called Protestant Reformation, **the religious revolution** that took place in the Western church in the 16th century. Its **greatest leaders** undoubtedly were **Martin Luther** and **John Calvin**. Having far-reaching political, economic, and social effects, the Reformation became the basis for the founding of Protestantism, one of the three major branches of Christianity.

### **Dating the Reformation**

Historians usually date the start of the Protestant Reformation to the **1517 publication of Martin Luther's "95 Theses."** Its ending can be placed anywhere from the **1555 Peace of Augsburg**, which allowed for the coexistence of Catholicism and Lutheranism in Germany.

### **English Reformation :**

**In England**, the Reformation began with **Henry VIII's** quest for a male heir. When Pope Clement VII refused to annul Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon so he could remarry, the English king declared **in 1534** that he alone should be the final authority in matters relating to the English church.

After Henry's death, England tilted toward Calvinist-infused Protestantism during **Edward VI's** six-year reign and then endured five years of reactionary Catholicism under **Mary I**. In 1559 **Elizabeth I** took the throne and, during her 44-year reign, cast the Church of England as a "middle way" between Calvinism and Catholicism, with vernacular worship and a revised Book of Common Prayer.

# The Protestant Reformation (early 1500s)



Dugdale: History of the Reformation, from Frontispiece.

- A religious revolution
- Humanists driven
- Split the Roman Catholic Church in western Europe
- Popes lost sight of spiritual mission
  - Political leaders & warriors
  - Wealth more important than saving souls

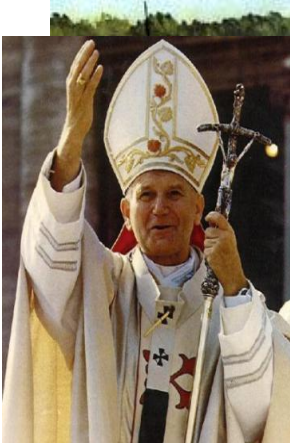
## The Protestant Reformation (1450-1565)

- **Key words:** Christian / protest (against Catholicism) / reform
- The reformation was a split in the Christian church. It happened because people were unhappy about the church; they protested and wanted to reform Christianity
- They are called Protestants because they protested and started a new religion
- It is called the Reformation because they set out to reform the church.

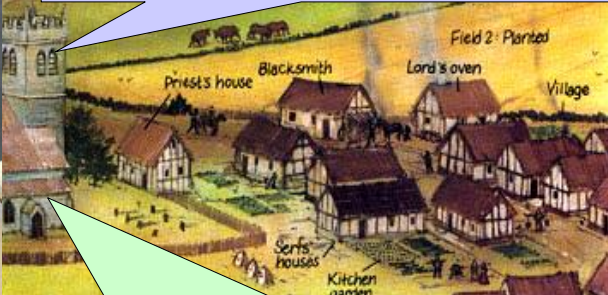
In the 1300s, Reformers like John Wycliffe & priest Jan Hus attacked corruptions like indulges ( a kind of Church ceremony), said that the Bible (not the Pope) was the ultimate authority on Christianity, & wanted church teachings in the vernacular (local language) not Latin



During the Middle Ages, the Catholic Church was the dominant religion in Western Europe



Without a common government in Europe, the Catholic Pope became an important political leader



On the manor, priests were powerful because they controlled peoples' access to heaven by delivering the sacraments & absolving sins







In 1517, a German Monk Martin Luther wrote a list of arguments against church practices called the “Ninety-Five Theses”

He posted the Ninety-Five Theses on the church door in the town of Wittenberg & welcomed debate of his ideas

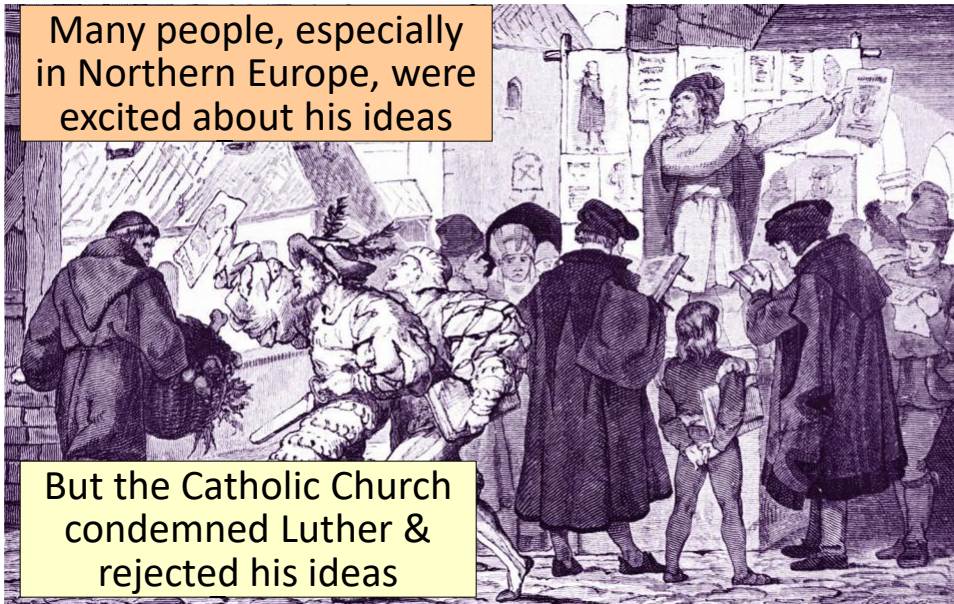


- 1517 **Martin Luther** wrote the **95 Theses** (arguments) protesting abuses by the Catholic Church. This included the selling of **indulgences** (the promise of salvation in heaven in exchange for money).
- **Johan Tetzel**, the Catholic priest who Luther complained to, excommunicated him. This led Luther to break away from the Catholic Church, beginning the **Protestant Church**.



The "Ninety-Five Theses" spread quickly through Europe causing an incredible controversy

Many people, especially in Northern Europe, were excited about his ideas

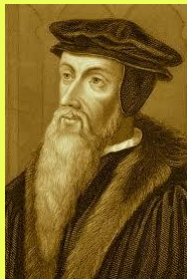


But the Catholic Church condemned Luther & rejected his ideas

## The Reformers



**Luther**  
The  
German  
Monk



**Calvin** (Calvinism)  
Predestination &  
Absolute Sovereignty  
of God in Salvation



**King Henry VIII**  
The supreme Head  
of the Anglican  
Church



Henry VII  
(1457-1509)



Henry VIII  
(1491-1547)



Mary I  
(1516-1558)



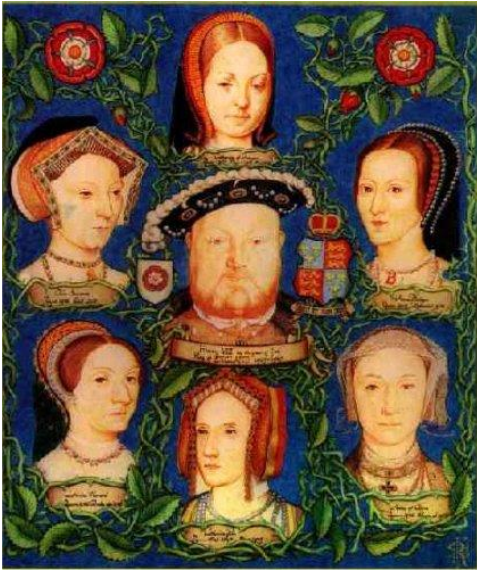
Elizabeth I  
(1533-1603)



Edward VI  
(1537-1553)



## Anglican Church in England – Protestant Reformation



- Henry VIII's first wife Catherine of Aragon
- Henry seeks an annulment (divorce) to marry his lady love Anne Boleyn (the mother of Queen Elizabeth I)
- The reason is for having a son
- Henry creates the Church of England (Anglican Church) and establishes his own supremacy over it
- There are six wives for Henry VIII

### **The Counter-Reformation**

The Catholic Church was slow to respond systematically to the theological and publicity innovations of Luther and the other reformers. The Council of Trent, which met off and on from 1545 through 1563, articulated the Church's answer to the problems that triggered the Reformation and to the reformers themselves.

The Catholic Church of the Counter-Reformation era grew more spiritual, more literate and more educated. New religious orders, notably the Jesuits, combined rigorous spirituality with a globally minded intellectualism, while mystics such as Teresa of Avila injected new passion into the older orders. Inquisitions, both in Spain and in Rome, were reorganized to fight the threat of Protestant heresy.