

CHRISTIAN HISTORY 101

SESSION SEVEN: “Here I Stand! I Can Do No Other!”

- Early Attempts at Reform
- At the Wittenberg Door
- The Counter-Reformation
- A New Europe and a New World

EARLY ATTEMPTS AT REFORM

- While the Roman Catholic Church dominated Western Europe and the Orthodox Church dominated the East, there were always “non-conformist” and “minority” movements within Christianity
- Cathars, Arnoldites, Waldens, Hussites, Lollards, Fraticellis, et al, all opposed the European Catholic church at various times through the Middle Ages
- Some of the earliest true Protestants included: Peter Waldo in France (c. 1145-1200), John Wycliffe in England (c. 1325-1384), and John Hus in Bohemia/Czech (c. 1370-1415)
- Consistently the earliest reformers took issue with: 1) Abuse of Papal power; 2) Transubstantiation; 3) Church prosperity; 4) Depriving people of their own language
- How did Martin Luther succeed when those before him failed?
 - A) The writings of the early reformers and their efforts
 - B) Erosion of Papal power due the failed Crusades and corruption
 - C) The Renaissance (Note: Michelangelo, Martin Luther, Leonardo da Vinci, Copernicus, Machiavelli, Raphael, Columbus, and Magellan were all alive at the same time)
 - D) The invention of the Printing Press

AT THE WITTENBERG DOOR: MARTIN LUTHER

- On October 31, 1517, Luther nailed his famous treatise - “Ninety-Five Thesis” - to the church door in Wittenberg. Unknowing at the time, this would launch the Protestant Reformation as copies of the document would spread across Europe within months
- Luther’s anger over “indulgences” precipitated his treatise and reforms: “#27. They preach vanity who say that the soul from Purgatory springs as soon as the money in

the coffer rings.” And “#54. Wrong is done to the word of God if one in the same sermon spends as much or more time on indulgences as on the word of the Gospel.” And “#86. Why does not the Pope build St. Peter's basilica with his own money - rather than with the money of poor Christians?”

- It is accurate to say that the greatest doctrinal changes to Christianity since Constantine began a critique of financial corruption, but quickly moved to the question of authority: Can the Pope dictate to a man's conscious?
- “Five *Solas*” would emerge with Luther and the other protesters over the course of the Reformation:
 - 1) *Sola Fide*, by “Faith alone”
 - 2) *Sola Scriptura*, by “Scripture alone”
 - 3) *Solus Christus*, through “Christ alone.”
 - 4) *Sola Gratia*, by “Grace alone.”
 - 5) *Soli Deo Gloria*, “Glory to God alone.”

THE COUNTER-REFORMATION: THE COUNCIL OF TRENT

- The Council of Trent was Roman Catholicism's answer to the Protestant Reformation, convened over two decades beginning in 1545
- The Council had a number of intended goals: 1) Internal reform; 2) Condemn and combat Protestants; 3) Reaffirm authority and doctrine
- The seven sacraments, the doctrine of transubstantiation, the veneration of Mary, and the role of Purgatory were all reaffirmed and basically unrevised through Vatican I in 1870
- Christianity would now be divided into three main strains: Roman Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy (1054), and Protestantism (1517)

A NEW EUROPE AND A NEW WORLD

- Today there may be more than 30,000 individual Protestant groups worldwide in three dozen different traditions; in the immediate aftermath of the Reformation there were four Protestant “tracks:”

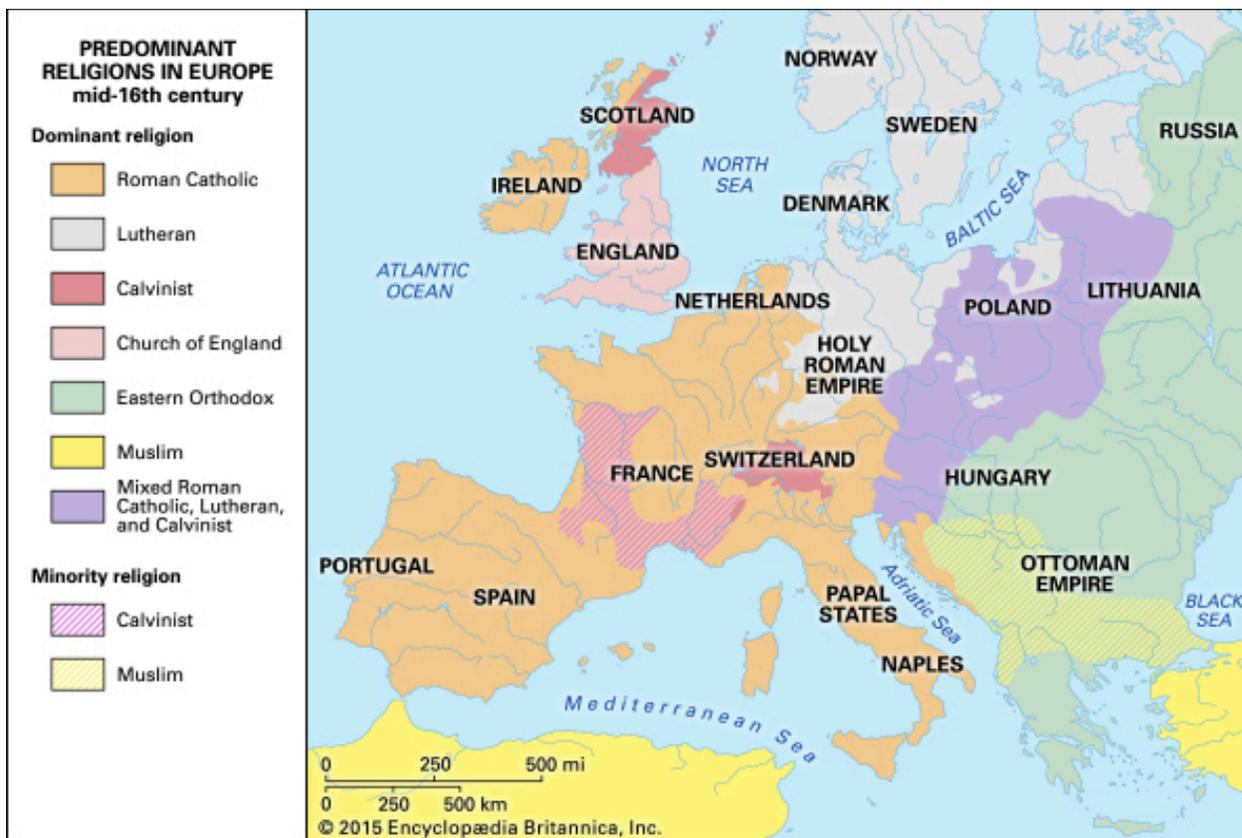
ANGLICAN

LUTHERAN

REFORMED

RADICAL/FREE

- Anglican: A distinctly English church, produced largely by King Henry VIII's dispute with Pope Paul III over his divorce(s); the flavor is "Catholic" in many ways; the non-English expression of this church is Episcopal; the Puritans and the Methodists would eventually descend from the Anglican Church
- Lutheran: The churches that followed the Lutheran reforms, largely consisting of the German-speaking people or those with German roots; the Lutheran church is the single largest Protestant denomination in Europe even in the 21st century
- Reformed: Often called "Calvinist," those churches that adhered to the views of Ulrich Zwingli and John Calvin; these churches are largely Presbyterian, Congregational, some Churches of Christ and Baptists, and those who intentionally use the title, "Reformed"
- Radical/Free Groups: The "left wing of the Reformation" who believed the Reformation should also include a rethinking of the church's relationship with the state; non-magisterial reformers that include adherents of Menno Simons (Mennonites), the Brethren, Amish, some Baptists, and later non-denominational and Unitarian groups
- The Reformation led to religious and colonial "competition," enforced the nationalism of individual European states with "national churches," broke the Catholic monopoly, and contributed to two centuries of European warfare included the Thirty-Years War and the conflict in Northern Ireland all the way into the 1980s



- Some of the “official state churches” in Europe and the year they were “dis-established:”

Austria	Roman Catholic	1918
Czechoslovakia	Roman Catholic	1948
Denmark	Lutheran	—
England	Anglican	—
France	Roman Catholic	1905
Germany/Prussia	Lutheran	1918
Greece	Orthodox	—
Italy	Roman Catholic	1984
Netherlands	Reformed	1795
Norway	Lutheran	—
Poland	Roman Catholic	1918
Russia	Orthodox	1917
Scotland	Reformed	—
Spain	Roman Catholic	1978
Turkey	Islam	1928

- The four great “colonial powers” of Europe - Spain, France, England, and Germany (the Holy Roman Empire) were in a religious contest as much as a resource contest
- The main factor in the Founding Fathers separating church and state in the US was to prevent the religious warfare that had plagued Europe since the Crusades
- Statistics today for the 2.2 billion Christians:

Catholic:	1.25 billion
Protestant:	1 billion
Baptist:	100 million
Lutheran:	90 million
Methodist:	75 million
Reformed:	70 million
Anabaptist:	5 million
Others:	500 million*
Orthodox:	360 million
Anglican:	85 million
Others:	73 million

*"Others" or "Non-historical Protestantism" denotes fastest growing sector of the Protestant faith