

# Reformation and Wars of Religion

## 1517-1648



# Protestant Reformation Defined

- Reformation, was a spiritual/religious revolution that aimed to correct the “problems” of the Catholic Church and sparked a century and a half of religious civil war.
- The Church would not allow change, so it split into sub-churches.
- It resulted in the establishment of the Protestant branches of Christianity- e.g. Lutheranism, Calvinism, Quakers, etc



# Catholic Creed

Throughout its 1,000 year history prior to Reformation, the Roman Catholic Church preached the following creeds:

- Wealth should be used to help the poor and the suffering (“It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of the needle than for a rich man to enter heaven” Mathew 19:24);
- Miracles are real and are a sign of God in everyday life; God wants to help,
- Purity: getting spiritually “detoxed” in life (through priestly help and acts of contrition) helps one enter heaven.
- The Church is an intercessor with God: its function is to pray on our behalf.
- The Pope and the priests are the ultimate source of religious authority, no matter what you think the bible says,
- Latin, rather than the vernacular (the local language), is the accepted language of the Church and the Bible.

# Catholic Sacraments

Baptism -- The symbolic drowning and resurrecting of infants to induct them into the church and new Christian life. No infant choice.

Confirmation -- coming-of-age rite in which young people choose to be a lifelong member of the Church.

The Eucharist (Holy Communion) -- Taking bread and wine in remembrance of the Last Supper. Transubstantiation – wine and bread change into the blood and body of Christ.

Matrimony -- Marriage. Sex is only to take place within it.

Holy Orders -- Becoming a priest or nun and abstaining from any nonChurch-related life or activities, including earning money and possessions or marrying and having children.

Confession – admitting your sins (physical and psychological) to a priest to identify them as problematic, and be purified of them.

Penance -- Making amends for your sins and showing a changed attitude.

Last Rites of Extreme Unction (Last Rites) -- At that time an anointing with oil to heal the sick, now more commonly a death rite.

# Causes of Reformation

- Western Schism: more than one guy claims to be the only true, infallible pope. Whom to follow?
- Church corruption: rich monasteries and churches, monks and priests living in luxury, selling indulgences, sexually assaulting people.
- Simony: selling and buying of church positions
- Desire for reform and the original vision of Christ
- The Inquisition (torturing people with unorthodox beliefs to force them to repent was the opposite of what Jesus taught)
- Weakness of the Holy Roman Empire and Northern Europeans' dissatisfaction with Spanish and Italian dominance of Church politics.

# Proto-Reformers

- Jan Hus (1369-1415): Czech priest and philosopher, led a rebellion against the Church, defeated five papal crusades, burned at the stake.
- Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536): Catholic priest, philosopher, and writer, wanted to reform the Church from within.
- John Wycliffe (1328-1384): English philosopher, priest, Church reformer, argued against clericalism.
- Defenestrations of Prague (1419, 1618)



# Holy Roman Empire

"The Holy Roman Empire is neither Holy, nor Roman, nor an Empire." - Voltaire

- Founded in 800 CE by Frankish king Charlemagne with Pope Leo III's blessing
- Through conquest and marriage the H.R.E. encompassed Spain, Burgundy and Palatine States (eastern France), German states, Belgium, Netherlands, Bohemia, Austria, most of Italy and all of Spanish colonies.
- H.R.E. however was never united as a single country. Most of its areas were ruled not directly by the Holy Roman Emperor but by local kings, queens and princes. The Emperor did not collect direct taxes and relied on income from countries he controlled directly.
- At the time of the Reformation, the Emperor was Charles – the Hapsburg ruler of Spain.



# Pope Leo and Indulgences

- Full or partial remission of sins that have already been forgiven (or which had not yet been committed, “buying a chance to sin,” with money)
- The Church had granted indulgences for good work and prayers
- The Church started selling indulgences to raise money to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome





# Martin Luther

- German priest and professor of theology
- Father of the Reformation
- Very upset by indulgences
- Famously nailed his Ninety-Five Theses on October 31, 1517 in Wittenberg, Saxony (either on the local church doors, or on the doors of the nearby castle's church)
- The Theses were aimed at cleric abuse, especially simony and sale of indulgences



- Vain is the hope of salvation through letters of pardon, even if a commissary-nay, the Pope himself- were to pledge his own soul for them
- Again, why does not the Pope, whose riches are at this day more ample than those of the wealthiest of the wealthy; build the one Basilica of St. Peter with his own money, rather than with that of poor believers?



# Luther's Theses and Creed

- Salvation is not earned, it is given through faith in Jesus Christ, who offers it as a free gift to those who recognize their own flawed, imperfect nature
- The Bible – not the Church - is the only source of divine knowledge
- All faithful baptized Christians are priests
- Bible should be translated into languages other than Latin and Greek, so that everyone can read it
- Everyone (men, women, children) should receive education so that they can understand the Bible and preach it.
- The Pope and Catholic priesthood are not especial representatives of God on earth
- Man has free will to seek God's grace

# Printing Press

First movable printing press in Europe invented by Johannes Gutenberg in 1440.

First used to print Bibles (48 copies in first print, virtually priceless)

First non-Bible work printed in 1450 (also the first non-Latin work to be printed): collection of German poetry

Printing presses resulted in rapid creation and dissemination of non-Latin literature in Europe

Printing press was essential to the spread of Martin Luther's work and Protestantism.



# Protestants Unite!

Huge immediate support for Luther but why?

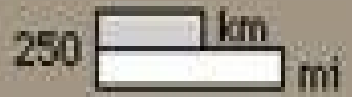
- Northern Europeans did not feel represented by Italian and Spanish Vatican
- German and Dutch dissatisfaction with Spanish Hapsburg rule of the Holy Roman Empire
- Religious protest and rebellion also becomes a way to voice political protest.
- Invention of the printing press makes the spread of Luther's ideas much faster and cheaper
- Spread of literacy and Renaissance values influence Europeans to question Catholic Church and dogma and traditional political order.





**RELIGIONS**

- Anglican
- Calvinist
- Lutheran
- Islamic
- Greek Orthodox
- Hussite
- Roman Catholic



# Vatican's Reaction to Luther

1520 – Pope Leo issues official rebuttal of Luther's  
Ninety-Five Theses

Luther excommunicated by Pope Leo and  
pronounced outlaw at the **Diet of Worms** (1521)  
by Holy Roman Emperor Charles V

Armed struggle between supporters of Luther and  
supporters of the Pope begins



# Counter-Reformation (1521-1648)

Counter-Reformation: political, intellectual, religious and military reaction of Roman Catholic Church and Catholic kings to the Reformation.

Lasted from Diet of Worms (1521) to the end of the Thirty Years War (1648)

- Roman Inquisition
- Index of Prohibited Books (read or own them, and you get excommunicated)
- Council of Trent (1545)
- Catholic spiritual revival
- Baroque architecture and church art
- Creation of religious orders and spread of Catholicism throughout the world by sending them with ships
- Wars of religion



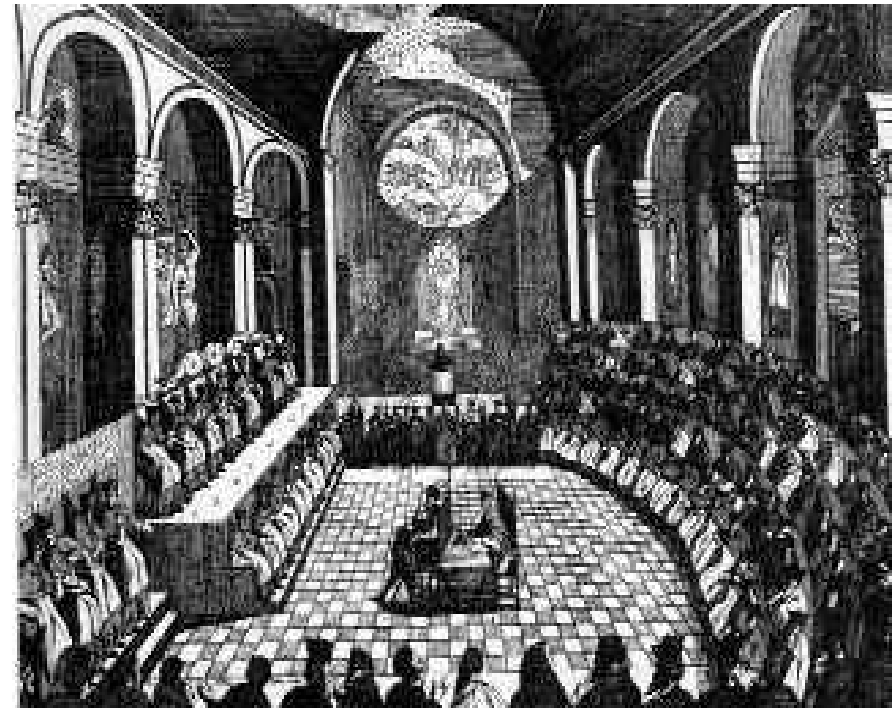
# Roman Inquisition and Prohibited Books

- A tribunal of Church and state representatives to find heretics and bring them to justice
- Church courts established all over Europe, especially in Italy and France
- Targeted Protestants, sorcery and witchcraft, Jews, immorality, blasphemy. If convicted by a court of Inquisition, punishment could be death, exile, public whipping, or public recanting.
- Censorship of books deemed heretical and dangerous: Roman Index of Prohibited Books (*Index Librorum Prohibitorum*) collected all the books that Roman Catholic Church deemed too dangerous to be read and distributed.

# Council of Trent (1545-1563)

Series of Roman Catholic Church reforms to reject many grievances of Protestants and bowed to others

- All medieval church law was valid and important
- Latin would remain official language
- Re-emphasized the importance of “good works” and “faith”
- No new definition of sacraments
- Condemned Protestantism
- Abolished simony and corruption within the Church
- Limited the sale of indulgences
- Called for new religious art, music and fervour.



# Catholic Revival and Baroque

- New emphasis on peaceful conversion using miracles, good works, and religious art
- Priests, monks and nuns are encouraged to go out into the world, inspire the faithful and convert the heathens and heretics through good works.
- Baroque: a new movement in art, architecture and music. Very dramatic and grand, frequently communicated religious themes or inspired by Catholicism. E.g.: Peter Paul Rubens, Johannes Sebastian Bach, Gian Lorenzo Bernini







# Jesuits and the spread of Catholicism

- Society of Jesus – The Jesuits
- Founded by St. Ignatius Loyola in 1534, a Spanish soldier and priest, the early Jesuits were fanatically devoted to the Pope, defending the Church and spreading the Catholic faith,
- Jesuits founded schools, hospitals and universities, and went abroad to bring Catholicism to non-Christians: Americas, India, China, Japan, Philippines. An important part of building French Canada.
- St. Ignatius' friend and disciple Francis Xavier brought Catholicism to India, Borneo and Japan.
- Jesuits had a sinister reputation among Protestants and were known to meddle in politics. Known for being very smart, informed and good at political tactics/strategy.

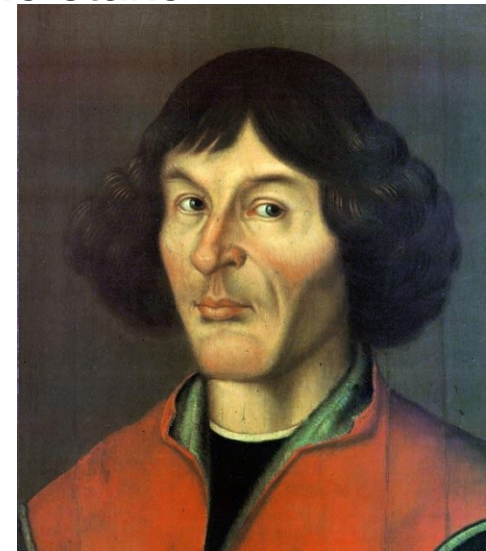
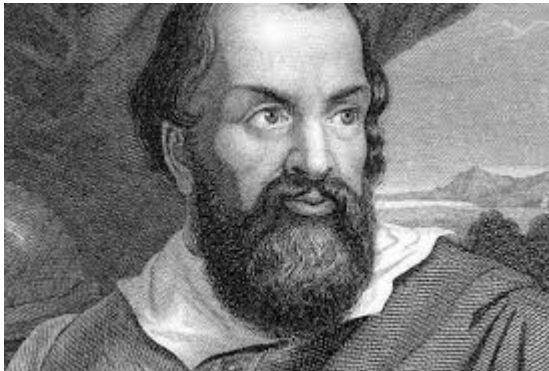


# Free Thinkers of Reformation

Nicolaus Copernicus: Polish astronomer. Argued that Earth was not the centre of the universe. Placed Sun at the centre of the universe. Father of modern astronomy.

Galileo Galilei: Built on Copernicus' ideas. Italian mathematician, philosopher, astronomer, father of modern physics. Argued that the celestial spheres are in constant rotation. Improved the telescope and discovered planets and moons within the Solar System. Was arrested by the Inquisition and forced to recant and burn his books.

Giordano Bruno: Italian monk, philosopher, mathematician, and astronomer. Pushed Copernican model further and proposed that the Sun was a star like any other and that there was life on other planets. Burned at the stake.

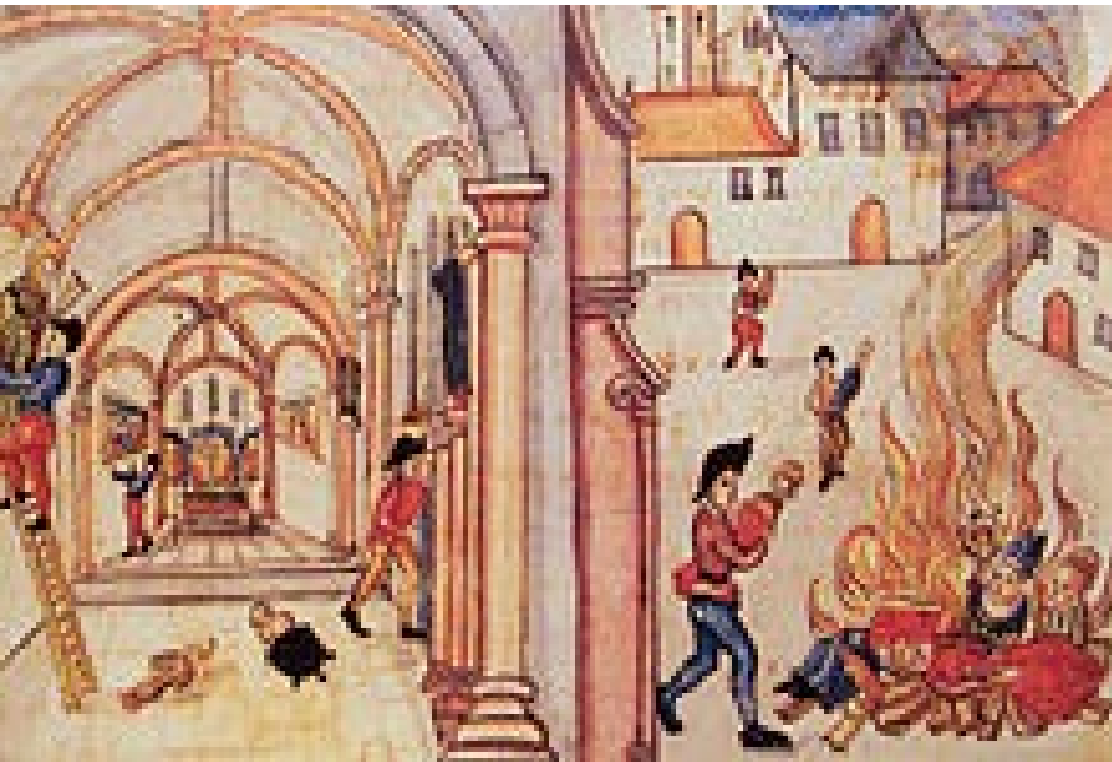


# Magisterial Reformers

Martin Luther

John Calvin

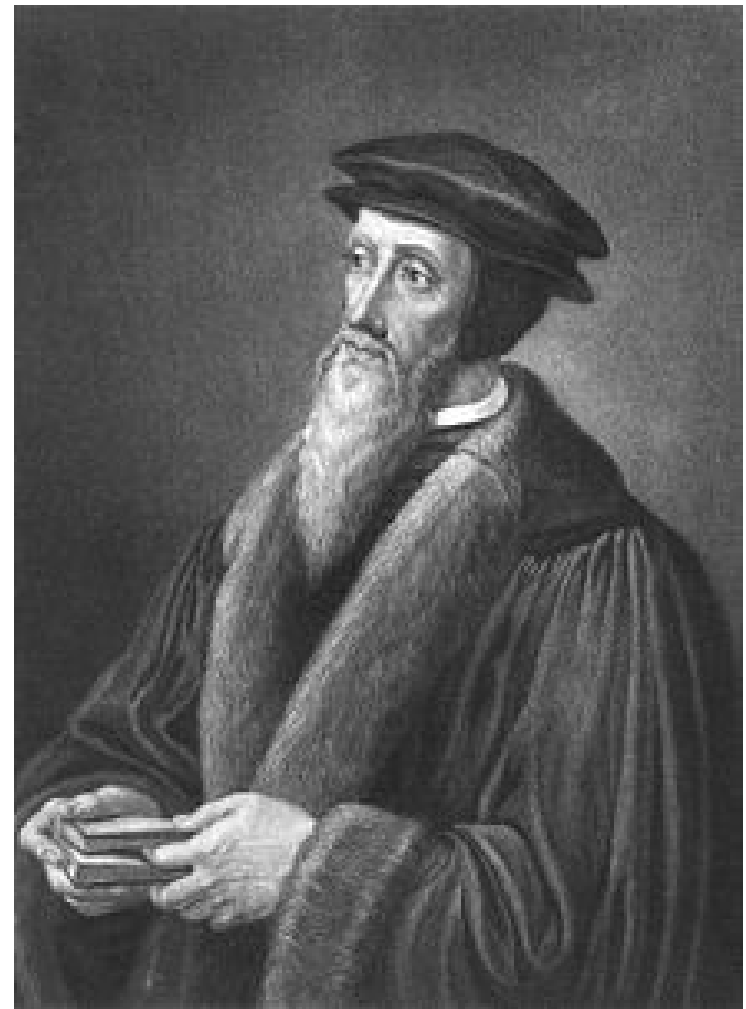
Ulrich Zwingli





# John Calvin

- 1509-1564 French theologian and pastor (protestant priest)
- Born Jehan Cauvin
- Broke with Catholic church in 1530
- Lived the rest of his life in Switzerland
- Wrote *Institutes of the Christian Religion*
- Founder of Calvinism
- Inspired the *Huguenot* movement in France
- Argued that God has a divine plan and we can only know God through ourselves and the Scripture
- Argued that images of God and saints are idolatry (resulting in destruction of Catholic churches)



# Ulrich Zwingli

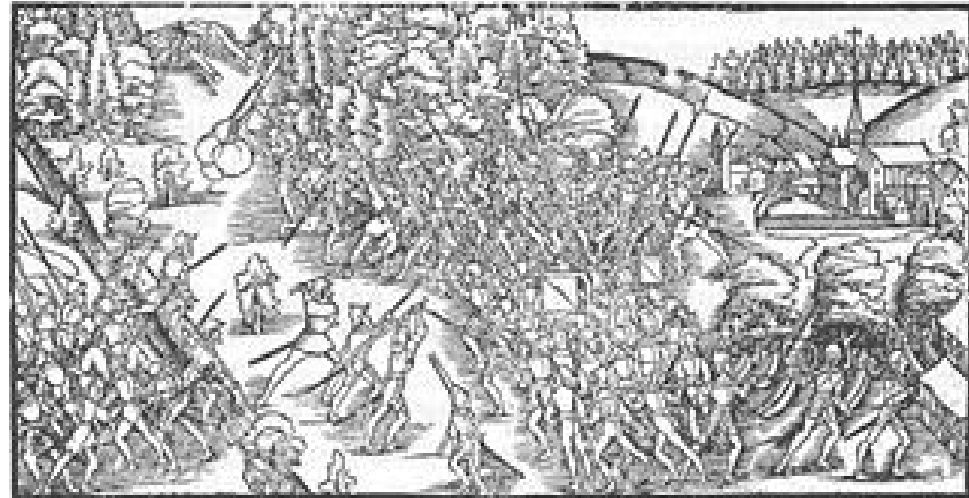
1484-1531 Swiss priest and leader of Reformation in Switzerland

Argued that the Bible should be actively studied and interpreted

Argued for the baptizing of infants (a Catholic, not Protestant, idea)

Reformed the use of music in churches (congregation singing)

Died in battle against Swiss Catholics



# Reformers' Legacy

Protestant churches:

- Protestant priests that can marry
- New importance of literacy
- Free-thinking in religion
- Education as the key to understanding God and the universe
- New (plain, functional) style of church architecture, music, services



# Politics and Wars of Reformation

Huguenots in France

Lutheranism and Calvinism in Switzerland,  
Germany, Scandinavia, Scotland

The Thirty Years War:

Peace of Westphalia

Anglicanism and Puritanism in England

The English Civil War

Religious exiles

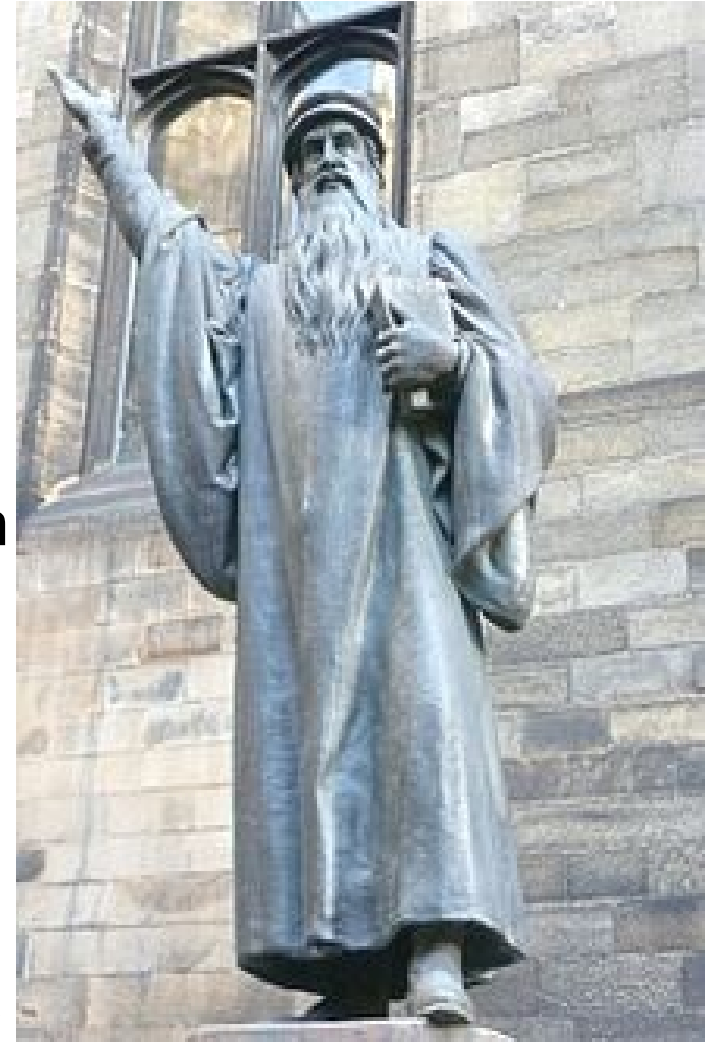
# Huguenots

- French Protestants were inspired by John Calvin
- Named after their leader Besancon Hugues
- The Valois kings and Guise Catholics vs. Bourbon Protestants.
- French Wars of Religion (1562-1598)
- St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre (August 1572): wave of anti-Protestant violence – 30,000 dead
- Henry III Bourbon of Navarre (Henry IV of France) brings peace between Catholics and Huguenots – Edict of Nantes (April 13, 1598), but at a cost of 50-70 thousand dead and Henry converting to Catholicism.
- Edict of Nantes made Catholicism the official religion, but gave Protestants the freedom to practice their faith. It was revoked in 1685 by Louis XIV (The Sun King): 200,000 Huguenots leave for Americas, England, and Low Countries.



# Lutheranism and Calvinism

- Many German princes adopt Lutheranism to oppose Catholic Church and the Holy Roman Emperor. Leads to creation of true German kingdoms
- Luther permits the seizure of Church lands and wealth by the nobles: Doctrine of Two Kingdoms
- Lutheran and Calvinist revolts spread through the Holy Roman Empire: Austria, Switzerland and Germany.
- Denmark (Norway and Iceland) and Sweden (Sweden and Finland) universally convert to Lutheranism between 1523-1533.



Parliament of Scotland refused Pope's authority in 1560, established Presbyterian Church.  
John Knox

# Protestant Revolts in H.R.E.

- Lutheran peasant revolts (Peasants War – 1525): used religion as an excuse to redistribute land and wealth. Martin Luther denounced the rebels
- Schmalkaldic War – struggle between Emperor Charles (of H.R.E. and Spain) and the Lutheran nobles of H.R.E. and their allies.
- Although the Catholic forces won the military conflict, Emperor Charles had to agree to the Peace of Augsburg treaty and it led to erosion of Catholicism in northern Germany.
- Cuius Regio, Eius Religio - “Whose realm, his religion.”  
Temporary solution to religion struggles – religion of the ruling prince becomes religion of his country. However, the treaty was only between Catholics and Lutherans.



# Spain and Netherlands

- Low Countries were under control of Spain from 1482
- Increased taxation and repression of Protestantism lead to dissatisfaction with Spain
- Philip II of Spain was Catholic and particularly intolerant of Protestants.
- Revolt in Antwerp in 1566 led to horrific Spanish reprisals, sparking a general revolt.
- Northern provinces secede and form United Provinces or Dutch Republic in 1581 under the leadership of William of Orange.
- The Dutch relied on the strength of their fleet, piracy, and English help to resist Spain, and later fought in the 30 Year War with French help, leading to official independence in 1648.
- Southern provinces remained under control of Spain (later Austria) until 1795, later becoming Belgium.



# DOMINIONS OF THE HOUSE OF HABSBURG

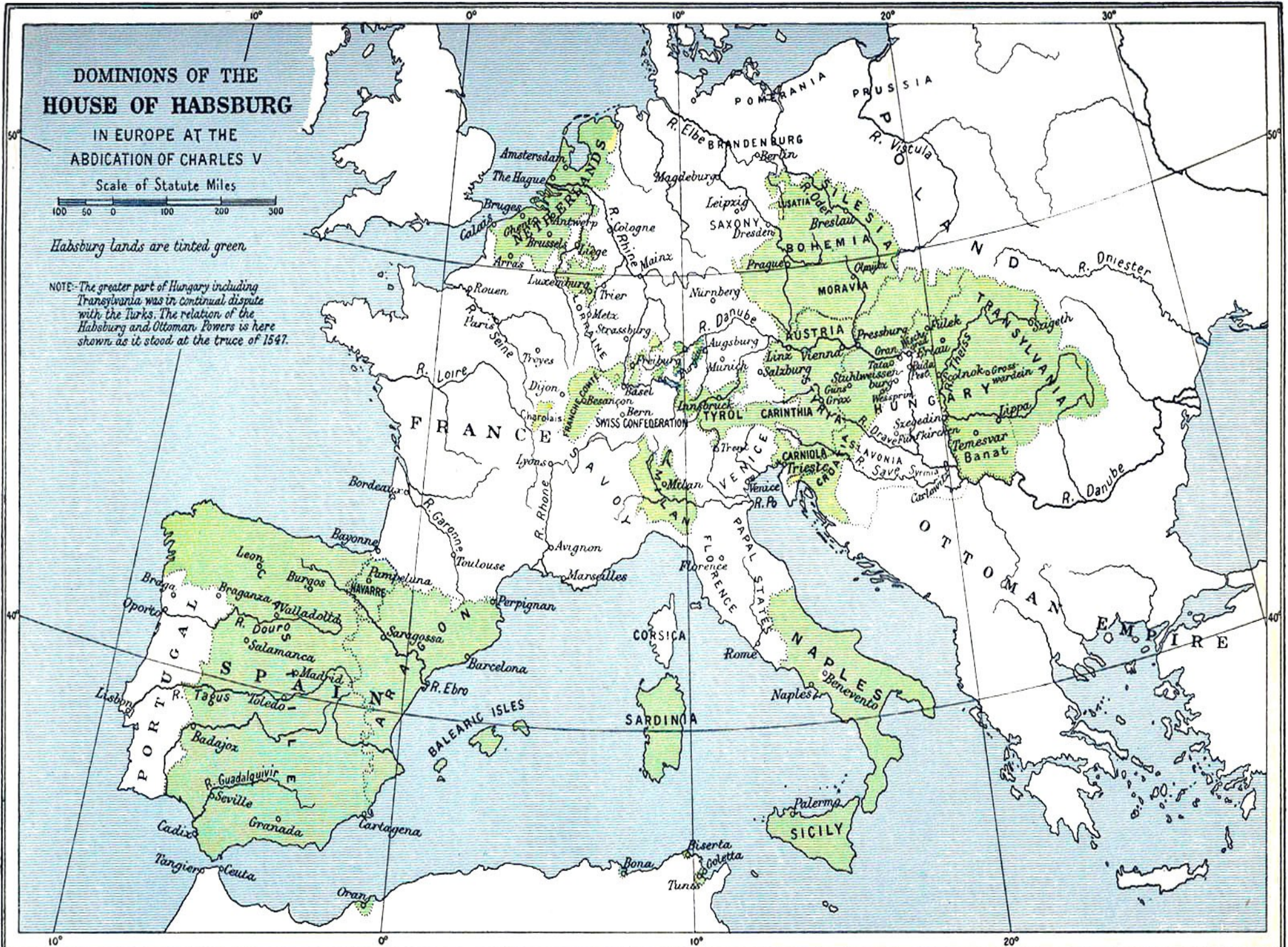
IN EUROPE AT THE  
ABDICATION OF CHARLES V

Scale of Statute Miles



*Habsburg lands are tinted green*

NOTE: The greater part of Hungary including Transylvania was in continual dispute with the Turks. The relation of the Habsburg and Ottoman Powers is here shown as it stood at the truce of 1547.



Map 10

# England and Religious Reform

- 16<sup>th</sup> century England was ruled by the Tudors – Henry VII and Henry VIII.
- Although a devout Catholic, Henry VIII was upset with the meddling of Catholic Church in English politics, and the Pope's refusal to allow Henry a divorce from Catherine (Spanish princess), and to re-marry Anne Boleyn. When he did it anyway, he and England were excommunicated.
- Henry VIII created the Church of England, confiscated Catholic property, and declared himself the Supreme Head of the Church, which would eventually lead to Anglicanism, and Protestant England.
- Despite his six marriages, he left only one legitimate male heir (Edward VI), and two daughters (Mary and Elizabeth).



# Spanish Armada

English-Spanish War (1585-1604)

Attempted Spanish invasion of England in 1588 to punish Elizabeth I for Protestant beliefs, her execution of the Catholic Queen Mary of Scotland, support of the Netherlands rebellion, and English piracy in the Caribbeans

Defeated by impatience, bad weather, disagreements between commanders, and because the battles were fought in waters unfamiliar to Spanish but familiar to the English.

130 ships sailed, less than 50 returned, more than 20,000 Spanish dead.

Spanish navy defeated, English navy rising to prominence

England expanded to Americas







# Thirty Years War

- 1618-1648. Most destructive conflict in Europe until World War I. 8 million dead, mostly civilians.
- Began as a religious rebellion in Bohemia against the Hapsburg Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II (2<sup>nd</sup> Defenestration of Prague), quickly expanded throughout H.R.E., Scandinavia, France and Switzerland.
- Although initially a war of religion within the Holy Roman Empire, the war became a general conflict over the balance of power in Europe.
- Four main phases:
  1. Bohemian and Huguenot Phase (1618-1621, 1620-1628)
  2. Danish Phase (1625-1629)
  3. Swedish Phase (1630-1635)
  4. French Phase (1635-1648)



# Thirty Years War cont'd

- Lutheran Denmark and Sweden, entered the war against Catholic Hapsburgs to help their fellow Protestants in Bohemia.
- Hapsburg forces are more successful on the battlefield in the first two phases, thanks to the leadership of General Albert Wallenstein.
- Gustavus Adolphus – Lutheran king of Sweden, is the Protestant military genius who can finally defeat the Catholic armies thanks to his use of artillery and mobile cannons.
- When France allies with the Dutch Republic and Sweden against Spain, the war is effectively over for Hapsburgs.
- Why would Catholic France ally with Protestants?
- Cardinal Richelieu (French Prime Minister) is a strong believer in political power, nationalism and expediency more than religion.
- French king is worried about the balance of power in Europe and expanding his own empire





# EUROPE, 1648

