

AP European History: Unit 2: New Monarchs, Reformation, Religious Wars and Exploration, 1400-1648

- Seminar: 2005(#1) - Compare and contrast the motives and actions of Martin Luther in the German States and King Henry VIII in England in bringing about religious change during the Reformation

I. Although reformations had been going on for decades, two leaders, Martin Luther and Henry VIII rose during the 16th century to transform the churches.



A. Background information

1. The reformation refers to the religious movement in the 16th century that had for its object the renewal of the Roman Catholic Church and that led to the establishment of the Protestant churches
2. Before the 16th centuries, Christian humanists like More and Erasmus wanted a reform of the church through educational and social change
3. It was popular for critics in every period to call for reform

B. Martin Luther (1483-1546)

1. Attended University of Erfurt, where he earned a master's degree at the age of 21
2. Ordained a priest in 1507 at the monastery of the Augustinian friars
3. Became a professor at the University of Wittenberg

C. Henry VIII (1491-1547)

1. Ruled England from 1509-1547
2. Married Catherine of Aragon, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella
3. Re-married six times throughout his lifetime in order to produce a male heir

II. The reformation in the German States resulted from Martin Luther's religious motives where as Henry's were religious along with social and economical motives.



A. Condition of the Christian Church in the German States

1. Priests were often reported on immoralities
2. Priests were uneducated
3. The buying and selling of indulgences began

B. Condition of the English Church

1. It was in healthy condition throughout the early 16th century
2. Traditional Catholic beliefs had a strong hold on the loyalty of people
3. Well-educated clergy
4. Christianity was represented throughout the nation

C. Luther's motives

1. Opposed the traditional Catholic belief that stated that salvation could be earned by both faith and good works
2. Strongly believed in the idea that salvation was earned through faith in God alone
3. Argued that indulgences were a sin and did not grant salvation

D. Henry's motives

1. Wanted his marriage to Catherine of Aragon annulled so he could marry Anne Boleyn
2. When Pope Clement VII refused to admit papal error and annul the marriage, Archbishop Cranmer finalized the divorce
3. Since Rome almost got in the way of his matrimonial plans, he removed the English church from the papal jurisdiction
4. This led to the nationalization of the English church and a break with Rome as Henry used parliament to reform

III. Though both Luther and Henry VIII longed for big changes in the churches, both headed for different directions in how they achieved it.



A. Luther's actions

1. "The Ninety-five Theses"

- a. Rejected the idea that salvation could be achieved by good works such as indulgences
- b. Stated that Pope Leo X authorized the selling of indulgences in order to finish the construction of St. Peter's Basilica
- c. Criticized Papal wealth
- d. Denied the authority of the pope and was excommunicated and declared an outlaw at the Diet of Worms in 1521

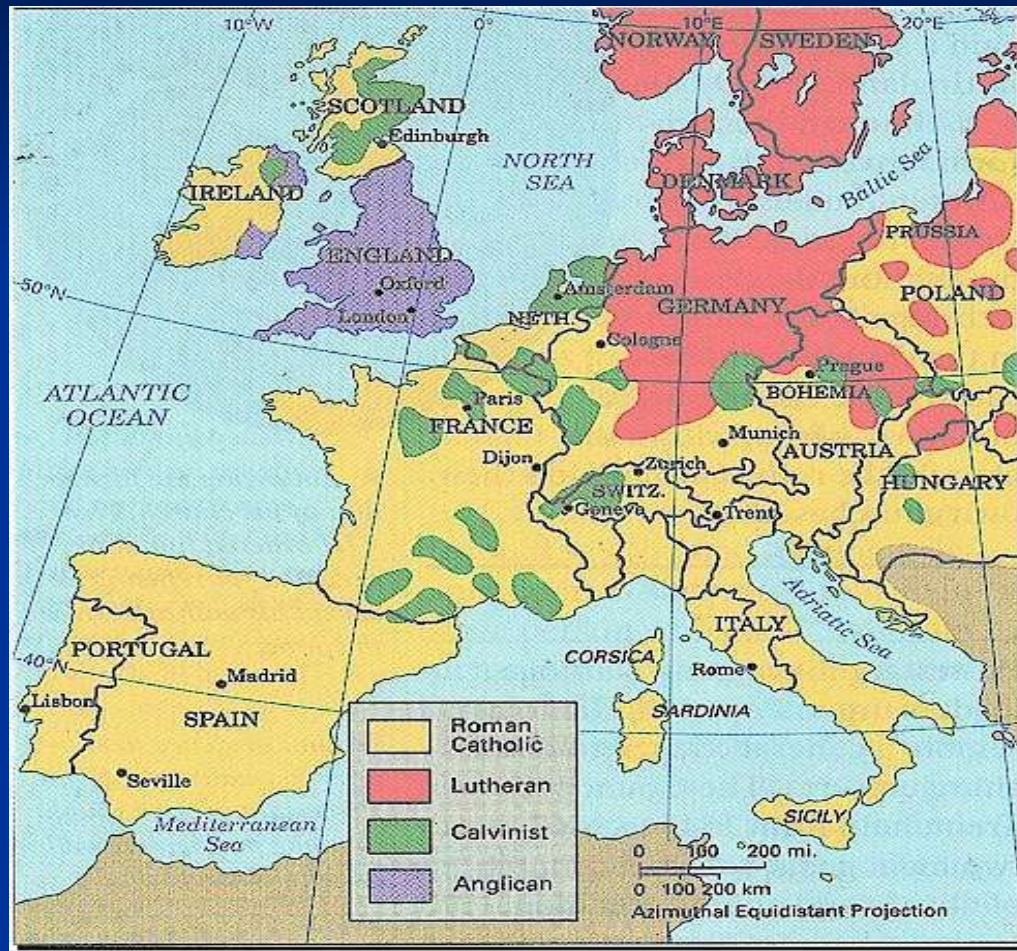
2. Luther brought forth the Protestant thought

- a. Salvation comes through faith alone
- b. Used the Latin phrase "*sola scriptura*" to mean that authority in the church rested on the bible
- c. The church consists of all Christian believers
- d. Every person should serve God in their own calling

B. Actions taken by Henry VIII

1. The Act in Restraint of Appeals (1553) declared the Crown as the highest legal authority in the land
2. The Act of the Submission of the Clergy (1534) required churchmen to submit to the king and prohibited the publication of ecclesiastical laws without royal permission
3. Under the Supremacy Act (1534) Henry was declared the supreme head of the church of England
4. Dissolved English monasteries for their wealth under the advisement of Thomas Cromwell
5. Cromwell reformed and centralized the king's household, the secretarial and the Exchequer

IV. The decisions made by Luther and Henry VII left a great impact in both churches.



A. The Impact of Luther's Beliefs

1. Luther's ideas had a social impact among all the different classes of people
 - a. His ideas attracted many preachers who then became protestant leaders
 - b. Peasants cited Luther's *On Christian Liberty* to defend their revolts for social and economical reform
 - c. His beliefs gave a new importance to women
2. Political Impact of Luther's beliefs
 - a. The Protestant Reformation caused nationalistic feelings in Germany
 - b. He earned support of German princes
 - c. Protestantism promoted fragmentation in Germany

B. Impact of Henry VIII

1. The changes during the English Reformation resulted in greater efficiency and economy
2. Growth in the modern centralized bureaucratic
3. After his death he left behind three heirs that helped transform the church
 - a. Edward VI (r. 1547-1553): throughout his short reign wrote the first *Book of Common Prayer* that became the order for all services in the church of England
 - b. Mary Tudor (r. 1553-1558): decided to bring the nation back to Catholicism
 - c. Elizabeth I (r. 1558-1603): inaugurated the beginning of religious stability in the Anglican Church (translation of the church of England)