

Name: _____

Modern European History

Date: _____

Unit 2 – Reformations

The Catholic Reformation “TO-DO List”

Examine these documents about the Catholic Reformation to identify those items that can be crossed off the “TO DO” list, noting in the “REMEDY” section the change that was made in response to the issue.

Document 3A: Index Librorum Prohibitorum

The “Index of Forbidden Books,” was an official list of books that Catholics were not permitted to read. The Index was first created in 1559 when the Church was dealing with the effects of the Protestant Reformation, and it became necessary to warn the Catholic faithful that there were books in circulation that were contrary to the Catholic faith. The Index continued to exist for over 400 years, and was finally abolished by Pope Paul VI in 1966.

During the four centuries in which the Index was in use, hundreds of books were read by Vatican censors, and their content examined for issues relating to faith and morals. Heretical works which were placed on the Index included works describing in approving terms the teachings of Luther and Calvin. Some books were banned for their sexually explicit, immoral content (like the memoirs of *Casanova*; others could not be read because they promoted scientific positions which the Church held to be contrary to revealed truths (like the work of Galileo). A few might be surprising: Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* was on the Index because it called into question both the need to respect lawful authorities and the laws themselves, and the consequent need to obey them.

Works were placed on the Index often after much debate. Catholic authors who ended up on the Index had the opportunity to defend their writings or to modify and then re-publish their works.

By the mid-20th century, it was becoming impossible for the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith to read all the books that were being published and the Index was less and less able to fulfill its function. Therefore, the Congregation stated that the Index would no longer be issued. Catholics are still encouraged to avoid those writings that might threaten faith or morality.

Adapted from:

<http://catholicunderthehood.com/2010/06/14/todayincatholichistorytheindexofprohibitedbooksisabolished>

Document 3B: The Index

Abbreviated list of some of the authors in the Index of Forbidden Books:

Dante Alighieri	René Descartes	Martin Luther
Francis Bacon	Alexandre Dumas	Niccolò Machiavelli
Honoré de Balzac	Desiderius Erasmus	John Stuart Mill
Simone de Beauvoir	Gustave Flaubert	John Milton
Cesare Beccaria	Frederick II of Prussia	Charles de Secondat, baron de Montesquieu
Jeremy Bentham	Galileo Galilei	Blaise Pascal
George Berkeley	Vincenzo Gioberti	Rabelais
John Calvin	Graham Greene	Jean-Jacques Rousseau
Giacomo Casanova	Thomas Hobbes	Voltaire
Auguste Comte	Victor Hugo	
Nicolaus Copernicus	Immanuel Kant	
Daniel Defoe	John Locke	

Adapted and revised from “Internet History Sourcebooks.” Internet History Sourcebooks. Web. 03 Dec. 2014.