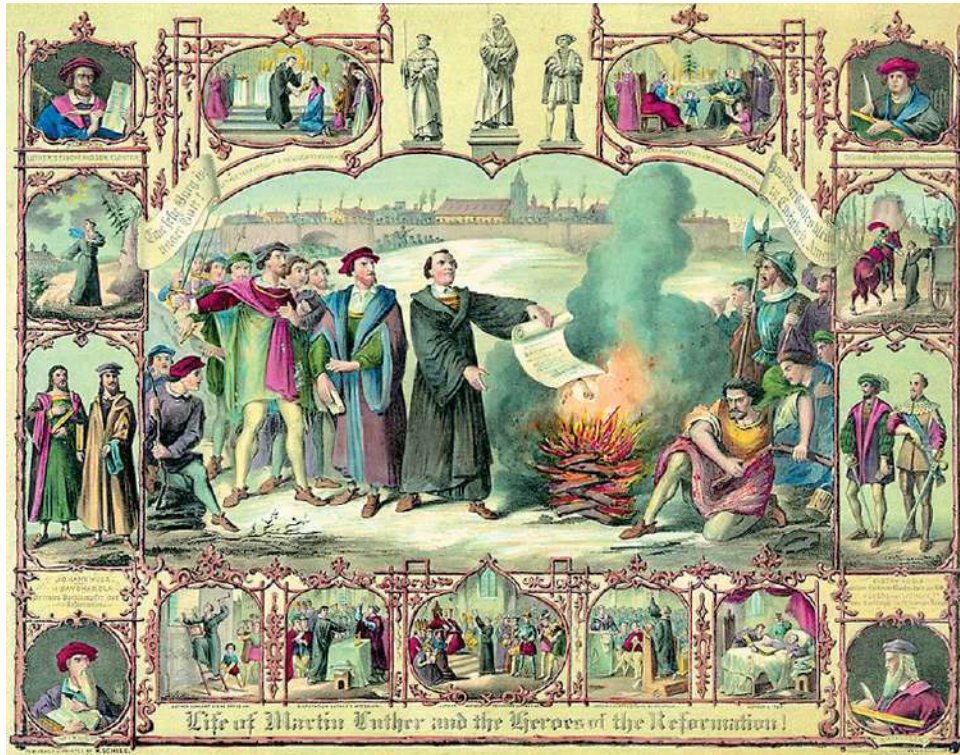
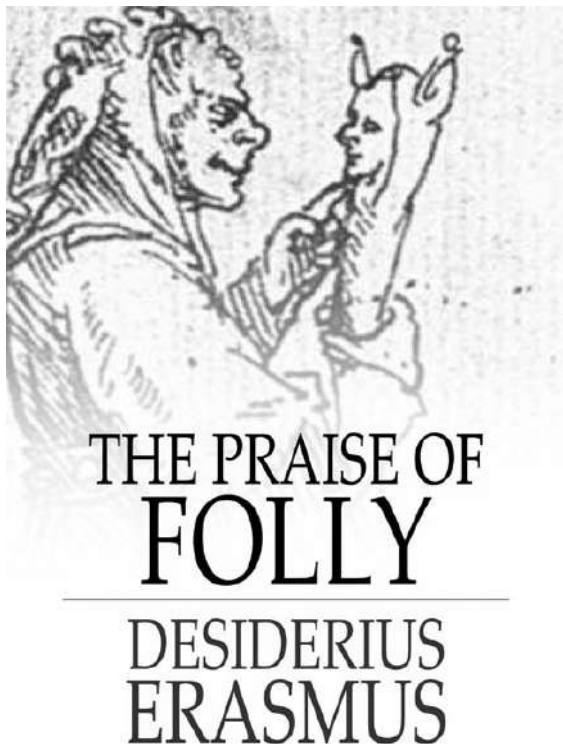


Causes of the Protestant Reformation



Impact of Renaissance Humanism



Christian humanists of the Northern Renaissance criticized the church and questioned the validity of the Catholic Bible

Erasmus, *The Praise of Folly* (1509) criticized the corruption in the church: "Erasmus laid the egg that Luther hatched."

new translations of the Bible undermined Catholic authority

the Italian Renaissance was marked by a de-emphasis on religion while emphasizing secularism and individualism

Crises of the 14th and 15th Centuries

Babylonian Captivity/Avignon Papacy

Western/Great Schism

14th century



Conciliar Movement

14th, 15th, and 16th centuries



simony:
the sale of church offices

*Pope Innocent VIII sold 24
offices in 1487 (!)*

Sales of Indulgences

people paid the Catholic Church
to absolve their sins or sins of their loved ones



the extra good deeds saints had done were
stored in heaven

Pope Leo X sold these extra deeds as
certificates of indulgence

Catholic German Dominican preacher John
Tetzel was a notorious indulgence-seller



Corruption in the Catholic Church



Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503) had numerous affairs and children out of wedlock

20% of all priests in the diocese of Trent kept concubines during the early 16th century



absenteeism



clerical ignorance



pluralism

Early Critics of the Church



John Wyclif
(1328-1384)

English priest, Oxford professor and early critic of the Catholic Church

wrote the first English translation of the Bible

supported a return to simplicity and poverty

his followers were called Lollards (nonacademics)

was convicted in absentia of heresy 75 years later

his bones were dug up from consecrated ground and burned with his writings



Jan Hus
(1369-1415)

Czech priest, philosopher, reformer, and college professor

criticized the Church for its corruption, greed

led a unsuccessful nationalist movement

convicted as a heretic and burned at the stake



Lorenzo Valla
(1407-1457)

Italian priest who proved the Donation of Constantine was a fake

Roman imperial decree by which the emperor

Constantine I transferred authority over Rome to the Pope

Valla proved it couldn't have been written when they claimed it was

convicted as a heretic and burned at the stake