

Theme: Change — Individuals (January 2012)

Throughout history, various circumstances have led individuals to develop or modify ideas. These ideas have often affected societies.

Task: Select two individuals from your study of global history and for each

- Describe the historical circumstances that led this individual to develop or modify an idea
- Explain an action taken by this individual as a result of this idea
- Discuss how this individual's idea affected a society

You may use any individual from your study of global history and geography. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include Pericles, Martin Luther, Queen Elizabeth I, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Karl Marx, Mohandas Gandhi, Jomo Kenyatta, Mao Zedong, Mikhail Gorbachev, and Mother Theresa.

Martin Luther

- Describe the historical circumstances that led this individual to develop or modify an idea
 - Upset with the corruption of the Catholic Church
 - Simony (selling church positions)
 - Corrupt officials
 - Sale of Indulgences (MOST IMPORTANT)
 - Purchasing a pardon for your sins
 - Did not have to actually have faith or feel sorry for your sins
 - Thought to favor the wealthy
- Explain an action taken by this individual as a result of this idea
 - Posted his 95 Theses (reforms) to the door of a church in Wittenberg, Germany
 - Gained much attention and was reprinted using the Printing Press
 - Luther created religious pamphlets explaining his ideas and translated the bible into the vernacular spread quickly
 - Church could not ignore Luther's statements
 - Asked Luther to recant, he refused, labeled a heretic
- Discuss how this individual's idea affected a society
 - Signified the end of religious unity in Western Europe
 - Began the Protestant Reformation
 - Greatly reduced the influence of the Catholic Church
 - Led to creation of secular governments
 - Inspired followers
 - John Calvin
 - Predestination
 - Led to wars of religion – Thirty Year's War, St. Bartholomew's Day massacre

Mohandas Gandhi

- Describe the historical circumstances that led this individual to develop or modify an idea
 - India was a colony of the British – Jewel in the Crown
 - First was controlled by the British East India Company – used India as a business
 - Sepoy Rebellion removed the Company from power and England took direct control
 - Imposed strict economic controls
 - Heavily taxed salt
 - Only purchase British goods
 - Replaced subsistence crops with cash crops
 - Strict political and social controls
 - Indians had to carry passes – detailed their backgrounds
 - Unable to take top positions in the government
 - Developed Passive Resistance
 - Find non violent means to break unjust laws
- Explain an action taken by this individual as a result of this idea
 - Organized homespun movement
 - Indians had to purchase cloth from England, could not buy from Indian merchants
 - Gandhi organized a boycott of British goods
 - Indians made their own cloth
 - Organized the Salt March
 - Salt was a necessary item to preserve food in India
 - Gandhi organized a march to the Indian Ocean to make their own salt
 - British government violently reacted to this protest
 - Highly publicized
 - Showed the world how cruel the British were to the Indians
- Discuss how this individual's idea affected a society
 - Salt March led to Indian Independence
 - British could no longer control the Indian population
 - Granted independence in 1948
 - India was partitioned into a Hindu and Muslim state
 - Violence arose as people were moving into Pakistan and India