

Review Guide: This review guide covers the three major topics we studied in class beginning in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (1500's) up until the 1700's, roughly. This guide is meant to **supplement** your readings and notes. It certainly should not replace them! Study your notes and homework (readings and questions). In addition, think about some of the questions asked at the end of this guide, and the important issues and concepts raised by what we've studied. Also, we're going over King Philip & Spain tomorrow and Wednesday, so consider this a preview!!

### **1. The Reformation**

During the Middle Ages most of Europe (especially Western Europe) was Catholic. The Catholic Church held great power, the seat of this power being in Rome and held by the pope. The Church owned lands and collected taxes.

However, thanks to the Renaissance, more people went to school and learned how to read and write. They began to question many things, including the teachings and ways of the church. They started asking questions like "Is it right that the clergy are so wealthy? Should the Church have so much power?" Some people questioned whether the church was the only way for someone to get into heaven. This movement that questioned the practices of the Catholic Church was called the **reformation**.

A German named Martin Luther became a leader among the reformers. He thought the Catholic Church was headed in the wrong direction. He continued to question church practices and spoke out against the power, authority, and abuses the Church committed. He believed the Bible alone granted salvation. Several German princes supported Luther and his teachings. Soon Luther had so many supporters he could create a new church! This resulted into many new churches forming all throughout Europe, and an end to religious unity. Europe now was divided, between Catholic and Protestant Christians. It wasn't until the **Peace of Augsburg** in 1555, which stated German princes could choose which religion to follow, that violence and conflict abated, though only temporarily!

The Catholic Church however, still tried to stomp out Protestantism. With the Inquisition in Spain and other tactics, Protestants and Catholics all over Europe were at odds with each other, often committing atrocious acts all in the name of God!

### **2. The Scientific Revolution**

Another major development in Europe at this time was the **Scientific Revolution**. This was a period when many thinkers began to discover laws about the universe that directly contradicted Church teachings. People began rejecting tradition and authority and old ideas as valid and began observing,

inquiring, and using reason and logic to find things out. Advances in technology also helped in this purpose, most especially the telescope. One user of the telescope, Galileo Galilei, went so far as to challenge the Church and the dominant narrative at the time of a earth-centered universe. Galileo advocated for a **heliocentric** solar system, one where the planets revolved around the sun. He asserted that the role of religion and the Bible was to teach us about how to get to heaven, not how the world works, and as such, only science should do that. This got Galileo in a lot of trouble, and in addition put the Church on the defensive. However, the scientific advancements during this time led to new understandings of the universe, the world, and human being's place in all of this!

### 3. The Age of Monarchs

Spain, England, and France too (more on France next unit!) had each become unified nations. Now, a separate government ruled each of these three lands. The rulers were **monarchs**, kings and queens who had power over the entire nation.

The people of each nation were often loyal to their rulers. They felt a common bond with their country and with each other. Everyone spoke the same language (English, Spanish, French, etc.) and followed similar national customs. It was the beginning of what we could call **nationalism**. Nationalism was also mixed with religious beliefs, which, after the Protestant Reformation, caused a lot of problems!

For example, the monarchs of Spain, Britain, and France followed different religions. Spain was extremely Catholic, while Henry VIII of Britain started his own religion, **Anglicanism**. France went back and forth between Protestant and Catholic kings. Because of their separate religious beliefs, the monarchs often led their people into wars, and wars are expensive.

#### **Spain & King Philip II**

King Phillip ruled Spain from 1556 until 1598. He began his rule as the most powerful monarch in all of Europe. At this time, Spain was the most powerful European country. Spain controlled rich colonies in America. However, Philip's reign marked the end of Spain's greatness.

Philip was Catholic, he supported the Inquisition. He wanted to convert all of Europe back to Catholicism and crush Protestantism. During this time, Spain ruled the Netherlands, which was mostly Protestant (remember, northern Europe!). He commanded the Dutch to convert to Catholicism, which they didn't. Also, even Catholic Dutch didn't like Philip. He was Spanish after all.

Philip also embarked on a campaign against England. When Queen Elizabeth I of England took the throne, she had no intention of bringing England back to Catholicism. Also, she gave permission for England to attack and raid Spanish ships, which really angered Philip. Philip decided to go to war with England. Now Spain was fighting the Dutch, the English, and meddling in France as well. As luck would have it, Philip sent his **armada** to attack England, but bad weather destroyed most of the fleet, leaving Elizabeth and England victorious.

## England and Political Reforms

Unlike Spain, England's history took a different turn. After Elizabeth, there were a few monarchs that tried to bring England back to Catholicism, but they were not successful. England had a tradition of a council that ruled with the king known as **Parliament**. Parliament did not want to give up any of its power and didn't like taking orders from (and especially, giving their money to) a king or queen that didn't share their religious views. When King Charles dissolved Parliament because they wouldn't give him money, a civil war broke out in 1642. It lasted until 1649, when **Oliver Cromwell** had a series of military victories that allowed him to capture Charles I and execute him. Cromwell and Parliament set up a republic known as a **commonwealth**. However, Cromwell fought with Parliament and eventually disbanded them in 1653. Cromwell died in 1658 and though his son, Richard, tried to carry on his father's policies, he was not as strong and eventually was dismissed by the people.

In 1660 Charles II became King of England beginning what was known as the **Restoration Monarchy**. He restored Parliament, and life in England seemed to be normalizing. However, King James II became Catholic when he took the throne. He also asked for a lot of power (believing in Absolute Monarchy). Parliament sent word to his daughter, Mary II, who was living in the Netherlands with her husband, William of Orange, to come and take over James' throne.

This angered James, but he did not try to fight. He left the throne quietly, and with this bloodless take over the **glorious revolution** was enacted when William and Mary signed over many of their royal rights. Then in 1689 they signed a **Bill of Rights** protecting citizens. This allowed commerce to flourish in England, and a rising middle class began to assert its power and influence as they gained more political rights.

### Questions to Think About

1. *How* did the Reformation change Europe? In other words: yes, some people became Protestant, some stayed Catholic, but what were the *lasting* changes? How did the Reformation affect the political, social, and economic legacies of Europe?
2. What was so revolutionary about the Scientific Revolution? What did it change, and why is it important for understanding other developments in Europe at the time?
3. To what extent does the history of England during this time period differ from other countries? What outcomes did this have for England? In other words, do you believe there is a relationship between political events in England and England's rise as a world superpower beginning in the 1700's?
4. How did understandings of government (including its purpose), rights, and citizenship change during this time period? What caused these developments?