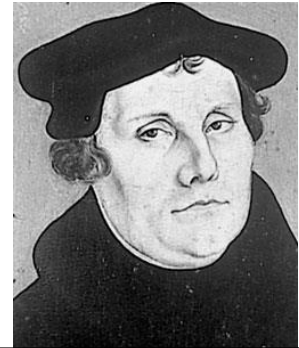


Protestant Reformation - Part A

The Protestant Reformation started in 1517 and can best be described by looking at the root words of its name; "Protest" and "Reform". Essentially the Reformation was a protest against the corruption that was being perceived to be in the Church at the time, and an attempt to reform Christianity. It is important to note that up until 1517 all of Christianity in Europe would fall under the guidance and structure of the "Church". After the Reformation the "Church" becomes the "Catholic Church" and the religion of European Christianity becomes divided amongst the Catholics and the new Protestants (of which there were many different **denominations**). To better understand how this came about, one has to understand how Christianity was being preached and practiced in Europe during the 16th Century.



Martin Luther

The 16th Century Church - Differences Emerge

The Church that came out of the Middle Ages was more wealthy, powerful, and influential than ever before. Almost all of Europe was Christian and that religious belief was structured and centered on the Pope. The Pope represents the word of God on earth and is seen as being **infallible**. Essentially, what the Pope said was religious law and governed what had to be done on earth in order to go to heaven. This is a powerful position that greatly influences the lives of leaders and ordinary people all over Christianity. During the 16th Century a monk by the name of Martin Luther began to question how that power and influence was being used.

Martin Luther was a very devoted and religious man. At the age of 23 Martin Luther was studying to become a lawyer when he was struck by lightning. When he awoke, he decided to dedicate his life to the church, and he spent the rest of his life trying to preach the word of God and to help people live their lives in a godly fashion that would see them into heaven. However, Luther struggled with how the Church was instructing people on how they should live their lives and ensure their **salvation** after they died. To Luther, "faith" or the belief in God and his teachings was what was important. At the time, the Pope and the Church were structured in a way that promoted the idea that for salvation, a person had to perform religious rituals like attending Mass (a ritualized church service) and performing good deeds. Also, the Church being the authority on earth, was responsible for providing forgiveness to those who did wrong, and this is what troubled Luther.

During the 16th Century, people were very religious, but they were also capable of doing bad things, and it was the worry that they would not go to heaven that distressed people. The Church would allow people to confess their sins, accept or perform some sort of penance or some sort of action that would prove their desire to do good in the eyes of the Church, and they would then be "forgiven". These acts of confession

Denominations - different branches of Christianity. Each denomination has their own special interpretations or practices regarding the teachings of Christ.

Infallible - incapable of making mistakes or being wrong.

Indulgences - a piece of paper from the Church that could be bought to quicken your journey to heaven after you died.

Papal Bull - an official document that states an official order from the Pope, in Martin Luther's case it stated that he was excommunicated from the church for his views.

are still a large part of the Catholic Church today, however, in the 16th Century the Church seemed to be taking advantage of the power it had to forgive and people's desire to ensure that they did what they had to do in order to go to heaven.

Money for the Church

During the 16th Century, many Priests, Bishops, and Popes lived expensive and extravagant lifestyles and the money needed to support those lifestyles came from the wealth of the church. This wealth came from its land holdings, its ability to tax ordinary people directly and by selling **Indulgences**. Indulgences during the Late Middle Ages and into the Renaissance were a popular way for people to "buy forgiveness" from the Church. If an ordinary person felt that they behaved in an ungodly way or were concerned with getting into heaven after they died, they could then pay the Church and they would receive a piece of paper that would help them get into heaven. By the 16th Century, these Indulgences were being sold all over Europe and were creating a lot of money for the Church. Luther felt that it was not right that ordinary people were being told to pay money that many could not afford, in order to guarantee salvation. Luther and other reformers felt that it was a person's faith, not how much money that they gave to the Church that would help them after they died.

95 Theses - A list of Grievances that Changed the World

On October 31, 1517, Martin Luther publicly announced his famous "95 Theses" or his 95 arguments against how the Church was abusing its privilege and power. The main argument in the 95 Theses was against the selling of indulgences but it also criticized the Church and its leaders for their greed and the extravagant ways in which they lived their lives. The Pope was not happy with Luther who would continue to write many essays that criticized the Church over the next few years. Thanks to the new invention of the printing press, Luther's ideas spread all over Europe and more and more people began to listen to what he had to say. In 1520, the Pope had enough of this criticism and issued a **Papal Bull** or a decree from the Pope that condemned Luther and his ideas. When Luther received this very official document from the man who represented God and spoke his words on earth, he publicly burned it in protest. This act of defiance would set forth a chain of events that would forever change Christianity and cost countless of lives in religious violence.

Human history has always shown that matters of religious belief can incite violence and hatred. Even to this day, there are parts of the world where the division between Protestants and Catholics still result in violence. Luther's 95 Theses in 1517 would not only change how Christians viewed the world, it would also set the stage for an era of religious violence that would see Christians killing one another over this split.



Martin Luther publicly burning his Papal Bull in 1520

Protestant Reformation - Part One

Directions: READ the handout entitled; "Protestant Reformation - Part One" and then answer the following questions.

1. Use your handout to provide definitions for the following terms: (1 mark each)

Denominations	Infallible	Salvation
Indulgences	Papal Bull	

2. On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions using **COMPLETE SENTENCES**.

- a. In your own words, describe how Christianity was governed or structured in the 16th Century. What would happen to Christianity in Europe after 1517? (2 marks for quality of response and inclusion of details)
- b. In your own words describe why you think Luther would be against the selling of indulgences? What did he do about it? (2 marks for the quality of your response and evidence of thought and effort)
- c. In your own words, describe what invention helped spread Luther's ideas? What did the Church do about Luther? (2 marks for quality of response and evidence of insight)

3. Internet Search - Inventions or Innovations of the Renaissance and Reformation - Complete the table found on the next page.

You will be marked out of 5 for accuracy, quality of work and evidence of effort

Total: ____ /16

An invention is a brand-new creation, and an innovation is adapting a known invention to either make it better or use it in a different manner. The Renaissance and Reformation was a very productive time for inventors and innovators and many of their creations helped changed the world.

Directions: Your assignment is to complete the chart below that identifies and describes 5 important inventions or innovations created during the 14th to 16th Centuries. An example has been provided.

	Invention/Innovation	Why is/was it important?
Ex.	Mechanical Clock in 1300	A mechanical clock would replace other inaccurate ways of telling the time such as a sundial, hourglass or candles.
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