



4

# The Reformation Continues

## TERMS & NAMES

- predestination
- Calvinism
- theocracy
- Presbyterian
- Anabaptist
- Catholic Reformation
- Jesuits
- Council of Trent

### MAIN IDEA

**John Calvin and other Reformation leaders began new Protestant churches. The Catholic Church also made reforms.**

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

**Many Protestant churches began during this period, and many Catholic schools are the result of Catholic reforms.**

**SETTING THE STAGE** Under the leadership of Elizabeth I, the Church of England remained similar to the Catholic Church in many of its doctrines and ceremonies. Meanwhile, other forms of Protestantism were developing elsewhere in Europe.

## Calvin Begins Another Protestant Church

In 1521, the year Luther stood trial at Worms, John Calvin was a 12-year-old boy. Born in France, Calvin grew up to have as much influence on Protestants as Luther did. Calvin would give order to the new faith that Luther had begun.

**Calvin and His Teachings** In 1536, Calvin published a book called *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. This work expressed Calvin's ideas about God, salvation, and human nature. It also created a system of Protestant theology.

Calvin taught that men and women are sinful by nature. Taking Luther's idea that humans cannot earn salvation, Calvin went on to say that God chooses a very few people to save. Calvin called these few the "elect." He believed that God has known since the beginning of time who will be saved. This doctrine is called **predestination**. The religion based on Calvin's teachings is called **Calvinism**.

**Calvin Runs Geneva** Calvin believed that the ideal government was a **theocracy**, a government controlled by religious leaders. In 1541, Protestants in Geneva, Switzerland, asked Calvin to lead their city. When Calvin arrived there in the 1540s, Geneva was a self-governing city of about 20,000 people.

Calvin and his followers ran the city according to strict rules. Everyone attended religion class. No one wore bright clothing or played card games. Authorities would imprison, excommunicate, or banish those who broke such rules. Anyone who preached different doctrines might be burned at the stake. Yet, to many Protestants, Calvin's Geneva was a model city of highly moral citizens.

**Calvinism Spreads** One of the admiring visitors to Geneva was a preacher from Scotland named John Knox. When he returned home in 1559, Knox put Calvin's ideas to work in Scottish towns. Each community church was governed by a small group of laymen called elders or presbyters (PREHZ-buh-tuhrs). Followers of Knox became known as **Presbyterians**. In the 1560s, Protestant nobles led by Knox succeeded in making Calvinism Scotland's official religion. They also deposed their Catholic queen in favor of her infant son.

Elsewhere, Swiss, Dutch, and French reformers adopted the Calvinist form of church organization. One reason Calvin is considered so influential is that many Protestant churches today

## HISTORY MAKERS



**John Calvin**  
1509–1564

Unlike Luther, Calvin wrote little about his personal life. A quiet boy, he grew up to study law and philosophy at the University of Paris. Early in the 1530s, he came under the influence of French followers of Luther. When King Francis I ordered these Protestants arrested, Calvin fled. Eventually, he made his way to Geneva, Switzerland.

Calvin and his followers rigidly regulated morality in Geneva. Perhaps because of this, Calvinism is often described as strict and grim. However, Calvin taught that people should enjoy God's gifts. He wrote that it was not

anywhere forbidden to laugh, or to enjoy food, or to add new possessions to old . . . or to be delighted with musical harmonies, or to drink wine.

### Background

The deposed queen was Mary, Queen of Scots—Elizabeth I's cousin and heir. Many English Catholics wanted Mary to rule. Eventually, Elizabeth had Mary executed for taking part in plots against her.



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- Region** Which European countries became mostly Protestant and which remained mostly Catholic?
- Location** Judging from the way the religions were distributed, where would you expect religious conflicts to take place? Explain.

trace their roots to Calvin. Over the years, however, many of them have softened Calvin's strict teachings.

In France, Calvin's followers were called Huguenots. Hatred between Catholics and Huguenots frequently led to violence. The worst outbreak of fury occurred in Paris on August 24, 1572—the Catholic feast of St. Bartholomew's Day. At dawn, Catholic mobs began hunting for Protestants and brutally murdering them. The massacres spread to other cities and lasted six months. Thousands, perhaps up to 12,000, Huguenots were killed.

Although Catholic, Marguerite of Navarre held unorthodox, mystical personal beliefs. She supported the call for reform in the Church.

## Other Reformers

Protestants taught that the Bible is the source of all truth about religion and that all people should read it to discover those truths. As Christians began to interpret the Bible for themselves, new Protestant groups formed over differences in belief.

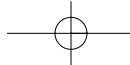
**The Anabaptists** One such group baptized only those persons who were old enough to decide to be Christian. They said that people who had been baptized as children should be rebaptized as adults. These believers were called **Anabaptists** from the Greek for “baptize again.” Anabaptists also taught that church and state should be separate, and they refused to fight in wars. They shared their possessions. Viewing Anabaptists as radicals who threatened society, both Catholics and Protestants persecuted them. Yet, the Anabaptists survived and became the forerunners of the Mennonites and the Amish. Their teaching influenced the later Quakers and Baptists, who split from the Anglican church.

**Women of the Reformation** Many women played prominent roles in the Reformation, especially from 1519 to 1580. For example, Marguerite of Navarre, the sister of King Francis I, protected John Calvin from being



### THINK THROUGH HISTORY

**A. Analyzing Causes** How did Protestant teaching cause further divisions in the Christian church?



executed for his beliefs while he lived in France. Other noblewomen played similar roles in protecting reformers.

Several wives of reformers also achieved fame. Katherina Zell, married to prominent reformer Matthew Zell of Strasbourg, once scolded a minister for speaking harshly of another. The minister responded by saying that she had “disturbed the peace.” Katherina Zell answered his criticism sharply:

#### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Do you call this disturbing the peace that instead of spending my time in frivolous amusements I have visited the plague infested and carried out the dead? I have visited those in prison and under sentence of death. Often for three days and three nights I have neither eaten nor slept. I have never mounted the pulpit, but I have done more than any minister in visiting those in misery.

KATHERINA ZELL, quoted in *Women of the Reformation*

Luther’s wife Katherina von Bora played a more typical, behind-the-scenes role. However, her young life was unusual. Sent to a convent at about age 10, Katherina had taken the vows of a nun by 16. Inspired by Luther’s teaching, she escaped from her convent. Some stories claim she escaped by hiding in an empty barrel that had contained smoked herring.

After marrying Luther, Katherina had six children. She managed the family finances, fed all who visited their house, and supported her husband’s work. She submitted respectfully to Luther but also argued with him about woman’s equal role in marriage. Their well-run household became a model for others to follow.

As Protestant religions became more firmly established, their organization became more formal. Male religious leaders narrowly limited women’s activities to the home and discouraged them from being leaders.

#### THINK THROUGH HISTORY

##### B. Making

**Inferences** Why was it easier for women to take part in the earlier stages of the Reformation than the later stages?

## The Catholic Reformation

While Protestant churches won many followers, millions remained true to Catholicism. Helping Catholics to remain loyal was a movement within the Catholic Church to reform itself. This movement is now known as the **Catholic Reformation**. One great Catholic reformer was Ignatius (ihg:NAY-shuhs) of Loyola.

**Ignatius of Loyola** Ignatius grew up in his father’s castle in Loyola, Spain. The great turning point in his life came in 1521 when he was injured in a war. During his recovery, Ignatius thought about his past sins and about the life of Jesus. His daily devotions, he believed, cleansed his soul. In 1522, he began writing a book called *Spiritual Exercises* that laid out a day-by-day plan of meditation, prayer, and study. Ignatius compared spiritual and physical exercise:

#### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Just as walking, traveling, and running are bodily exercises, preparing the soul to remove ill-ordered affections, and after their removal seeking and finding the will of God with respect to the ordering of one’s own life and the salvation of one’s soul, are Spiritual Exercises.

IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA, *Spiritual Exercises*

For the next 18 years, Ignatius gathered followers. In 1540, the pope made Ignatius’s followers a religious order called the Society of Jesus. Members of the order were commonly called **Jesuits** (JEHZH-u-ihts).

The Jesuits concentrated on three activities. First, they founded superb schools throughout Europe. Jesuit teachers were rigorously trained in both classical studies and theology. The Jesuits’ second mission was to convert non-Christians to Catholicism, so they sent out missionaries. Their third goal was to stop Protestantism from

### GlobalImpact

#### Jesuit Missionaries

The work of Jesuit missionaries has had a lasting impact around the globe. By the time Ignatius died in 1556, about a thousand Jesuits were working in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas. Two of the most famous Jesuit missionaries of the 1500s were Francis Xavier, who worked in India, and Matteo Ricci, who worked in China.

One reason the Jesuits had such a permanent impact is that they founded schools, colleges, and universities throughout the world. For example, the Jesuits today run about 45 high schools and 28 colleges and universities in the United States. Two of these are Boston College and Marquette University.



This Italian painting of the Council of Trent shows the large number of church leaders who met to discuss Catholic reforms.

spreading. The zeal of the Jesuits overcame the drift toward Protestantism in Poland and southern Germany.

**Reforming Popes** Two popes of the 1500s took the lead in reforming the Catholic Church. Paul III, who was pope from 1534 to 1549, took four important steps toward reform. First, he directed a council of cardinals to investigate indulgence selling and other abuses within the Church. Second, he approved the Jesuit order. Third, he used the Inquisition to seek out and punish heresy in papal territory. Fourth, and most important, he

#### Background

This Inquisition was called the Roman Inquisition. It generally was more moderate than the Spanish Inquisition described in Chapter 14.

decided to call a great council of Church leaders to meet in Trent, in northern Italy. In the years between 1545 and 1563, at the **Council of Trent**, Catholic bishops and cardinals agreed on several doctrines:

- The church's interpretation of the Bible was final. Any Christian who substituted his or her own interpretation was a heretic.
- Christians need faith and good works for salvation. They were not saved by faith alone, as Luther argued.
- The Bible and Church tradition were equally powerful authorities for guiding Christian life.
- Indulgences were valid expressions of faith. (But the false selling of indulgences was banned.)

Another reforming pope, Paul IV, vigorously carried out the council's decrees. In 1559, he had officials draw up a list of books considered dangerous to the Catholic faith. This list was known as the Index of Forbidden Books. Catholic bishops throughout Europe were ordered to gather up the offensive books (including Protestant Bibles) and burn them in bonfires. In Venice alone, 10,000 books were burned in one day.

**Legacy of the Reformation** The Reformation had enduring effects. Protestant churches flourished, despite religious wars and persecutions. Because of the Reformation, religion no longer united Europe. As the Church's power declined, individual monarchs and states gained power. This paved the way for modern nation-states. In addition, the reformers' successful revolt against Church authority laid the groundwork for a rejection of Christian belief that occurred in Western culture in later centuries. Therefore, through its political and social effects, the Reformation helped to set the stage for the modern world.

## Section 4 Assessment

### 1. TERMS & NAMES

Identify

- predestination
- Calvinism
- theocracy
- Presbyterian
- Anabaptist
- Catholic Reformation
- Jesuits
- Council of Trent

### 2. TAKING NOTES

Using a chart like the one below, compare the ideas of the reformers who came after Luther.

Reformers	Ideas
John Calvin	
Anabaptists	
Catholic Reformers	

### 3. EVALUATING DECISIONS

Which of the steps taken by Popes Paul III and Paul IV to reform the Catholic Church do you think were wise? Which were unwise? Explain.

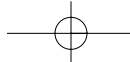
#### THINK ABOUT

- the goals of the reforming popes
- whether the steps clearly addressed those goals
- possible effects of each step

### 4. THEME ACTIVITY

#### Religious and Ethical Systems

In a group of three, hold a debate on whether Calvin was right to establish such a strict theocracy in Geneva. Debate such points as whether church leaders should be political rulers and whether government should try to control personal morality. One team member should support Calvin's policy, one should oppose it, and one should act as moderator.



## different PERSPECTIVES

# The Reformation

Martin Luther's criticisms of the Catholic church grew sharper over time. Some Catholics, in turn, responded with personal attacks on Luther. In recent times, historians have focused less on the theological and personal issues connected with the Reformation. Instead, many modern scholars analyze political, social, and economic conditions that contributed to the Reformation.

### LETTER

#### Martin Luther



Although Luther began by criticizing the practice of selling indulgences, he soon began to attack the whole system of church government. In 1520, he sent the pope the following criticism of the Church leaders who served under him in Rome.

The Roman Church has become the most licentious [sinful] den of thieves. . . . They err who ascribe to thee the right of interpreting Scripture, for under cover of thy name they seek to set up their own wickedness in the Church, and, alas, through them Satan has already made much headway under thy predecessors. In short, believe none who exalt thee, believe those who humble thee.

### ENGRAVING

#### Anonymous

In the early 1500s, an anonymous Catholic author published an engraving attacking Luther's "game of heresy." The following lines are part of a poem that appeared on the engraving.

*I have in my simple way foreseen  
What Luther's teaching promises  
to bring:  
Great rebellion and bloodletting,  
Much hatred and strife.  
The fear of God will vanish forever,  
Together with the whole of Scripture,  
And authority will everywhere  
be despised.*

### HISTORIAN'S COMMENTARY

#### Steven Ozment

In 1992, historian Steven Ozment published *Protestants: The Birth of a Revolution*. Here he comments on some of the political aspects of the Reformation.

Beginning as a protest against arbitrary, self-aggrandizing, hierarchical authority in the person of the pope, the Reformation came to be closely identified in the minds of contemporaries with what we today might call states' rights or local control. To many townspeople and villagers, Luther seemed a godsend for their struggle to remain politically free and independent; they embraced his Reformation as a conserving political force, even though they knew it threatened to undo traditional religious beliefs and practices.

### HISTORIAN'S COMMENTARY

#### G. R. Elton

In *Reformation Europe*, published in 1963, G. R. Elton notes the role of geography and trade in the spread of Reformation ideas.

Could the Reformation have spread so far and so fast if it had started anywhere but in Germany? At any rate, the fact that it had its beginnings in the middle of Europe made possible a very rapid radiation in all directions; the whole circle of countries surrounding the Empire came one after the other under its influence. Germany's position at the center of European trade also helped greatly. German merchants carried not only goods but Lutheran ideas and books to Venice and France; the north German Hanse [a trade league] transported the Reformation to the Scandinavian countries, parceled up with bales of cloth and cargoes of grain; trading links with Germany did much to encourage the growth of Lutheranism in the eastern lands.

### Connect to History


**Analyzing Causes** How did politics and economics help spread the Reformation?

**Comparing** Compare Luther's attitude toward Church leaders with the Catholic attitudes toward him.

 SEE SKILLBUILDER HANDBOOK, PAGES R6 and R7

### Connect to Today

**Comparing** How do religious leaders spread their ideas today?

 **CD-ROM** For another perspective on the Reformation, see the World History: Electronic Library of Primary Sources.