

## The European Renaissance and Reformation: AP World History

### Economic and Political Origins of the Renaissance:

The Black Death, which drastically reduced the European populace, saw afterwards a period of economic growth. The Crusades, with their focus on attacking the Islamic world and eventually freeing the holy places of Jerusalem and Constantinople, saw as a by-product an amazing resurgence in cultural diffusion and trade. A by-product of this trade was the commercial freedom of Europe. The focal point of this new economic freedom was Italy; the great mercantile class of Milan and Venice and the great bankers of the Papal world-the Florentines. New industries began to pop up in Europe a result of Medieval Guilds and slowly developing technology in the region. It is no coincidence that the first manifestations of intellectual independence during the Renaissance appeared in Italy; the region that was most liberated economically.

It is also no coincidence that during the same time in the same regions, Feudalism was on the decline in Europe-Italy again the first to be liberated. As society urbanized Feudalism became a relatively un-attractive option, in reality being impossible during the High Middle Ages-Low Renaissance period. The new world order-a commercial nobility who had evolved in the wake of post-Crusades urbanization however, will replace this landed nobility. The ability to own farmland was replaced by years of residence, property and social connection as a measure of authority in this new order. Few males actually possessed the qualifications, thus in typical Marxian dialectic thought new oppressed classes will emerge-in Italy: the Popolo. These persons were disenfranchised, heavily taxed, and treated poorly in the region. They began to use their numbers to take over cities and states by military force. Being unable to hold their authority these groups quickly fell to despots or oligarchies such as the de-Medici family in Florence. Italy was ruled for the next two centuries by "signori", these despots ruled absolutely and illegally. The power base was greatly outnumbered: 84,000 in Florence with only 200 having political authority! They were a façade of a real political system. It was this system that inspired Niccolo Machiavelli to author his legendary handbook on political power and it's usurpation-The Prince.

Italy began to (in the 15<sup>th</sup> century) develop in a similar fashion to the Greek city-states of the 5<sup>th</sup> century BCE. Fiercely independent and localized city-states with an individual identity outside of a nationalized leadership structure. A prince with a court ruled each city-state; this court was often times made up of wealthy and influential merchants and artisans. These princes governed as Monarchs and ruled their city-state with an iron fist. Taxation was heavy and building programs were designed to reflect their glory. Five city-states emerged as dominant: Venice, Milan, Florence, the Papal States and the kingdom of Naples. Each was ruled by what was called a republic but what was actually a despotic mini-kingdom. In Florence power was held by the de Medici family whose patriarch was the leader of the entire city-state. The Papacy under Alexander VI also ruled with an iron fist with help from his son Cesare Borgia (not related to Victor☺). Borgia a ruthless leader was the inspiration for the Prince, and was the perfect Machiavellian. The five city-states competed with each other on all fronts, most notably artistic endeavors but also warfare for conquest of land (see Da Vinci's military endeavors). This is the worlds first example of a balance of power-in this case a very delicate balance that saw the five states both checking each others powers but also uniting with all or some against prospective threats. A much better example than the Greeks who were much more introverted as a city-state culture. Eventually their imperialistic

endeavors and ambitions will produce instability against each other, eventually resulting in Milan hoping to avoid takeover calling in France for aid.

Girolamo Savonarola: the fiery preacher who condemned political authority like the de Medici family as well as the artistic representation of the day was a key figure in the political landscape of the region in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. His attacks led to a crusade against corruption of political office, city-state competition, and the corruption of the papal office. His pleas while somewhat valid grew tiresome on the people and he eventually will be executed and excommunicated from the church.

The Milanese situation however did lead to an invasion of France and eventually the French will see Italy as a region to conquer. Recognizing that the principality of the city-states was an ineffective form of governance-the region made a movement for genuine republicanism in the Roman tradition with elected officials. Italy by the 16<sup>th</sup> century had become a pawn in the game of conquest between the Holy Roman Empire and the French.

#### Intellectual Hallmarks of the Renaissance:

It was as if a light had been turned on in a dark room...the dark ages of Germanic invasions and Medieval Europe seemed to be subsiding in the middle of the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The Italians were leading the way in what was becoming a revolution in thought. Building on the building blocks of the high Medieval period and the works of Chaucer and Dante-it was evident to many in Europe that people were indeed capable of outstanding things and that greatness came not only from the worship and piety of divine faith but also in the talents of Humans. This philosophy became known as Humanism. Individuals like the great Petrarch led a revolution in thought in which Medieval society was disregarded and a new age was in the works.

There is really no time frame to begin the Renaissance, historians and humanists disagree on this point. However, it is clear that the fulcrum upon which the barrier between medieval times and Renaissance times operates is the Divine Comedy. It is a great representation of both time periods-the eloquence and rationality of the Renaissance and the thematic basis of the Renaissance. This was clearly a barrier between two worlds.

Thinkers, writers, artists, and scholars began to feverishly attempt to rediscover the great classics (makes sense that they seek the Greco-Roman tradition in Italy) of the past, attempting to distance themselves from the Middle Ages. The manifestation became the compelling belief in the individual talent of greatness. This will become the calling card of the Italian Renaissance...a calling card that you will be quizzed on! The following will be on your quiz-the quiz will be identification (see Greek philosopher quiz).

Leon Alberti

Pope Nicholas V:

Leonardo Bruni:

Pico della Mirandola

Lorenzo Valla:

Giovanni Boccaccio:

Pope Julius II:

Raphael Santi:

Leonardo da Vinci:

Michelangelo Bouranati:

Lorenzo de Medici

Savonarollo

Fillipo Brunelleschi:

Lorenzo Ghiberti:

Giotto:

Donatello:

Massacio:

Ghirlandaio:

Pietro Aretino:

Thomas More

Desiderius Erasmus

Francois Rebelais

Rogier van der Weyden  
Jan van Eyck  
Hieronymus Bosch  
Baldassare Castiglione

Niccolo Machiavelli  
Johannes Guttenburg  
Fra Angelico  
Laura Cereta

· Humanism: the focus of the Renaissance was the notion that Human beings were talented, and had the potential for great interests, achievements and capabilities. Zeal was established to recover the talented aspects of our past. The revival was interested in focusing on the Greco-Roman tradition of the past.

· Pope Nicholas V: established a repository at the Vatican library that collected some 9000 manuscripts. The Renaissance answer to Nineveh.

· Leonardo Bruni: Florentine rhetorician and historian developed Humanism as a term/philosophy.

· Pico della Mirandola: wrote on the Dignity of Man, best represented the study of the classics to understand human nature. Man possesses great dignity because he was made as Adam was in the image of God. Combines Humanism with Medieval religious doctrine. Our place is between beasts and angels. Sought a synthesis between man's potential and god.

· Secularism: everything Medieval focused on the afterlife, whereas the Renaissance focused on the here and now...often relating to material things (those things often relating to religion.) This was emphasized by the new material orders of Renaissance Europe, these commercial ventures were not particularly compatible with religious doctrine. Life was something to be enjoyed, not suffered in ones quest to find a "City of God".

Lorenzo Valla: wrote on pleasure, defended the pleasures of the senses as the highest good, and offered the doctrine for the period. A social critic before Voltaire in Enlightened France he will be a leader of historical criticism of the Medieval period. Overturned the donation of Constantine by the church in the 8<sup>th</sup> century-a large land acquisition.

Giovanni Boccaccio: a poet in the mold of Dante' who wrote at great lengths about the Black Plague. Wrote about characters of the day in glowing secular terms.

Pope Julius II: tore down the old St. Peters and commissioned the great St. Peters by Michelangelo.

Helping matters was the fact that the church lived as lavishly as the most extravagant prince—aiding to the arguments of secularists that pleasure and wealth were great if not the greatest goods. Papal buildings were amongst the greatest in Europe and only added to the brilliance of the Renaissance with its lavish art and architecture.

However, despite these trends-old attitudes die-hard. Most commoners were still highly interested in the bible, the afterlife and their former Medieval society. Thus, a conflict arose for artists-you could reach a small portion of society, the wealthy that were interested in glorious talent...or you could reach the poor who clung to religion but could not buy your work.

The solution-appease both!

#### Art and the Artist:

- The artistic representations of the day had to fit two criteria.
1. Meet the lavish standards of the wealthy commissioners and 2. deal with semi-secular matters to meet the needs of the populace. The result-a flurry of brilliant artistic endeavors.

· 1400's (quattrocento) a century of brilliance in Italy. The period known as the High Renaissance took the lead. All of the great "Masters" worked in Rome during the same time period.

· Michelangelo: incredible painter, sculptor, and architect.

Probably the most talented man of the period. His noted works include: David, The Madonna Series, The Pieta, St. Peters, and the Sistine Chapel Ceiling.

· Leonardo da Vinci: the most versatile of the three "Masters". Da Vinci was not only a brilliant painter, and sculptor he was also a scientist, inventor, mathematician and engineer. His works include the Last Supper, the Mona Lisa, and Anatomy.

· Raphael Santi: the greatest painter of the period. His painting a School of Athens is the worlds most respected painting. Lacked the versatility of the others but was undoubtedly the best painter.

· Corporate funding: as in modern times the only persons able to fund such art were large corporations. Some of the greatest works emanate from corporate commissions. (see De Medici's donations!)

Filippo Brunelleschi: commissioned by cloth merchants to build the legendary dome on the cathedral of Florence.

Lorenzo Ghiberti: commissioned by the cloth merchants to build the doors entering the cathedral...a monument in themselves.

As corporate spending moved away from the norm towards individual spending—ala Lorenzo de Medici, the topics became more personalized and less secular in nature.

· Giotto: a realistic painter who portrayed his subjects with great accuracy.

· Donatello: the most influential of the pre-Michelangelo artists, a brilliant sculptor that catapulted art to a new level of variety and reason. Most famous for his representations of David.

· Masaccio: specialized in realistic paintings with great use of light and dark.

· Piero della Francesca: pioneered perspective in painting using the linear representation of distance and space on a flat surface.

· Ghirlandaio: apprenticed Michelangelo at age 13. Illustrates the importance that artists held in society. Their influence usually equivalent to the power of their patrons.

· Aretino: the chronicler of the day, the satirizer of the princely class noted the importance of painters to the class. Painters were often amongst the wealthiest members of society, again an illustration of their prestige in Renaissance society.

· Lorenzo de Medici: led the movement of the artist as genius, as the main patron of the arts in Florence he referred to them as divine having powers shaped by god. He also represents all that is wrong with Renaissance art—it was not by any means a large-scale movement in terms of art...it was enjoyed almost exclusively by the wealthy.

The Renaissance in the North:

The Renaissance spirit was not unique to the Italian peninsula as evidence of this thoughtful revolution spread to the Northern extremes of Europe. The ideas spread from Italy to the extremities of Europe. The movements were very different however, with the North focusing more on Christianity. The economics and politics of the region made the work of the Italian humanists less Christian in nature.

Christian humanists focused on developing a better life ethically, to achieve that they attempted to build on medieval scholasticism and combine the classic works with Christian doctrine. Reason was stressed over acceptance of dogma as the foundation for an ethical way of life. They questioned more, which led to more literature. The Human talent could through reason and focus bring about moral and ethical behavior in all levels of society.

Thomas More: the giant of Northern renaissance philosophy. His ethics and moral stances are legendary, as are his philosophical works-Utopia. In Utopia he presented a presented a pre-Marxian view of a perfect society. A society in which children received a good education and the goal was to develop rational facilities. Adults worked, and chose when to work, their profits held strictly and morally in conjunction with what they earned. The key was accepted social equality! "A good place, which is no place!" Profoundly original ideas considering the violence of the times (to that point), his view that property and wealth corrupted people, even the best people. If you can reform society you can then proceed to reform the individual.

Desiderius Erasmus: criticized Italian renaissance institutions for their wayward perspective to god and was a harsh critic of the void that was the middle Ages. In The Praise of Folly, he illuminates through satire the ignorance of the past and issues a plea for the simple and spontaneous expression of the Christian faith. His perspective focused in on the fact that education of the Bible and the classics is the key to reform in modern times. Second, he urged people to see the "Philosophy of Christ".

Francois Rebelais: the most secular of the Northern school of philosophy, also the most entertaining. His synthesis Gargantua and Pantagruel are comic masterpieces with a purpose. They are the Chaucerian tales of the day, illustrating to the reader the vibrant lifestyle of the day. They poke fun at the orthodox lifestyle of religious life in which all who are clerical are satirized. Also established, as themes are the importance of socializing institutions like Education.

However, the northern Renaissance was not without its artistic masters. Their focus may have been on literature and philosophical writings but the North had dominant painters-most of whom were Flemish. This tradition begins the tradition of great Flemish artists throughout World History.

Rogier van der Weyden: student of van Eyck's work a brilliant realist.

Jan van Eyck: the artistic equal of any of the Italian masters, also before them. His work initializes the Flemish tradition and love of detail orientated artwork. Most famous piece Ghent altarpiece.

Hieronymous Bosch: the last of the great Flemish masters of the Renaissance he implemented religious themes with grotesque fantasies and colorful images of peasant legends. Death and the Miser his most famous piece.

#### Social Change During the Renaissance:

Change during the Renaissance was not limited to artistic and intellectual endeavors, society as a whole underwent dramatic change during this time period. Education a top priority.

Authors such as Vergerio and Castiglione focused their efforts on illustrating to society the merits of educating the masses.

No greater change was illustrated than that of political thought when a cornerstone book of political science was authored by Niccolo Machiavelli-The Prince. The Prince is a handbook for rulers. It authorizes its rulers to utilize whatever means necessary to have and hold power. ("The end justifies the means") His writing of this text cost him his own position in government. Princes (rulers) should have the cunning of a fox and the ferocity of a lion when attempting to obtain their goals. He was a pragmatist-he focused not on the philosophical way things could be but rather on how things ARE, this focus led him to the assertions that he made...a direct response to the situation in Italy during the early 16<sup>th</sup> century.

The Revolution in Cultural Diffusion: prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> century in Europe books were extremely rare...in the hands of the wealthy and clergy. If you were not in these classes your chances of obtaining a book were slim and none—books had to be copied by hand or print in type set very expensive inefficient practices. However in 1455 the efforts of Johan Gutenberg, Johan Fust, and Peter Schoffer led to the creation of movable type. Movable type allowed its user to print more versatile documents much quicker. It made printing easier, cheaper and more widespread.

Women in Renaissance society: were lost in the shuffle of the Renaissance. Only two women defied this intellectual movement: Fra Angelico-the great Italian painter known for Annunciation, and Laura Cereta: the philosopher and first feminist. Cereta embodied all that was wrong with renaissance society-she was a talented woman who defied expectations and became a well-educated woman. She is all that is wrong because there were so few of her. Women had received some education, rarely equivalent to boys and were often treated as ornaments that should be in the home. Her cornerstone philosophy was that women were great talents and society was not what held women back it was their choices. Women were expected to appear and act "pleasing to men" and according to Castiglione belonged in the home. Attitudes toward rape embody these disturbing attitudes...crimes for rape were more lenient than they had been under William the Conqueror in 1066! Crimes for theft were more severe than rape of women of any class! Young infant girls were most often the ones given away or infanticized by their mothers, often as Pope Innocent III decreed by throwing them in the Tiber River. Fortunately the gravity of these matters were realized and orphanages and hospitals were established to deal with these atrocities.

The treatment of blacks was equally alarming...they were viewed as prizes, as toys to be had. Their importation as slaves continued in the Renaissance period. Often times they were not only converted to servants, but were a status symbol. Their situation got worse when they were made into "buffoons" or jesters. They also perceived Blacks as being privileged in that any contact with them would improve them.

#### Politics and State in the Renaissance:

- The high middle ages witnessed the synthesis of everything that went into the development of the modern European state; parliament, kings, local leaders, bureaucracies etc...The fluctuation occurred in the development of the monarchy which was both powerful and irrelevant at different junctures. Nations used the aggressive political and individual ideas to forge powerful empires. Rulers began to rule absolutely in tough fashion (Louis XI, Henry VII, Ferdinand of Aragon). The age saw a development of "new" monarchs' kingship with a strong sense of royal and national authority moving away from the theocratic tendencies of Medieval Kings.

- France: both France and England were greatly damaged by the 100 years (116) years war and the black plague. Commercially ruined and agriculturally weak they were revived by the “new” monarch Charles VII. Strengthened government through fair but ought taxes, established a powerful military, and seized control of religious appointment-taking power and authority away from the papacy. (Pragmatic Sanction) These policies continued by his brutal son Louis “Spider King” XI-a true Machiavellian. Focused his reign on eliminating adversaries and strengthening commerce. Fought hard with the middle class as his ally to rid France of feudal influences.

- England: unlike France, the English Feudal aristocracy held out longer in political terms. An example of their influence can be seen in the war of the roses. A long 16-year struggle between the ducal (house of dukes) houses of York and Lancaster. The Yorkists will defeat the Lancasters and in 1471 under Edward IV will re-assert control over monarchal control over England. The nobility still yielded their influence in Parliament, which thanks to the Magna Carta of 1215 held the purse strings in England. Realizing the damage done by the 100 years war the English avoided foreign conflict with adversaries. As a result England placed them in a very precarious situation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century climate of Europe-no standing army! Instead they still used local armies as a method of defense. This however enabled the crown to undercut parliament and depend on middle class armies and strengthen the power of the crown. Primary authorities were the Monarch and his royal council-a cabinet of ministers so to speak...laying groundwork for the modern cabinet system in England. The Tudors won the support of the influential upper middle class because the crown linked policy to that group-upending the social order of Feudalism.

- Spain: a much different pattern than England or France. Spain suffered from disunity, plurality (different population groups) and invasion/conflict with Arab Muslims. The 15<sup>th</sup> century saw a “reconquista” or attempt to re-conquer Spain under Christian Spanish rule by dispelling the Arab Muslims and later Jews from the southern portion of Spain in and around Cordoba. The final step in Christianizing Spain was the union (carefully planned) of Isabella of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon two of the largest regions of Christian Spain-their union brought about unification to Spain. Spain still remained by a large a confederacy of separate states but enhanced/respected Christian authority had been achieved. To curb rebellion to their initiatives they established a tough group of individuals’ known as Hermanadores local brotherhoods designed to support Ferd/Issy’s rule as a local police force or militia. Unique to her brethren Spain also sought to ally herself closely with the Papacy to gain support for her religious initiatives and autonomy-and to gain favor for future endeavors such as the inquisition. The victories at Granada in 1492 signaled the end of the Islamic struggle in Spain. The next minority to remove were the Spanish Jews who formed a sizable financially stable, professional population in Spain. They were to be converted or removed/punished. This was not new to Europe as England and France had also removed their Jewish populations. The conversions of the Jews were not holding and as a result Spain sought to reinstate the inquisition. A court like institution for heretics that employed the worst types of torture known to man to gain converts. Finally by 1492 with the conversions still not holding and the inquisition damaging her reputation Spain will expel 200,000 Jews many of them valuable professionals and financiers. Spain’s future will be directly tied to that of the Hapsburgs through intermarriage during the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

- The Hapsburg Dynasty, Germany and Europe: The Marriage in 1477 of Maximillian I of the house of (ducal) Hapsburg and Mary of Burgundy (see map 487) was a huge event in European History. Burgundy a state with both French and Flemish interests with two capitals was now to be controlled by the Hapsburgs bringing about a series of carefully

planned political marriages to assert their control over the Holy Roman Empire. This union angered the French and more importantly brought out a new trend in history-political marriage. Hapsburgs=Austrian by the way. To follow will be marriages into the empires of Spain giving the Hapsburgs control over vast portions of Europe. The great recipient of these unions was Charles V-who would inherit Spain, Austria, parts of Germany, Italy, Sicily, The Netherlands, and parts of France. This incredibly diverse range of states was very difficult to rule by one man. A council consisting of representatives from these diverse interests will elect Charles V emperor.

The Protestant Reformation:

Condition of the Church during the age prior to Martin Luther: (1400-1517)

During the High Middle Ages and early Renaissance it is safe to assume that the Church had a rough spell; the feud with the Holy Roman Empire, the Great Schism and the Babylonian captivity had greatly compromised the integrity of the Holy Office during the time period. The advanced level of intellectualization in Europe during the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century had provided another threat to the position of the Church-particularly from the movement of the Northern Humanists. Works of the day, namely those by Erasmus and More condemned certain actions of the church.

Signs of weakness in the Church: The church in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century faced three main problems:

Clerical Immorality: clergy violating the principles of celibacy, had concubines and engaged in drunkenness.

Clerical Ignorance: the quality of priest education and standards for ordination were shockingly low...a metaphor: what if doctors had only a high school education with 2 years of science? That would be the equivalent of the priest training during the high Middle Ages. This led to clergy that were ill prepared to execute their job. They had a poor basis in the language of the church-Latin and it reflected in everything they did.

Pluralism and Absenteeism: church officials often held multiple offices and often times they never visited the offices they had! They were paid exorbitant fees and rarely visited their office (du Prat!). They paid off poor, rural clergy to carry out their tasks.

Another problem facing the religious infrastructure was the presence of nobility as the sole representation in society in matters religious in nature. The association of wealth and power to religion during the 16<sup>th</sup> century was a very valid comparison. A comparison that people struggled with...why does wealth have to be associated with piety? Why were only nobility like Leo X (Giovanni de Medici) elected pope? Particularly when nobility like Rodrigo Borgia Alexander VI who as pope had mistresses and children!

Religious vitality emerges during the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century

Small pockets of reformist movements began to pop up in the wake of these religious improprieties. For example: Cardinal Francisco Jimenez: began visiting religious houses, encouraging clergy and set high standards for ordination in his diocese. These types of movements attempted to solve the problems mentioned above. Holland saw a group of pious people known as "Brethren of the Common Life" groups designed to make religion a personal, private matter, with a focus on simplicity and religious study. They taught their

views to children and converted people all over Europe to their introspective, personal approach to Christianity. Church became a wealthy phenomenon in the Renaissance with nobility attending church and the poor using their own local (medieval) traditions and saints. Pope Julius II called a council to attempt to reform the church, however it was unsuccessful due to the demographic cross section of his council. (Lateran Council)

#### Martin Luther and the Protestant Movement:

Martin Luther a German-Augustinian friar launched his crusade as an extension of his own personal religious conflict. Originally intended to be a Lawyer he was frightened into faith by a thunderstorm. He entered a monastery and was ordained in 1507. However, during his adult life he was never able to shake the belief that he was a sinner; he was extraordinarily pious and scrupulous in his monastic observances and was devoted to prayer. Yet he wasn't able to erase doubts about his inner being and salvation. He began to study the classic letters of the biblical age for guidance and eventually arrived at some conclusions that will shock the world. Attempting to start scholarly debate on the issues he deemed problematic with the religious structure of the day he sparked a revolution by posting his 95 Theses. These Theses while scholarly in nature challenged things that should not have been challenged in the eyes of the church. Such things as indulgences were questioned in Lutheran doctrine. Indulgences were the theological economic arrangement to absolve sin. Luther felt that the whole "treasury of merits" argument and the ability of clergy to absolve sin were problematic. The "ad" campaign engaged by the Dominicans further angered those who desired reform: "as soon as coin in coffer (collection apparatus) rings, the soul from Purgatory springs". (Indulgence: a get into heaven free card that could be purchased) This was shocking behavior from a religious institution. His core argument posted that Halloween evening 1517 was that there was no biblical basis for indulgences and the bible should be at the center of Christian theology. Thus, where was the authority of the Christian church in the bible or the interpretation of theological changes being evoked by clerical leaders? This was a direct insult to Papal authority and questioned their judgment...not good. Luther was given the chance to recant, he responded by publicly burning the proposal of recantation. Luther's movement began to see him emerge as an icon...the movement began to gain momentum. Luther was summoned before the emperor of Holy Rome-Charles V at Worms (German the W is pronounced as a "V" or Vorms) where he was again given the opportunity to recant his statements; again he was defiant (491). He will be declared an outlaw and taken into custody by Frederick of Saxony a local Duke who philosophically agreed with Luther's premises. Luther then took the time to develop a theology to coincide with his philosophical thoughts this process took 10 years living in exclusion under the protection of the Duke of Saxony. Protestantism in Luther's evaluation became a modification of Christianity. This modification became the Lutheran faith. The synthesis provided new answers to old questions in a new format. His translation of the New Testament in 1523 to German added to his movement of biblical centration for his new faith. He also placed an emphasis (relatively speaking) on sympathy for the clergy-no more lavish palaces etc... His rewriting of the theology included: new psalms, songs, catechisms, sermons, prayers and the Apostles' Creed. The religion contained several changes namely; no monastic structure, equality of profession and sex, the expression of common virtues, no abolition of clerical marriage.

#### Germany and the Protestant Reformation:

- Unlike her brethren in Europe Germany (Holy Roman Empire) lacked a strong centralizing force. It was divided into hundreds of feudal principalities; it was this disunity that allowed for the spread of Lutheranism.

- Golden Bull: A fundamental law of the Holy Roman Empire; probably the best known of all the many ordinances of the imperial diet. It takes its name from the golden case in which the seal attached to the document proclaiming the decree was placed. The law was signed by the Emperor Charles IV, January, 1356, during the Diet of Nuremberg, and was revised at the Diet of Metz in November of the same year. The contents of the Bulla Aurea were of constitutional importance for the empire. It ordained that each emperor should be chosen by election, the right of voting being vested in electoral princes, the number of whom was fixed at seven. As electors the edict appointed, on the one side, the three ecclesiastical princes most closely connected with the history of the empire i.e. the Archbishops of Mainz, Trier, and Cologne. On the other side, the law settled the question, as far as it was still in dispute, as to whether the electoral vote pertained to certain secular principalities or to certain ruling families. It ordained that the right belonged to Bohemia, the Rhenish Palatinate, Saxony (Sachsen-Wittenberg), and the Mark of Brandenburg; this made the secular electors the King of Bohemia, the Count Palatine of the Rhine, Duke of Saxony, and Margrave of Brandenburg. The Bull also defined the powers given by the imperial constitution to the electors, taken as a body, and to certain individual electors separately, both during a vacancy of the throne and during an imperial reign. Thus the document granted to the electors in their character as rulers of principalities certain privileges, which had been originally reserved to the German king and emperor and were the signs of his sovereignty. The transfer of these rights to subordinate rulers would, necessarily, gradually make them independent of the head of the empire. The Bull also provided for the preservation of peace in the empire and enacted measures for holding in check the increasing political importance of the rising free cities. In the main the law was intended to confirm rights, which had already had a historical development, and to settle disputed details of these rights. Constitutional law in the Holy Roman Empire reached its full growth between the years 1220 and 1555. As to the position of the "Golden Bull" in connection with this development

#### Political Impacts of Luther's Beliefs:

During the 16<sup>th</sup> century religion was a personal decision one that was private and not shared with anyone else. Local princes did not keep religious liberty and societal freedom in such esteem. Luther's initiatives sparked a wave of anti-Roman feelings and strong feelings of German pride. It was in this atmosphere that Luther set out to reform the church in his native Germany. He urged the princes to confiscate church lands and property and redistribute them; he urged an end to the hated practice of indulgences. The lack of a central authority meant that a conversion to Protestantism was a great economic windfall for the princes who controlled Germany. Many were sincerely attracted to Luther's ideas but men were looking to make a buck! Charles V took little interest in Germany or her problems and did little to check the spread of Protestantism; he was occupied in Flemish concerns, French concerns among others. The support of the Protestant regions was needed against invading Turks who got as far North as Vienna. Not to mention his constant struggle to obtain

legitimacy for lands acquired via marriage, much of this land was in Germany...thus the Catholic French supported the Germans in their challenge to Charles V. This paradox will eventually lead to total chaos and political disunity in Germany and set the stage for the 30 years war. In 1555 the Peace of Augsburg officially recognized the legitimacy of Lutheranism, as princes in Germany could determine their religion.

#### Reformation spreads:

By the time Augsburg had been signed much of Northern Europe had grown fed up and distant from Roman institutions. The religious authority of Rome had been ignored in England, Scotland, German, parts of France and Switzerland. The fragmentation of the map religiously had profound impacts on Europe.

John Calvin: experienced a religious crisis in 1533, he converted to Protestantism. He became convinced that God selects certain people to do his work and that he had been selected to reform the church. He began to work his reformatory philosophies in the city of Geneva Switzerland. He wanted to establish Geneva as a city that was a church. According to Calvin God was omnipresent and all-powerful and any assertion of human free will tarnished that image of God. Thus, God decided at the beginning who was saved/unsaved etc...this is predestination. It led many to believe that it was a pessimistic faith, however it had the opposite effect-leading many to believe that they were saved/chosen to do God's work. A city government with lay people and pastors was established to rule the city...it did so with a thoroughness rarely seen in the Reformation time world. Crimes included absence from sermons, adultery, blasphemy, heresy, criticism of ministers, family quarrels, cards, family affairs, and drinking. Punishments included death or banishment. The church and community served as an example for others such as the Scottish Presbyterians, French Huguenots and Puritans in England.

Anabaptists: rebaptism. Often described as the left wing of the Reformation. They believed that only adults could make religious decisions, and as such baptizing the young was a ridiculous concept and that only adults could make such a rational decision. They never forced their values and accepted Lutheran premises/Biblical word as law. "The inner light would be achieved by a select few". The Anabaptists rejected state run religious structures. Each community was independent and unique in nature. Their laws were extremely harsh-see Germany. Eventually led to groups like the Quakers, and Baptists.

#### The English Reformation:

English reformation was slow and done in pockets with Anabaptist groups and Lollard organizations. This movement was put into high gear by the actions of one man. Lollards were a group that placed a Lutheran type emphasis on the scripture that appealed to England's working class citizens. They opposed all wealth and superiority of a church structure.

England had a well-educated, zealous ecclesiastical structure. This structure traditionally worked well with the English kings, until...

Henry VIII: a king who needed an heir. He had realized early that a male heir was the only thing to keep his succession in order. His wives seemed to be unable to produce for him a male heir. He attempted to obtain an annulment from Popes such as Clement VII who could not grant him such a request amidst the chaos that the church was facing throughout Europe. Rome seemed vulnerable after it was invaded in 1527 so he decided to act by removing the

English church from Papal authority. Establishing the Anglican Church through Parliamentary act (Restraint of Appeals 1533) giving him both secular and religious authority in England. This was furthered by the Act for the Submission of Clergy, which made religious leaders subject to his absolute authority. With these acts in place nothing was stopping him from amending the English religious situation to his needs. His needs included rewriting the theology of the church to include the legality of divorce. Thomas More his chancellor and the nations true spiritual leader seemed to be all that stood in his way...he however resigned embarrassing the king. The King instituted an oath to be taken by all persons-his close friend Thomas More refused such an oath as he was not in favor of this method of Reformation and questioned (internally?) the validity of abandoning Rome. Henry locked him up after he refused to attend the wedding of Henry to Anne Boleyn (who he later beheaded). Thomas More will be beheaded in 1535 for his failure to sign the oath. (Video-A Man For All Seasons)

Reformation didn't stop here, Henry had maintained religious traditions that were very "Roman" in nature with the one major change being the ability to divorce...his reformation took another "odd" turn when he confiscated and abolished Monastic orders in England keeping their resources for himself and governmental sale. These changes solidified the reform movements as unpopular...the English church (Anglican) was a top down change as opposed to a movement designed to foster change that comes from the populace. His son preserved the changes for a short time, followed by his daughter Mary who led a sharp move back to Catholicism. She evened married into the Hapsburg Empire, the catholic son of Charles V. Her sister Elizabeth took over after her death and brought one of histories great reigns to England. She took the middle ground in Reformation not interested if people kept quiet and dignified about their beliefs. Even went so far as to title herself the Supreme Governor of the Church of England, Etc. What etc. meant was up to everyone else!

The Catholic and the Counter Reformations:

- To counter the aggressive movements of Protestant Europe Rome began a campaign of reformation to save face. The attempt to coerce those who had left to return. Adrian VI even advocated the Protestant Reformation blaming the sins of priests! The question was not what was wrong, the religious leaders knew it...but why did they move so slowly? The answer is a complex one.
  - o Popes interested in self-preservation and material things: Clement VII: a de Medici from Florence interested in the arts.
  - o Bureaucracy in Rome.
  - o Leadership in Europe-development of empires along religious lines.
    - o Reforms of Paul III: Council of Trent: called to reform church but also to reconciliation with Protestants. The Protestants were urged to reconcile but the pope's insistence that his authority was supreme to the scriptures made reconciliation impossible. Charles V was against the council for it could have further splintered his diverse empire.
  - o Another problem facing the council was the urging of a councilor style of leadership in Rome, making them sovereign over the Pope. The council agreed that all acts required Papal approval.
  - o Consequences of Trent:
    - o Equalization of scriptures
    - o Bishops residency requirements

- o Suppressed pluralism
- o Forbade the sale of indulgences
- o Clerical reform: behavioral
- o Restrictions for ordinance
- o Tamesti: public declaration of marriage vows.

#### New Religious Orders and the Inquisition:

- New orders responded to the changes proposed by the counter-reformation and the dawn of a new era in European religion.
  - o Ursuline order of Nuns: designed to combat heresy through education and understanding. Focused on young women.
  - o Society of Jesus: Ignatius Loyola-designed to convert Asian and Latin Americans to Catholicism through education. Referred to as Jesuits saw the reformation as a pastoral problem not a spiritual or doctrinal problem. The goal of religion-to help souls. They developed into a tight knit organization with strict measures to ensure ordinate quality. Their defining characteristic-a vow to help people's souls. Their schools were the best in Europe-concentrated at first on the poor. Brought some protestant areas (S. Germany) back to Catholicism. Brought a Machiavellian approach to conversion.
  - o Roman Inquisitions: had authority over the attack and persecution/prosecution of heresy in Europe. (papal territories)

#### Reformation Quiz:

- Martin Luther:
- Pope (Rodrigo Borgia) Alexander VI:
- Antoine du Prat:
- Fransisco Jimenez:
- Brethren of Common Life:
- Pope Julius II:
- Clement VII:
- Giovanni de Medici (Leo X):
- John Frederick:
- Johann Guttenberg:
- Charles V:
- Ulrich Zwingli:
- John Calvin:
- Peace of Augsburg:
- Michael Servetus:
- Anabaptist:
- Quakers:
- Puritans:
- Henry VIII:
- Anne Boleyn:
- Jane Seymour:
- Thomas More:

- Elizabeth:
- Ignatius Loyola: