



# The Protestant Reformation



Did the Church  
Need Reform?



# Reform & Renewal

Because she is composed of fallible human beings, the Church on earth is always in need of renewal.

Because Christ is her Head, the Church on earth is always being renewed.



# What Needed Reform & Why Wasn't It Happening?

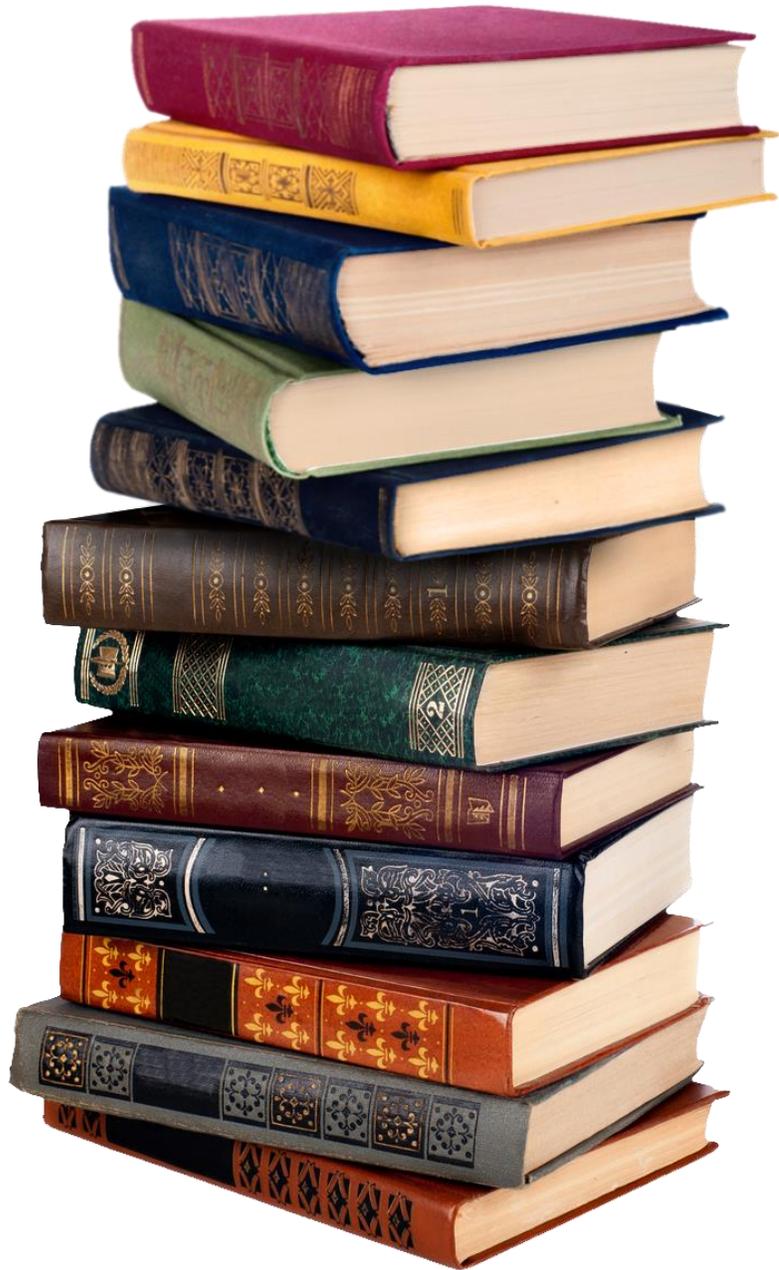
## What Needed Reform?

- Abuses
  - Simony & Nepotism (Papacy & elsewhere)
  - Multiple Benefices
  - Worldliness & Careerism
  - Nature of the Ecclesiastical Bureaucracy
  - Immorality amongst some clergy & institutions
  - Nominalism
  - Abuse of Indulgences, esp. in Germany
- Faithful preachers condemned these abuses & called for these abuses to be rectified. Protestant Reformers sought reform by removing fundamentals of the faith altogether (e.g. instead of reforming the monasteries they abolished monastic life completely).
- Church-State relations: interference in Church affairs
- Situation differs from country to country
- Lateran Council V

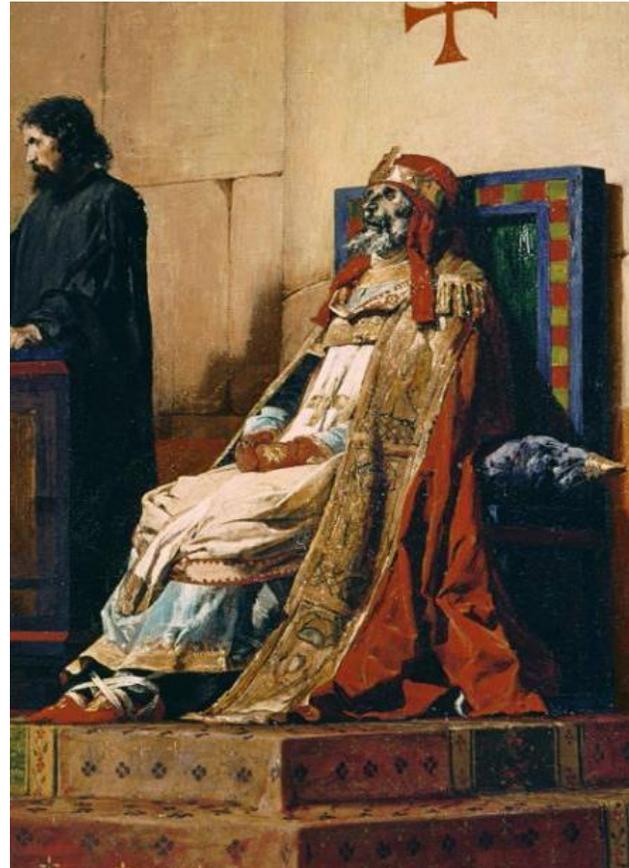
## Obstacles to Reform

### Consequences of Temporal Power

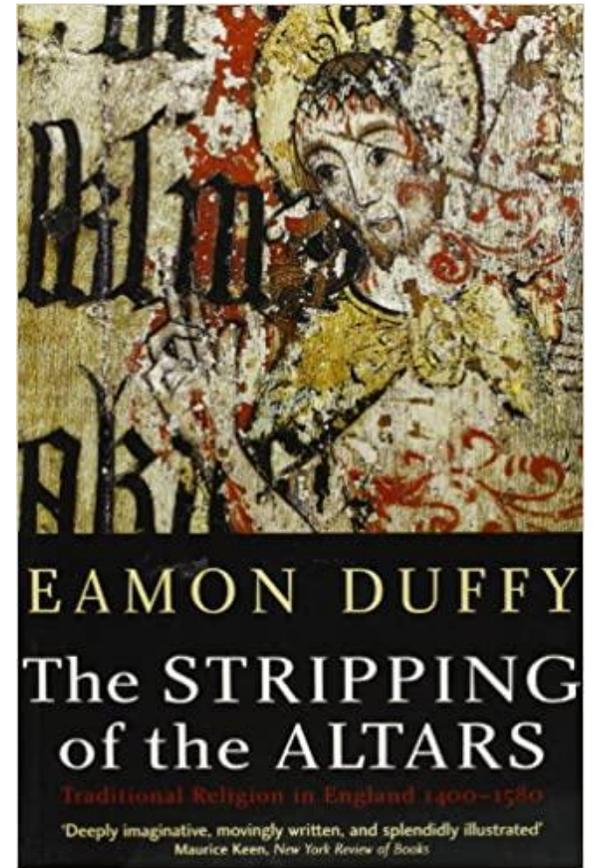
- Popes as secular princes
  - Conclaves sought capable temporal rulers
  - What was a Cardinal?
  - Governing the Papal States
  - Defending the Papal States: War
  - Rebuilding & Beautification of Rome
  - Patronage of the Arts
  - International Relations
  - Political Pressure from powerful nation-states & the Italian free states
  - Naples
  - Environment at the Papal Court
  - Careerists & Humanists in the Curia
  - Multiple Benefices: Absent Bishops
  - Nepotism
- Ottoman Turks & Crusades



# Historiography of the Reformation



Perception



Reality

# The Protestant Reformation



- Martin Luther, Ulrich Zwingli, John Calvin found Protestant denominations.
- England: Anglican ('English') Schism under Henry VIII, then gradual Protestantism.
- Religious unity in the western Christian world broken up. Religion is largely divided by country (*cuius regio, eius et religio* - subjects of each region obliged to follow the religion of their rulers).
- Separation from the Church of a large part of the world: Scandinavia, Estonia, Lithuania, part of Germany, Holland, half of Switzerland, Scotland, England, & their respective colonial territories (Canada, North America, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand).
- Wars of religion especially in France, the German territories, England, Scotland, & Ireland. Hostilities ended with the Peace of Westphalia (1648) on the continent & with the capitulation of Limerick (1692) in the British Isles.

Martin Luther, (1483-1546)

## Martin Luther's Early Life

---

- One of eight siblings raised by a strict father, Martin Luther vowed to enter the monastery after nearly being hit by a lightning bolt.
- A bright scholar who was quickly promoted, Luther nonetheless suffered from scrupulosity and came to embrace the heretical writings of William of Ockham.
- His misinterpretations of Catholic teachings and thinkers, combined with his personal issues and fury at the sale of indulgences, led him to write the Ninety-Five Theses.





# The Ninety-Five Theses

---

- While the theses were not outright heresy, they did undermine the Church and hint at Luther's later heresies.
- At first the Ninety-Five Theses (maybe) posted to the university's customary notice board attracted little attention, but as they spread via the printing press, they found supporters and opponents. Luther wished to begin a debate & this was the customary way of doing it at the time.
- Luther received a rebuttal and then a severe response from the Pope and the Dominicans.

# From Debate to Dissension

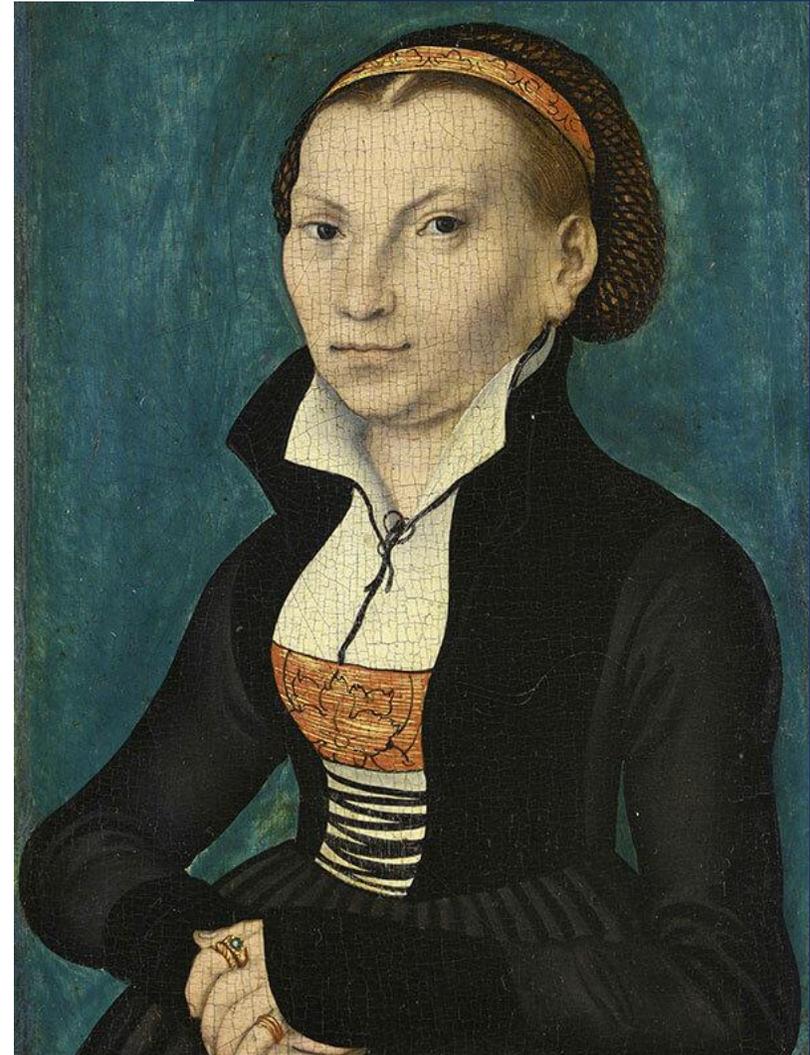
- Luther debated Cardinal Cajetan and the Cardinal's tone offended Luther, but at the time Luther still placed himself under the Pope's authority.
- As Luther debated more theologians, his ideas were teased out and revealed to be heretical, so a bull from the Pope ordered Luther to recant.
- Luther burned the papal bull and at the Diet of Worms was ordered to recant by the Emperor, so he fled to escape a death sentence.



Luther verbrennt die Bannandrohungsbulle Photo: Paul Thumann (1872), Wartburg-Stiftung

# Luther Develops his Theology

- Hiding at Wartburg, Luther wrote his best-known works and developed the ideas of Protestantism including what he saw as his main theological “discovery” – the need for “faith alone.”
- To this he added the concepts of Scripture alone, grace alone, and Christ alone; rejected the sacraments and good works; said that celibacy was impossible; and married an ex-nun.
- Followers such as Carlstadt went even further, though Luther condemned their excesses.



*Katarina von Bora* (1499-1552), Lucas Cranach the Elder, 1526.

# Who Was Martin Luther?

## Context

- Germany
- Spread of ideas: pamphlets & the printing press
- Access to Sacred Scripture
- German political situation
- Interest of humanist scholars
- The rebuilding of St Peter's in Rome & indulgences in the German states
- The need for reform
- Protection of Duke Frederick of Saxony

## Martin Luther (1483-1546)

- 'Father of the Reformation'
- Augustinian friar
- University of Wittenburg
- Relationship with God
- Nominalist influence
- Scruples
- The need for certainty of salvation
- Originally did not intend to leave or destroy the Church
- Progressive development of doctrine
- Courageous
- Gifted writer
- The *95 Theses*



Dawn: Luther at Erfurt, Joseph Paton, 1861.

# Throwing Out the Baby With the Bathwater: What Did Luther Believe?

---

- Luther began by attacking the Church teachings on indulgences (as well as their abuse). It gradually became clear, including to Luther himself, that his doctrinal differences went much deeper.
- **Justification by Faith Alone. *Sola Fide*.**
- ~~Works~~
- Grace v Nature (human nature & all it does always sinful & corrupt; no cooperation w/ grace)
- Rejects that Christ sanctifies us with his grace
- **Free Will** : Rejects free will. We can't choose to do good but we can choose evil. Every good act is a result only of God's grace. *Sola Gratia*
- **'Christian freedom'**: justification by faith frees Christian from the burden of seeking salvation through observances & works, providing *peace of the conscience* only attained through grace arising from the certainty of justification by faith.
- Rejects scholastic philosophy (~~Virtue & Vice~~)



# Throwing Out the Baby With the Bathwater: What Did Luther Believe?

---

- Rejects Letter of St James
- ***Sola Scriptura***: (& literal sense only – ie, Luther's)
  - Rejects Tradition
  - Rejects Authority of Pope & Magisterium
  - Rejects Holy Spirit's guidance of the Church
- **Sacraments**: Only 2, Baptism & Eucharist (Mass not sacrificial, not transubstantiation); sacraments not efficacious *ex opere operato*.
- ***Solo Christo***: No mediation of priests, no ministerial priesthood; no visible, institutional Church, no apostolic succession
- Rejects visible Church & Papal authority. Pope is Antichrist. The Church is charismatic, existing in the hearts of individuals, with no external manifestation.
- Temporal powers should undertake on Church reform & responsibility for affairs of the 'visible' Church. Can seize & manage Church property.
- ***Soli Deo Gloria***: No veneration of Mary or the saints
- Indulgences, purgatory, forgiveness of sins, clerical celibacy, monasticism & religious life.



# The Protestant Reformation

- **Luther's teachings condemned** (Leo X, *Exsurge Domine*, 15 June 1520).
- **Luther Excommunicated** (Leo X, *Decet Romanum Pontificem*, 3 January 1521).
- **Luther condemned as a heretic** by Emperor Charles V (*Edict of Worms*, 25 May 1521).
- **Protected** by Duke of Saxony
- **Political consequences**
  - German princes began to support Luther's reforms, chiefly in order to free themselves from Rome politically.
  - **Rebellion of German princes** against the Catholic Emperor
  - **The Peasants' Revolt:** provoked by Luther's teachings. Luther supported its repression. **Disputes & Division in the Reform** Luther's later years



German Peasants Fight for Independence, March 1525, Jung Hilsenheim.

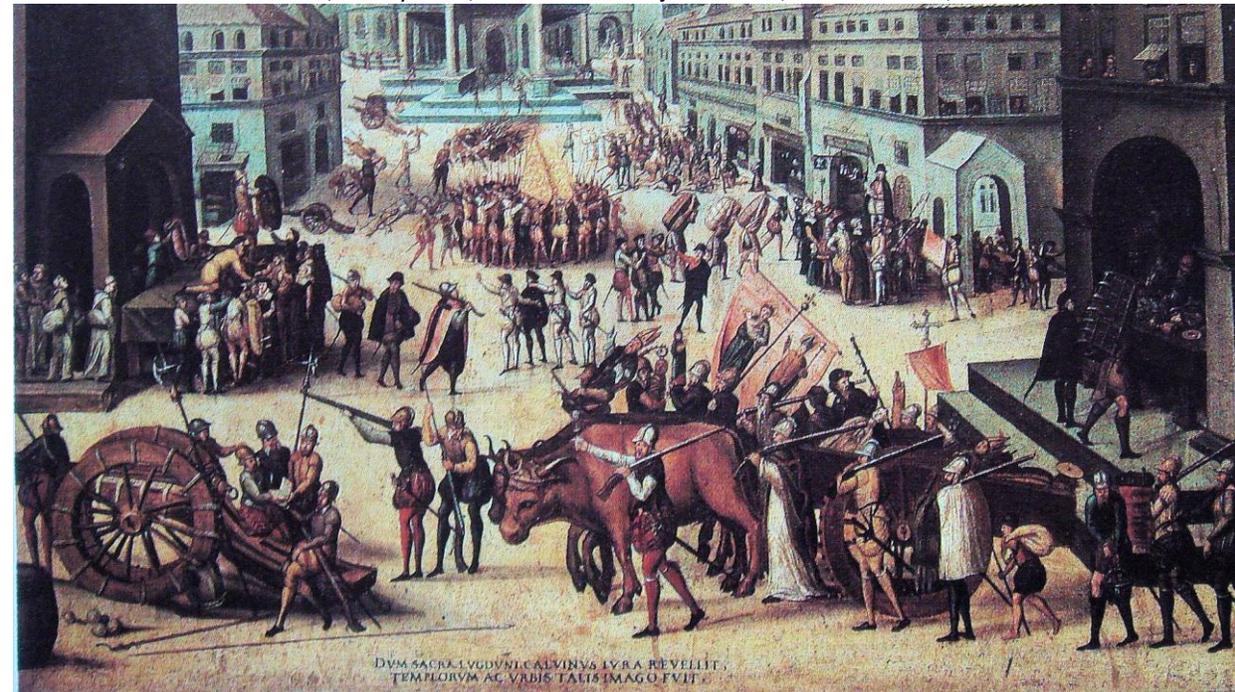


# John Calvin (1509-1564)

- A French intellectual from a middle-class family, who encountered Luther's writings at the University of Paris.
- After being implicated in an attack on the Church, he fled to Switzerland and wrote his most famous book, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*
- ***Institutes of the Christian Religion:***
  - Structures the Reform movement
  - Codifies Luther's thought into four books, placed authority in the Bible alone (*sola scriptura*), rejecting good works and the sacraments (signs only, do not impart grace).
  - Human nature is totally corrupted
  - Iconoclasm
  - God predestines the elect to Heaven, while others are predestined for Hell.
  - Good moral life & success might be a sign of election
  - Became the most-read book of its century, and Calvin's followers began to destroy Catholic churches.



John Calvin, Anonymous, Museum Catharijneconvent, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Looting of the Churches of Lyon by the Calvinists 1562, Antoine Caron, 16<sup>th</sup> c.



# Theocracy in Geneva

---

Calvin came to Geneva as it was experiencing turmoil & was asked to advise, but his severe reforms led to a four-year exile. Calvin returned & ruled with an iron fist, punishing, killing, or driving people into exile for minor infractions.

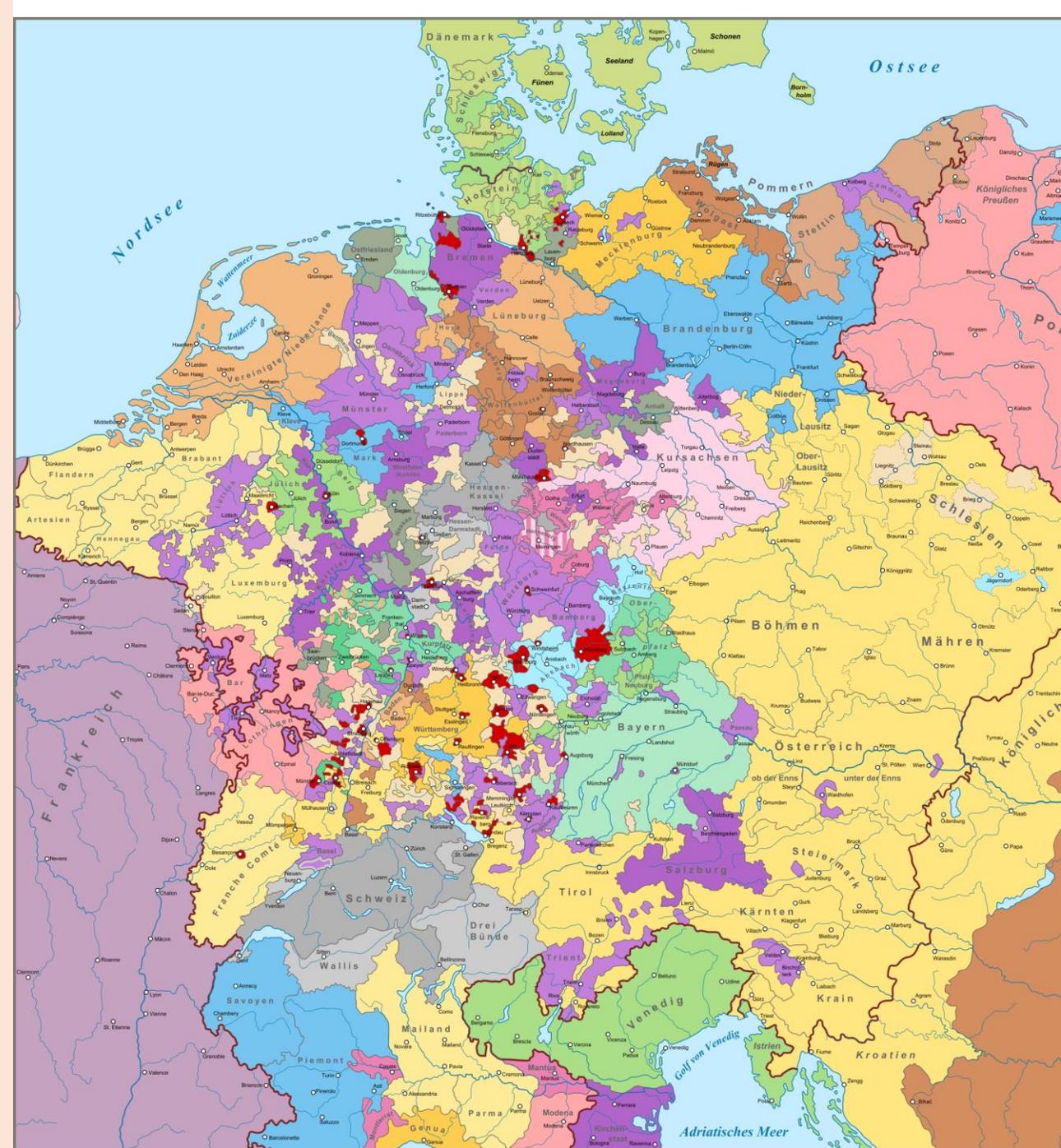
- No religious freedom
- State subservient to Church under Calvin's leadership
- Moral behaviour, church attendance, policed & punished
- Activities like dancing, card-playing, hair-braiding banned
- Inquisitors inspect homes for orthodoxy

Other reform efforts imitated him. He is credited with Protestantism's rapid spread through Europe.

- **John Knox** (1514-1572) spreads Calvinism to Scotland
- **Ulrich Zwingli** (1484-1531) spreads Calvinism to Switzerland
- American puritans were English Calvinists

# Religion & European Politics

- *Cuius regio, eius et religio*
- Wars of Religion:
  - Thirty Years War (1618-48)
    - Wars of religion especially in France, the German territories, England, Scotland, & Ireland.
    - Peace of Westphalia (1648) on the continent & with the capitulation of Limerick (1692) in the British Isles.
- Catholic Spain
  - Empire of Charles V
  - King Henry VIII & Catherine of Aragon



# The End of Religious Unity

## *Cuius Regio, Eius et Religio*

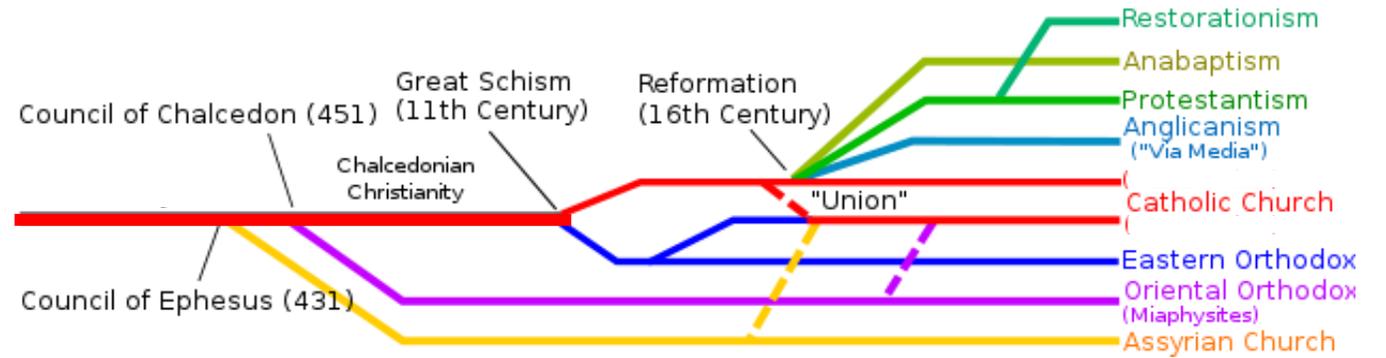
Religion is largely divided by country - subjects of each region must follow the religion of their rulers

Separation from the Church of a large part of the world:

- Scandinavia & the Baltic
- Part of Germany
- Holland
- Half of Switzerland
- Scotland
- England
- & their colonies & territories



# 500 Years On: Some Protestant Denominations



Lutherans  
Presbyterians  
Anabaptists  
Anglicans  
Brethren  
Uniting  
Latter-Day Saints (Church of Christ, Mormons)  
Calvinist  
Episcopalians  
Salvation Army  
Adventists

Baptists  
Methodists  
Congregationalist  
Quakers  
Pentecostal & Charismatic Churches (Hillsong, C3, etc)  
Evangelical  
Christian Scientists  
Reformed Churches  
Church of Christ  
Jehovah's Witnesses

# 500 Years On ...

Vatican II *Unitatis Redintegratio*

Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

Lutheran World Federation

- *Joint Declaration On The Doctrine Of Justification*, 1999.
- *Joint Statement on the Conclusion of the Year of the Common Commemoration of the Reformation*, 2017
- *Response of the Catholic Church to the Joint Declaration of The Catholic Church and The Lutheran World Federation On The Doctrine of Justification*, 1998.



Pope Francis (left) hugs Lutheran Archbishop Antje Jackelen, primate of the Church of Sweden. (Andrew Medichini/AP)

# England: Schism to Reformation

King Henry VIII (1491 – 1547)



*King Henry VIII, Hans Holbein the Younger, 1540.*

# The Anglican Schism

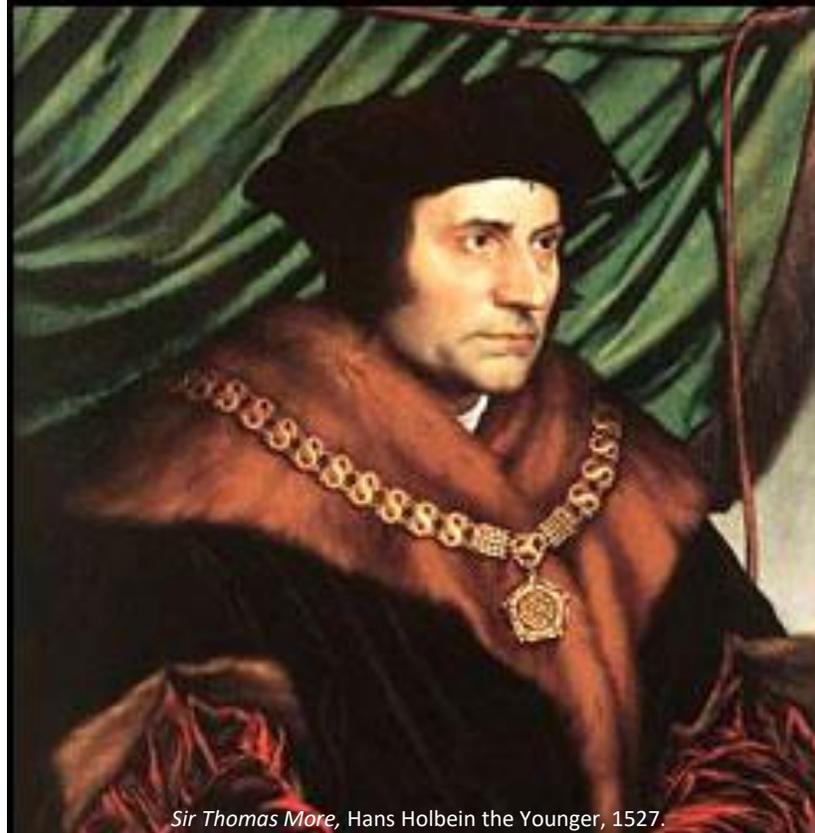
- Catholicism in England lacked the tumultuous controversies it had on the continent, & church-state relations seemed good; dissent would rather arise over the king's marriage.
- Henry VIII was not supposed to be king but became heir to the throne when his brother died.
- He received a papal dispensation to marry his brother's widow, Catherine of Aragon.
- When the union produced no male heirs & Henry fell in love with Anne Boleyn, he sought an annulment from the Pope.
- Cardinal Wolsey was also Henry's Lord Chancellor. The skilled diplomat began the annulment trial in England, but when the trial was moved to Rome he fell out of favour with Henry VIII, & died returning to London.



*King Henry VIII, Hans Holbein the Younger, 1540.*



King Henry VIII, Hans Holbein the Younger, 1540



Sir Thomas More, Hans Holbein the Younger, 1527.



St John Fisher, Francesco Bartolozzi after Hans Holbein.

## The Anglican Schism

### Act of Supremacy, 1534 & Act of Treason, 1534

- Parliament acknowledges King Henry VIII as supreme head of the Church of England
- Failure to acknowledge this constitutes treason, punishable by death.
- Thomas Cranmer married the king to Anne Boleyn and was made Archbishop of Canterbury.



Henry VII



Elizabeth of York

# Henry VIII's Wives & Legitimate Children

## The Tudors

- Henry VII (1485-1509)
- Henry VIII (1509-1547)
- Edward VI (1547-1553)
- Mary I (1553-1558)
- Elizabeth I (1558-1603)



Henry VIII



Catherine of Aragon



Ann Boleyn



Jane Seymour



Anne of Cleves



Katherine Howard



Katherine Parr



Philip II of Spain



Mary I



Elizabeth I



Edward VI

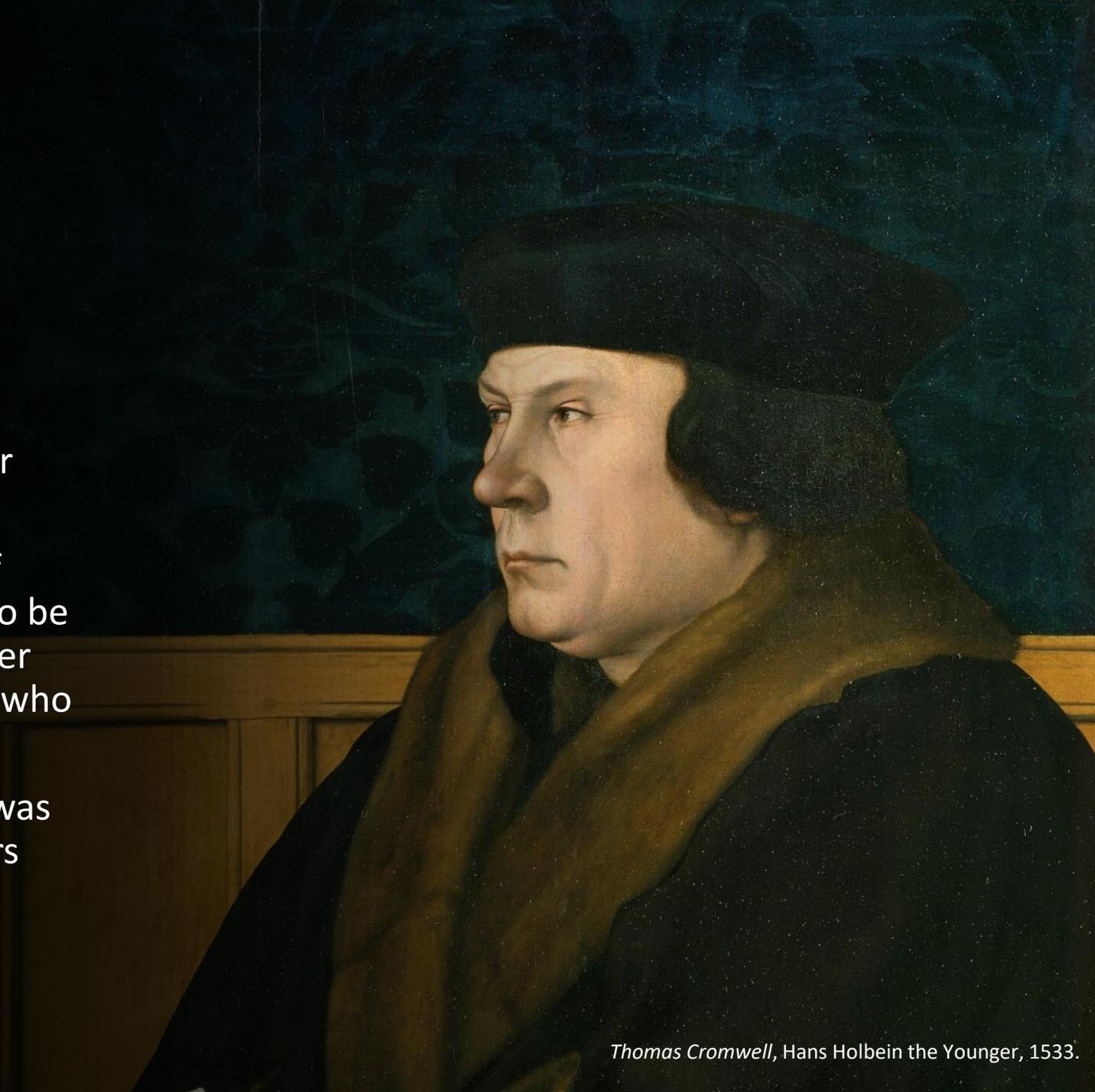
## The Six Wives of King Henry VIII

- Catherine of Aragon (1485-1536): Divorced
- Anne Boleyn (c. 1501-1536): Beheaded
- Jane Seymour (1508-1537): Died
- Anne of Cleves (1515-1557): Divorced
- Katherine Howard (1523-1542): Beheaded
- Catherine Parr (1512-1548): Survived

## Confiscation of Church Properties

---

- Church lands were seized for the crown under Thomas Cromwell (1485-1540).
- This was supposed to be part of a program of reforming the monasteries, and money was to be redirected to the poor and education, however most of it ended up in the hands of the King, who then used it to enrich the nobles.
- A peasant uprising, the Pilgrimage of Grace, was quelled by the Duke of Norfolk, and its leaders were executed.



*Thomas Cromwell, Hans Holbein the Younger, 1533.*

# England Gradually Becomes Protestant

- Henry considered himself a Catholic & fought against Lutheranism in England.
- Some of his main supporters, however, discreetly promoted Protestantism including the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, Thomas Cromwell, and Hugh Latimer, and they influenced his policies.
- Other reforms
- England gradually becomes Protestant
- *The Great Bible* (1540): The Bible was translated into English under Thomas Cranmer (based on an earlier version by William Tyndale) who ordered a copy to be kept in every Church. The cover depicts Henry receiving the Word directly from God. Speech-scrolls convey the words from God to Henry, & from Henry to the clergy & parishioners via Cranmer (left) & to the nobility through Cromwell (right).



# Edward VI (1547-1553)



*Allegory of the Reformation: Edward VI & the Pope, 16<sup>th</sup> c.*



*Edward VI, William Scrots, 1550.*



*The Execution of Lady Jane Grey, Paul Delaroche, 1833.*

England quickly moved towards Lutheranism under Edward VI's ministers before Edward VI died at age 15 in 1553 and the throne fell to his sister Mary Tudor.

- English Reformation
- Struggles between 'conservative' clergy who had sworn Henry's oath & 'evangelicals'. No-one liked 'Roman' Catholics.
- Minor
- Protestant-influenced Regency Council & tutors
- Raised Protestant
- Book of Common Prayer (1549)
- Forty-Two Articles
- Abolition of the Mass
- Plan for a Protestant Succession: Lady Jane Grey

# Mary I (1553-1558)

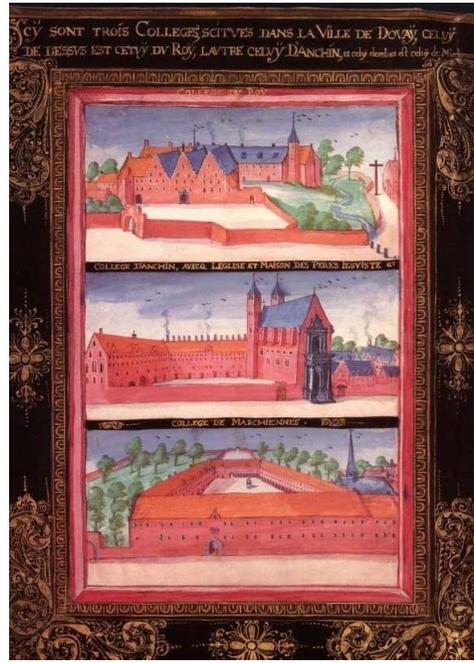


- The Catholic daughter of Catherine of Aragon, Mary became queen & tried to restore England to Catholicism.
- She executed many who tried to promote Lutheranism, earning her the title Bloody Mary.
- Married King Philip of Spain in 1554.
- Mary died after five short, tumultuous years as queen.

# Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603)



- Elizabeth solidified Protestantism in England & ruled for forty years.
- *Act of Supremacy, 1558*
- Elizabeth kept the appearance of Catholicism but transitioned England to Protestantism via the *Anglican Compromise*.
- She refused efforts by the pope to reconcile. Bull *Regnans in Excelsis, 1570*: Pope Pius V excommunicates the Queen. After this, Elizabeth killed many priests, and imprisoned faithful Catholics. To be Catholic is to be allied to a foreign power; it is not possible to be English & Catholic.
- College at Douai & English College in Rome. Douai-Rheims Bible.
- Mary Queen of Scots (1542-1587)
- Anglo-Spanish Wars (Catholic super-power)
  - The Armada 1588
  - Piracy: Sir Francis Drake



# Some English Martyrs of the Reformation

Pictured from left:  
Margaret Clitherow (1556-1586)  
Margaret Ward (1550-1588)  
Colleges, University of Douai, France  
Edmund Campion (1540-1581)  
Memorial Stone at Tyburn, Marble Arch, London

Over 100 martyrs from the English College at Douai  
Oliver Plunkett (1625-1681)  
Thomas More (1478-1535)  
Bishop John Fisher (1469-1535)  
Henry Morse (1595-1645)  
Cuthbert Mayne (1543-1577)  
Margaret Pole (1473-1541)

# Post-Reformation Europe



# Discussion Questions

- Martin Luther made various critiques of the Church, some of which were valid. What areas of the Church in Martin Luther's day legitimately needed to be reformed?
- Martin Luther suffered from scrupulosity. How did his struggle with scrupulosity and his conceptions of God's justice and mercy affect Martin Luther's later theology?
- Despite his break with the Church in order to divorce his wife and marry Anne Boleyn, King Henry VIII still considered himself a Catholic. At what point did England officially move away from Catholicism, and why? What forceful role did Elizabeth I play in England's move towards Protestantism?
- (From: Midwest Theological Forum)