

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



The Reformation in Europe, 1517–1600

Lesson 2 The Spread of Protestantism

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How can reform influence society and beliefs?

Reading HELPDESK

Academic Vocabulary

publish to print for distribution

community a group of people with common interests and characteristics living together within a larger society

Content Vocabulary

justification the process of being justified, or deemed worthy of salvation, by God

predestination belief that God has determined in advance who will be saved (the elect) and who will be damned (the reprobate)

annul declare invalid

ghetto formerly a district in a city in which Jews were required to live

TAKING NOTES: *Listing*

ACTIVITY Use a graphic organizer like this one to list the characteristics of the Reformation in Switzerland and England.

Switzerland	England

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IT MATTERS BECAUSE

Many different Protestant groups started in Europe during the 1500s. Calvinism challenged Lutheranism, the first Protestant group started by Martin Luther. King Henry VIII created a national church in England. In sharp contrast, Anabaptists believed in the complete separation of church and state, or government. In response to Protestantism, the Catholic Church itself experienced a reformation, a change to give it new life.

Protestantism in Switzerland

Guiding Question *Why did Calvinism become an important form of Protestantism by the mid-sixteenth century?*

The Peace of Augsburg ended Christian unity in the Holy Roman Empire. German states were allowed to choose between Catholicism and Lutheranism. Even before that, divisions had already appeared in Protestantism. One of these new Protestant groups started in Switzerland.

Ulrich Zwingli was a priest in the city of Zürich in Switzerland. Zwingli had a strong influence on the city council there. The council introduced a number of religious reforms. All paintings were removed from churches, and church walls were painted white. A new church service replaced Catholic mass, and it included reading from the Bible, prayer, and sermons.

Zwingli's reforms started to spread to other cities in Switzerland. Zwingli wanted to work with Martin Luther and the other German reformers. Both the Swiss and the German reformers knew they needed to work together. In that way, they could better defend themselves against Catholic authorities. However, they could not agree on certain Christian ceremonies.

In October 1531, war started between the Protestant and Catholic states in Switzerland. Zurich's army was defeated. Zwingli was wounded in the battle. His enemies found him, killed him, and cut his body into pieces. They then burned the pieces and threw away the ashes. With Zwingli's death, John Calvin became the new leader of Protestantism in Switzerland.

John Calvin was educated in his native France. As a reformer, he moved to Switzerland where he would be safe. In 1536 he **published** (got a book printed) the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. His book summarized Protestant thought. Because of the recent invention of the printing press, Calvin's work and the writings of other Protestant leaders were widely distributed. This helped spread ideas of the Protestant Reformation. Because of his book, Calvin was seen as a new leader of Protestantism.

Like Luther, Calvin believed in **justification** by faith alone. This meant that God alone judged if an individual was worthy of salvation or not. Calvin's focus on the all-powerful nature of God led him to a number of other ideas. For example, he believed in **predestination**. This meant that God decided in advance that some people would be saved and others would not be saved. Calvin believed that God had once and for all determined who would be saved and who would be destroyed. Calvin emphasized that no one could be certain of salvation. However, his followers did not always pay attention to his warning.

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Their ideas about predestination gave Calvinists the firm belief that they were doing God’s work on earth. This conviction made them determined to spread their faith to other people. Calvinism became an active faith full of energy.

Calvin created a type of theocracy, or government by divine authority, in the city of Geneva. This government used church leaders and nonclergy in the service of his church. John Knox was the Calvinist reformer of Scotland. He said that Geneva was the perfect school of Christ on earth. Missionaries trained in Geneva went to all parts of Europe. Calvinism was established in France, the Netherlands, Scotland, and central and eastern Europe.



Reading Progress Check

Describing How did divisions in Protestantism take place in Switzerland?

Reformation in England

Guiding Question *What made the English Reformation different from the Reformation in the rest of Europe?*

The English Reformation grew out of politics, not religion. King Henry VIII wanted a divorce from his wife. He was married to Catherine of Aragon, with whom he had a daughter, Mary. He wanted to have a male heir and to marry a new wife, Anne Boleyn. The pope was unwilling to **annul** the king’s marriage, so Henry asked England’s highest church courts for a decision about his marriage.

Archbishop of Canterbury Thomas Cranmer decided in May 1533 that the king’s marriage was null and absolutely void (did not exist under the law). At the beginning of June, the king’s new wife, Anne, became queen. Three months later a child, a girl, was born. Although Henry did not get a male heir, his daughter would later become Queen Elizabeth I.

Henry now wanted England to break from the Catholic Church and the pope. In 1534, Parliament finalized the break. The Act of Supremacy of 1534 declared that the king was the supreme head of the new Church of England. The king had complete control over the new church’s religious doctrine, appointments of clergy, and discipline. Thomas More, who was a Christian humanist and devout Catholic, opposed the king’s action. As a result, he was beheaded.

Henry used his new powers to dissolve, or close, the monasteries. He sold their lands and possessions to landowners and merchants. The English nobles had already disliked the pope’s control of the Church, but now they had a real financial interest in Henry’s new order and religion. The king himself received a great deal of money from the close of the monasteries. In the doctrine of his new church, Henry stayed close to Catholic teachings.

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King Henry VIII died in 1547. Edward, his nine-year-old son by his third wife, became king. During Edward VI's brief rule, church leaders moved the Church of England (also called the Anglican Church) in a Protestant direction. New acts of Parliament gave clergy the right to marry. They created a new Protestant church service. Before Edward had reached the age of 16, he died of tuberculosis.

The rapid changes during Edward's reign resulted in opposition. Mary I, Henry's daughter by Catherine of Aragon, became the queen of England in 1553. Mary was a Catholic, and she wanted to return England to Roman Catholicism. However, her efforts had the opposite result.

Among other actions, Mary had almost 300 Protestants burned as heretics. This action earned her the nickname "Bloody Mary." As a result of her policies, England was more Protestant by the end of Mary's reign than it had been at the beginning. Protestant ideas were becoming more popular there.



Reading Progress Check

Identifying Cause and Effect What caused the Protestant Reformation in England, and what resulted from it?

Anabaptists

Guiding Question *Why did both Catholics and Protestants consider Anabaptists dangerous radicals?*

Reformers such as Luther accepted that the state had an important, even dominant, role in church affairs. However, some people strongly disliked giving the state so much power. These people were radicals called Anabaptists. Most Anabaptists believed in the complete separation of Church and State. For them, government had no power over religion. In fact, government had no political authority over "real" Christians. Anabaptists refused to hold political office, and they refused to use guns or other weapons or to join the army. They took literally the biblical commandment "Thou shall not kill."

To Anabaptists, the true Christian church was a **community** (a group of people with common interests) of believers. These believers freely chose their religious faith as adults, and they were then baptized. In this way, they were different from both Catholics and Protestants, who baptized new members into their church as babies.

Anabaptists also believed in the practices and spirit of early Christianity. They considered all believers to be equal. Many of their ideas came from New Testament stories about life in early Christian communities. Each Anabaptist church chose its own minister, or spiritual leader. Because all Christians were considered priests, any member of the community could be a minister. (However, women were often excluded from becoming ministers.)

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Because of both their political and their religious beliefs, Anabaptists were considered dangerous radicals. They were seen as a threat to sixteenth-century society. In fact, the main thing other Protestants and Catholics agreed on was the need to persecute Anabaptists.

Many Anabaptists moved to Münster, a city in Westphalia (modern-day western Germany), in the 1530s because they were persecuted in other places. Münster became a safe place for Anabaptists under their leader John of Leiden. In 1534, an army of Catholics and other Protestants surrounded the city. In 1535, they captured it. They tortured and killed the Anabaptist leaders.



Reading Progress Check

Discussing What beliefs did the Anabaptists have that alarmed the other Protestants and Catholics?

Reformation and Society

Guiding Question *How did the Reformation affect European society?*

The Protestant Reformation had an important effect on education in Europe. Protestant teachers were very effective in using humanist methods in new Protestant secondary schools and universities. Protestant schools were aimed at a much wider audience than the humanist schools. Humanist schools were mostly for the wealthy and powerful.

Martin Luther was convinced of the need to provide the church with good Christians. He believed that all children should have an education provided by the state. He urged the cities and villages of German states to provide schools paid for by the public. Protestants in Germany then established secondary schools. Secondary schools taught Greek and Latin which was combined with religious instruction.

In some ways, Protestantism changed traditional views of marriage. Protestants ended both monasticism (life apart from society as a monk or nun) and celibacy (state of not being married) for their clergy. The shared love between man and wife in marriage could be praised. However, reality more often reflected the traditional roles. These roles held the husband as the ruler and wife as the obedient servant and bearer of children. Both Calvin and Luther saw this role of women as part of God's plan.

Some traditions in European society did not change during the Reformation. Anti-Semitism remained. Anti-Semitism is hostility toward Jews or discrimination against them. Martin Luther expected Jews to convert to Lutheranism. They refused to do this, and as a result, Luther recommended that Jewish houses of worship should be destroyed. The Catholic Church was no more tolerant of Jews. In the Papal States (areas in Italy under the control of the pope), Jews who would not convert to Christianity were segregated. They were forced to live to in **ghettos**, separate areas in a city where only Jews lived.

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Reading Progress Check

Analyzing What was Luther's view about women's role in society?

Catholic Reformation

Guiding Question *What prompted the Catholic Reformation during the sixteenth century?*

The situation for the Catholic Church in Europe did not appear favorable by the middle of the sixteenth century. Lutheranism was well established in Germany and Scandinavia, and Calvinism was well established in Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, and Eastern Europe. In England, the separation from Rome had resulted in the creation of a national church. However, the Catholic Church gained new energy and strength during the sixteenth century. The Catholic Reformation, also called the Counter Reformation, was a result of three key elements. The first element was the creation of a new religious order called the Jesuits. The second was the reform of the papacy. The third was the Council of Trent.

A Spanish nobleman, Ignatius of Loyola, started the Society of Jesus, or the Jesuits. Pope Paul III recognized Loyola's small group of followers as a religious order in 1540. All Jesuits took a vow of absolute obedience to the pope. They played an important role in spreading the policies of the pope. Jesuits used education to spread their religious message. Jesuit missionaries were very successful in restoring Catholicism to parts of Germany and eastern Europe. They also spread it to other parts of the world.

Later in the century, a Spanish nun, Teresa of Ávila, helped reform her religious order, called the Carmelites. The Carmelites had been established during the Middle Ages. They were one of the four major religious orders, or groups, from that period that took a vow of complete poverty. In 1561, Teresa started a small convent at Avila. The nuns there followed a very strict way of life.

Reform of the papacy was an important part of the Catholic Reformation. Renaissance popes had participated in money dealings and in Italy's politics and wars. These actions encouraged corruption in the Church. It took the shock of the Protestant Reformation to change the Catholic Church.

Pope Paul III saw the need for reform. He took the bold step of naming a Reform Commission in 1535. The job of the commission was to determine the reason for the Church's problems. The commission blamed the problems on the popes' corrupt policies.

Pope Paul also decided to have a special meeting of church leaders. This was called the Council of Trent. In March 1545, a group of Church leaders including cardinals, archbishops, bishops, abbots, and theologians first met in the city of Trent (near the border of modern-day Italy). They continued to meet on and off for 18 years.

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The final decrees of the council reaffirmed traditional Catholic teachings. Often these ideas were in opposition to Protestant beliefs. The council stated that both faith and good works were necessary for salvation. It also affirmed the traditional seven sacraments, view of the Eucharist, and the practice of celibacy for the clergy. It reaffirmed belief in purgatory and indulgences. However, the sale of indulgences was forbidden. The Roman Catholic Church now had clearly stated its doctrines. It was united under the pope's supreme leadership. Catholics were now more confident as defenders of their faith.



Reading Progress Check

Exploring Issues What were the three key elements of the Catholic Reformation, and why were they so important to the Catholic Church in the sixteenth century?
