



The Protestant Reformation:

Martin Luther, 1517-1529

Condition of the Roman Catholic Church

Critics of the church concentrated on three disorders:

1. Clerical moral laxity
2. Clerical lack of education
3. Clerical pluralism and absenteeism

Reformers before the Reformation

- John Wycliffe (1320-1384)
- Jan Hus (1369-1415)



The Lutheran Upheaval

- Luther's quest for religious certainty
 - Luther and his father
 - Sent to the University of Erfurt to study law
 - 1505: Luther enters an Augustinian monastery
 - 1513: Conversion experience—the quest for spiritual peace



Martin Luther
1472-1553

The Lutheran Upheaval

- The Reformation begins
 - Albert of Hohenzolern
 - Debt and simony
 - The bargain with Pope Leo X
 - Granted Albert an indulgence
 - Half the money went to build Saint Peter's Basilica at Rome
 - Half the money went to Albert



The Lutheran Upheaval

- The Reformation begins
 - Johann Tetzel
 - Hawked indulgences in northern Germany with Fugger support
 - Sold indulgences as “tickets to heaven”
 - October 31, 1517: Luther’s Ninety-Five Theses
 - Written in Latin, intended for academic dispute
 - Translated and published in German

The Lutheran Upheaval

- Luther's quest for religious certainty
 - Salvation and the Church
 - The Church (sacraments) and the believer (piety and charity) could affect salvation
 - The Church “quantified” the process of salvation
 - The “Treasury of Merits”
 - The indulgence
 - Remission of the penitential obligations imposed by priests

The Lutheran Upheaval

- Luther's quest for religious certainty
 - Indulgences earned by demanding spiritual exercises (eleventh and twelfth centuries)
 - Indulgences granted with a monetary payment
 - Indulgences seen by many as just another form of simony (selling grace in return for cash)
 - “Here I stand; God help me, I can do no other.”

The Lutheran Upheaval

- The Reformation begins
 - 1519: public disputation in Leipzig
 - Luther maintained that the pope and all clerics were merely fallible men
 - The highest authority for an individual's conscience was the truth of Scripture
 - Pope Leo charged Luther with heresy
 - Luther's pamphlets of 1520—general ideas
 - Justification by faith alone

The Lutheran Upheaval

- The Reformation begins
 - The primacy of Scripture
 - The literal meaning of Scripture takes precedence over Church traditions
 - The “priesthood of all believers”
 - All Christian believers are spiritually equal before God
- General consequences
 - Good works do not lead to salvation
 - Fasts, pilgrimages, and the veneration of relics were valueless
 - The dissolution of all monasteries and convents

The Lutheran Upheaval

- The Reformation begins
 - Proposed substituting German for Latin in church services
 - Reduced the number of sacraments from seven to two (baptism and the Eucharist)
 - Denied that the Mass was a repetition of Christ's sacrifice on the cross
 - Proposed the abolition of the entire ecclesiastical hierarchy of popes and bishops

The Lutheran Upheaval

- The break with Rome
 - The role of the printing press in spreading Luther's message
 - Luther's defiance touched off a national religious revolt against the papacy
 - Popes bribed the cardinals to strengthen the papacy
 - Moral corruption
 - Popes waged war to gain territory

The Lutheran Upheaval

- The break with Rome
 - There were no agreements (concordats) between pope and German emperor
 - Princes complained that taxes were too high
 - Many German princes sided with Luther as a way to attack Roman influence and corruption

The Lutheran Upheaval

- The Diet of Worms (1521)
 - Luther handed over to Elector Frederick the Wise for punishment as a heretic
 - Frederick convened a Diet (formal assembly) to give Luther a fair hearing
 - Initiative lay with presiding officer, Charles V (Holy Roman emperor)
 - Would not tolerate attacks on the Church or the emperor



Map 13.1 The European Empire of Charles V, c. 1550

The Lutheran Upheaval

- The Diet of Worms (1521)
 - Luther kidnapped by Frederick and brought to the castle of the Wartburg
 - Edict of Worms declared Luther an outlaw (never enforced)

The Lutheran Upheaval

- The German princes and the Lutheran Reformation
 - The new religion prevailed in areas where princes formally established Lutheranism
 - Rulers sought to control appointments to Church offices and restrict flow of money to Rome

The Lutheran Upheaval

- The German princes and the Lutheran Reformation
 - 1487: Innocent VIII consented to the establishment of the Spanish Inquisition
 - 1516: Concordat of Bologna—French king to choose bishops and abbots
- The consolidation of the authority of the German princes
- Free cities adopted Lutheranism in order to establish supreme governing authority

The Lutheran Upheaval

- The German princes and the Lutheran Reformation
 - Luther and temporal authority
 - 1523: *On Temporal Authority*—God must be obeyed in all things
 - 1525: *Against the Thievish, Murderous Hordes of Peasants*