

CHAPTER 1: EUROPEAN RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION

SECTION 1: ITALY: BIRTHPLACE OF THE RENAISSANCE

A. Italy's Advantages:

1. The period from 1300 to 1600 is called the Renaissance by historians. The Renaissance means “rebirth,” in this case a rebirth of art and learning from Greece and Rome.
2. Where did the Renaissance begin? Italy
It eventually spread to northern Europe.
3. Who supported Renaissance artists? Merchants and political rulers
4. Renaissance scholars looked down on the art and literature of the Middle Ages. One reason the Renaissance began in Italy was that artists and scholars drew inspiration from the ruins of Rome that surrounded them.
5. In the 1300s, scholars began studying ancient Latin manuscripts, which had been preserved by monks in monasteries. Then, when Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453, Byzantine scholars fled to Rome with ancient Greek manuscripts—which Italian scholars had assumed were lost forever.

B. Classical and Worldly Values:

1. The study of classical texts led to humanism.

Humanism: a Renaissance intellectual movement in which thinkers studied classical texts and focused on human potential and achievements.

2. While most people remained devout Catholics, the basic spirit of the Renaissance was secular.

Secular: worldly

3. During the Renaissance, the ideal individual sought to master almost every area of study. Such an individual was called a “Renaissance man.”

C. Renaissance Revolutionizes Art:

1. Renaissance artists often portrayed religious subjects in their art work. Unlike medieval artists, however, they used a realistic style copied from classical models. Greek and Roman subjects also became popular.

2. Works of Michelangelo: The dome of St. Peter's Basilica; the Sistine Chapel Ceiling; the David
3. Works of Leonardo Da Vinci: Mona Lisa; The Last Supper
4. Works of Raphael: Madonna and Child

D. Renaissance Writers Change Literature:

SECTION 2: THE NORTHERN RENAISSANCE:

A. The Northern Renaissance Begins:

1. By the late 1400s, Renaissance ideas had spread to northern Europe—especially England, France, and Germany.
2. While Italy was divided into city-states, England and France were unified under strong monarchs, who played a major role in introducing Renaissance styles to northern Europe.
3. When war broke out between France and Italy, a number of Italian artist and writers fled to safety in northern Europe, bringing with them the styles and techniques of the Renaissance. In addition, artists who studied in Italy also carried Renaissance ideas north when they returned home.

B. Northern Writers Try to Reform Society:

1. Renaissance ideas greatly influenced the writers and philosophers of northern Europe. These writers adopted the ideal of humanism. However, some gave it a more religious slant. Because of this, some northern humanists are also called Christian humanists.
2. The best known Christian humanist was Desiderius Erasmus of Holland. Erasmus believed in a Christianity of the heart, not one of ceremonies or rulers. He also thought that in order to improve society, all people should study the Bible. Erasmus' most famous work was The Praise of Folly.
3. Many Renaissance writers began writing in the vernacular.
4. Petrarch wrote sonnets or fourteen-line poems.
5. William Shakespeare, arguably the greatest playwright of all time, also wrote in Renaissance England. His most famous plays include the

tragedies MacBeth, King Lear, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, and the comedy A Midsummer Night's Dream.

C. Printing Spreads Renaissance Ideas:

1. A new invention, the printing press, also helped spread Renaissance ideas. When was it invented and by whom? 1455; Johann Gutenberg
2. What was the first full-size book printed with movable type? The Bible
3. The creation of the printing press was revolutionary. It allowed one printer to produce hundreds of copies, all exactly alike, of a single work. For the first time, books were cheap enough that many people could buy them.
4. The availability of books encouraged people to learn to read and so caused a rise in the literacy rate. Writing in vernacular languages also increased because even people who couldn't afford to go to school could now buy books.
5. Printers also produced the Bible in the vernacular, which allowed more people to read it. People began to interpret the Bible for themselves and to become more critical of the priests and their behavior.

SECTION 3: LUTHER STARTS THE REFORMATION:

A. Causes of the Reformation:

1. By 1500, critics of the Church claimed that its leaders were corrupt. Popes spent money extravagantly and fought wars. The lower clergy had problems as well. Many priests and monks could barely read, let alone teach people. Others broke their priestly vows by marrying, gambling, or drinking too much.
2. There were other causes of the Reformation, as well. English and German nobility were tired of Italians dominating the Catholic Church.
3. Merchant wealth also challenged the Church's view on usury. The Catholic Church taught that it was morally wrong for creditors to charge interest on the loans that they made.

Usury: charging interest on loans

B. Luther Challenges the Church:

1. Where was Martin Luther born? Eastern Germany

2. Luther attended the University of Erfurt where he studied law. However, at the age of 21, he suddenly abandoned his legal studies and entered the monastery to become a monk.
3. As Luther studied and prayed, he grew increasingly terrified by the possibility that he was going to hell. As a monk, he understood the church's teaching that salvation depended on faith, good works, and participation in the sacraments. Even though he administered the sacraments, Luther, however, still felt that he was not saved. Seeking comfort, he increasingly turned to reading the Bible.
4. From his readings, he concluded that only faith brings salvation. He concluded that no amount of good works, however necessary for maintaining the Christian community, would bring salvation.
5. Pursuing his biblical studies, Luther became a professor at nearby university in Wittenburg. He also began preaching at that city's church, and he started sharing his beliefs with both his students and congregation.
6. The starting point for the Reformation was Luther's attack in 1517 on the church's practice of selling indulgences. The Church taught that some individuals go directly to heaven or hell, while others go to heaven only after spending time in purgatory. This period of punishment was necessary for those who had sinned a lot in this life but who had repented before dying.
7. Indulgences were supposed to reduce the amount of time one would have to spend in purgatory. The Church could grant indulgences to individuals in exchange for their prayers, their attendance at mass, and for almost any act of charity, including monetary offerings to the church.
8. This last act was the most controversial. It appeared to some that the Church was selling and that people were buying their way into heaven.
9. In the fall of 1517, a friar named John Tetzel began selling indulgences in the area near Wittenberg. Some of the money he obtained was for rebuilding St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, but the rest was for paying off debts incurred by a local archbishop who had purchased his position from the Pope.
10. Infuriated, Luther attacked Tetzel and the practice of selling indulgences by tacking on the door of the Wittenberg Castle Church his 95 Theses. This event marks the beginning of the Protestant Reformation.

11. Luther's 95 Theses claimed that selling indulgences was corrupt and biblically inaccurate since salvation cannot be earned by good works. Luther further insisted that every individual could discover the meaning of the Bible without assistance from the clergy.

12. Summary of Luther's Beliefs:

- Salvation is by faith alone.
- The Bible is the ultimate authority.
- All humans were equal before God.

C. The Response to Luther:

1. In 1520, Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther when Luther refused to recant, or take back his statements. One year later, Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor and a devout Catholic, ordered Luther to stand trial for heresy if he did not recant. Again, Luther refused.
2. Charles V declared Luther was an outlaw and a heretic, and no one in the empire was to give Luther food or shelter. However, the ruler of the state where Luther lived, Prince Frederick the Wise of Saxony, sheltered Luther in one of his castles. While there Luther translated the New Testament into German.
3. When Luther returned to Wittenberg in 1522, he found that many of his ideals were already being put into practice. Priests dressed in ordinary clothes and called themselves ministers. They led services in German instead of in Latin. Some ministers had even married, because Luther taught that the church should be free to wed.
4. While some princes genuinely shared Luther's beliefs, others liked Luther's ideas for their own selfish reasons. They saw his teachings as a good excuse to seize Church property and to assert their independence from Charles V and the Holy Roman Empire.
5. What were princes who supported Luther's ideas called? Protestants
Today, the term Protestant refers to Christians who attend non-Catholic churches.
6. German princes who remained loyal to the Pope, under the leadership of Charles V, declared war on the princes who supported Luther. After much fighting, the two sides finally agreed that the religion of each German state was to be decided by its ruler. The settlement, which was signed in 1555, is known as the Peace of Augsburg.

D. England Becomes Protestant:

1. The Reformation in England was not started by religious leaders, but rather by the King himself. King Henry VIII desperately wanted a male heir. Unfortunately for him, his 42-year old wife, Catherine of Aragon, who had suffered numerous miscarriages, had only given him a daughter, Mary.
2. Henry wanted to divorce Catherine and marry a younger queen. Church law, however, did not allow divorce, and the Pope refused to annul the marriage. In 1533, Henry secretly married Anne Boleyn, who was in her twenties (and already pregnant with Henry's child).
3. The following year, Parliament legalized Henry's divorce from Catherine and approved the Act of Supremacy, which made the English King, not the Pope, the official head of England's Church.
4. After becoming the head of the Church of England, or the Anglican Church, Henry VIII closed all English monasteries and appropriated the Church's land and wealth. The monasteries owned ~30% of the land in England, so this act vastly increased Henry's power and wealth. His income increased by ~100,000 pounds per year!
5. Ironically, Anne Boleyn gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth. What happened to Anne Boleyn? She was beheaded
6. Henry VIII's third wife, Jane Seymour, finally gave birth to a son, Edward VI. Unfortunately, Jane died shortly after Edward was born. How many times did Henry VIII marry? 6
7. Henry VIII died in 1547, and Edward VI became king at the age of 9. Edward was weak and sickly, however, and he died 6 years later from tuberculosis. After his death, Edward's half-sister, Mary, who was a devout Catholic, succeeded him.
8. Mary, who was already 37, believed that she needed to marry and give birth to an heir in order to prevent her half-sister, Elizabeth, from becoming queen upon Mary's death. To this end, Mary decided to marry Philip II of Spain rather than an Englishman. Philip was the most powerful king in Europe.
9. This was a very bad move on Mary's part because the English feared that they would become Spanish subjects. Consequently, they revolted. In attempt to put down the rebellion, Mary executed ~100 rebels and imprisoned Elizabeth in the Tower of London because she believed that she was somehow involved in the plot to overthrow her.

10. Mary's main goal as queen was to restore Catholicism in England. To this end, she began persecuting Protestants, and upon her orders, 287 Protestants were burned at the stake. Because of this Mary earned the nickname "Bloody Mary."
11. Mary ruled England for a total of 5 years until her death in 1558. She did not have an heir and was forced to name Elizabeth her successor.
12. Elizabeth was 25 when she took the throne, and her main goal was to settle the religious question in England once and for all. She decided to establish a state church that both moderate Catholics and moderate Protestants could accept.
13. Upon her request, Parliament made the Anglican Church the official Church of England, and people were required to attend its services or pay a fine. As a concession to Protestants, priests could marry and church services were conducted in English not Latin. As a concession to Catholics, the Anglican Church kept some of the trappings of the Catholic service such as the rich robes and golden crucifixes.

SECTION 4: THE REFORMATION CONTINUES:

A. Calvin Begins Another Protestant Church:

1. John Calvin was deeply influenced by the ideas of Martin Luther. In 1536, Calvin published a book called *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, which expressed his views about God, salvation, and human nature. The religion based on Calvin's teachings is called Calvinism.
2. Calvin taught that men and women are sinful by nature. He also believed that God chooses a very few people, the "elect," to save. He believed that God has known since the beginning of time who will be saved. This is known as predestination.
3. According to Calvin, it was impossible to know for sure if a person was one of the elect. Outwardly, the only signs that a person might have was if one lived a righteous life and had a strong work ethic.
4. Which city was Calvin invited to lead in 1541? Geneva, Switzerland
5. Calvin's teachings also spread to Scotland and to France.
6. Who was the Scottish preacher who put many of Calvin's beliefs into practice in Scotland? John Knox
His followers became known as Presbyterians.

7. What were French Protestants called? Huguenots
8. Calvinism was not well received by the French monarchy, which remained committed to the Catholic Church. Violence broke out between the Huguenots and Catholics in the mid-1500s.
9. The worst outbreak of violence occurred in Paris in August 1572 on St. Bartholomew's Day. Catholic mobs began murdering Protestants, and the massacre spread to other cities as well. It lasted 6 months and ~12,000 Huguenots were killed.

B. The Catholic Reformation:

1. With thousands converting to Protestantism, loyal Catholics began a movement to reform the Catholic Church. This movement is known as the Catholic Reformation or Counter Reformation.
2. One of the greatest Catholic reformers was Ignatius of Loyola. In 1540, Ignatius's followers formed a religious order called the Society of Jesus. Members of the order were called Jesuits.
3. Activities of the Jesuits:
 - They founded schools throughout Europe to train students in both theology and classical studies.
 - They sent missionaries to convert non-Christians to Catholicism.
 - They tried to prevent Protestantism from spreading.
4. To help with the Catholic Reformation, the pope used the Inquisition to seek out and punish heretics. Clergyman would sit at the proceedings and would deliver the punishments. Those who were accused could be imprisoned in dungeons and tortured. Some heretics were even burned at the stake.
5. He also called a council of Church leaders to discuss religious matters. At the Council of Trent, Catholic bishops and cardinals reaffirmed most of the Catholic Church's practices, including the following:
 - The Church's interpretation of the Bible was final.
 - Christians needed faith **and** good works for salvation.
 - The Bible and Church teachings were equally powerful authorities.
 - Indulgences were acceptable.