

Section 3

The Protestant Reformation

Setting the Scene

- ▶ **Terms to Define**
justification by faith, indulgences, vocation
- ▶ **People to Meet**
Martin Luther, Pope Leo X
- ▶ **Places to Locate**
Wittenberg, Worms

Find Out How did Luther's religious reforms lead to Protestantism, a new branch of Christianity?

The Storyteller

In later years, Martin Luther remembered the fateful day he entered the monastery: "Afterwards I regretted my vow, and many of my friends tried to persuade me not to enter the monastery. I, however, was determined to go through with it.... I invited certain of my best men friends to a farewell

party.... In tears they led me away; and my father was very angry ... yet I persisted in my determination. It never occurred to me to leave the monastery." Luther's break with the Church was an even bigger decision than the one to enter monastic life.

—adapted from *Luther and His Times*, E.G. Schweibert, 1950



Martin Luther

The Renaissance values of humanism and secularism stimulated widespread criticism of the Catholic Church's extravagance. By about 1500, educated Europeans began calling for a reformation—a change in the Church's ways of teaching and practicing Christianity. In Germany the movement for church reform eventually led to a split in the Church that produced a new form of Christianity known as Protestantism. The series of events that gave birth to Protestantism is known as the Protestant Reformation.

Martin Luther

The Protestant Reformation was begun by a German monk named **Martin Luther**, born in 1483, the son of peasants. His father wanted him to become a lawyer, but Luther was interested in religion. In 1505 he was nearly struck by lightning in a thunderstorm. Terrified that the storm was God's way of punishing him, the law student knelt and prayed to Saint Anne. In return for protection, he promised to become a monk. Shortly thereafter, Luther entered a monastery.

As a young monk, Luther struggled to ensure his soul's salvation. He would confess his sins for hours at a time. Yet still he worried that God might not find him acceptable.

Then he read Saint Paul's Epistle to the Romans: "He who through faith is righteous shall live"—and Luther's worries dissolved. He interpreted this to mean that a person could be made just, or good, simply by faith in God's mercy and love. Luther's idea became known as justification by faith. Luther later stated that because of this discovery he felt as if he "had been born again and had entered Paradise through wide open gates."

Protesting Church Abuses

Luther's ideas gradually matured and eventually brought him into conflict with the Church. At this time **Pope Leo X** was trying to raise money to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. To this end, the pope sold church positions to his friends and also authorized sales of indulgences.

Indulgences were certificates issued by the Church that were said to reduce or even cancel punishment for a person's sins—as long as one also truly repented. People purchased indulgences believing that the document would assure them admission to heaven. John Tetzel, the Church's agent for selling indulgences in northern Germany, even went so far as to promise peasants that indulgences would relieve them of guilt for *future* sins. He also encouraged people to buy indulgences for the salvation of their dead relatives. Tetzel's sale of indulgences inspired a popular jingle: "Once you hear the money's ring, the soul from purgatory is free to spring." (According to church teaching, purgatory is a place in the afterlife where people are made fit for heaven.)

Luther, a professor and priest in the town of **Wittenberg**, preached against the sale of indulgences. He also lectured against other church practices he believed were corrupt. Then, on October 31, 1517, Luther nailed on the door of the Wittenberg Church a placard with 95 theses, or statements, criticizing the sale of indulgences and attacking other church policies.

Breaking With Rome

Printed copies of the Ninety-five Theses spread quickly all over Germany. Sales of indulgences declined sharply. Encouraged by this reaction, Luther published hundreds of essays advocating justification by faith and attacking church abuses.

Pope Leo X responded to the decline in indulgence sales by sending envoys to Germany to persuade Luther to withdraw his criticisms. But Luther refused. In 1520 the pope issued a statement in which he formally condemned Luther and banned his works. In 1521 Pope Leo X excommunicated Luther from the Church.

Shortly after Luther's excommunication, a diet, or council, of German princes met in **Worms**,

CONNECTIONS

Science and Technology

Movable Metal Type and Printing

Before the 1400s, books had to be copied by hand—a time-consuming method.

Books were rare, and only wealthy people or scholars had access to them or could even learn how to read. Johannes Gutenberg's invention of movable metal type in the 1440s changed all that: Books could be reproduced much faster and much less expensively than ever before. Consequently, more people were able to obtain books and to expand their knowledge. This, in turn, caused them to question age-old traditions and to yearn for change.

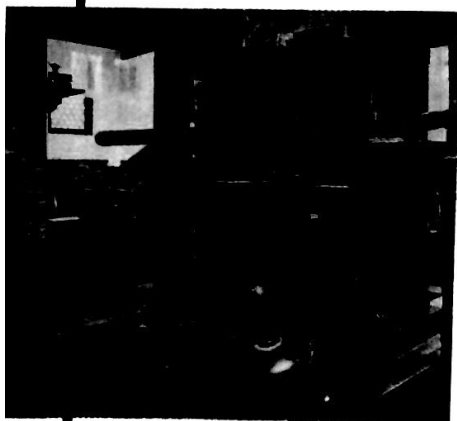
German printers quickly adopted Gutenberg's invention and set up similar printing presses in other European countries. In less than 50 years after Gutenberg pro-

duced his first book, nearly 10 million books had been printed in Europe.

The German religious reformer Martin Luther was one of the first authors to reap the benefit of this new technology. Since his books could be reproduced inexpensively and in large quantities, they could be easily obtained throughout Europe shortly after Luther completed them. Thus, Martin Luther was able to spread his religious ideas and gain widespread support before the Catholic Church could respond.

MAKING THE CONNECTION

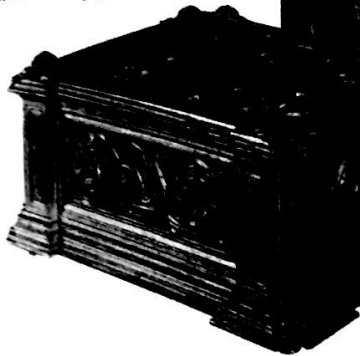
1. Why were scholars and wealthy people the only ones who could obtain books in Europe before Johannes Gutenberg invented his printing press?
2. How did Martin Luther benefit from Gutenberg's invention of movable type?



Gutenberg's press

History & Art

Luther Preaching to the Faithful, (artist unknown). National Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark. What was Luther's view of vocations? (below) Indulgence box—an item that Luther opposed.



Germany, to try to bring Luther back into the Church. They decided that Luther should take back his criticisms of the papacy. Meanwhile, Luther traveled to Worms as crowds of cheering people lined the road. Luther strode into the assembly hall and, when asked to take back his teachings, gave this reply: "I am bound by the Sacred Scriptures I have cited ... and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant [take back] anything.... God help me." Luther, condemned as a heretic and outlaw, was rushed out of Worms and hidden at a castle in Wartburg by a friend, Prince Frederick of Saxony.

While in hiding, Luther translated the New Testament into German. Earlier German translations of the Bible were so rare and costly that only priests and teachers had them. With Luther's more affordable translation, the common people could now read the Bible.

Lutheranism

After Worms, Luther made his final break with Rome and formed the first Protestant faith:

Lutheranism. Although Lutheranism and Catholicism had many of the same beliefs, Luther stressed several teachings that distinguished his form of Christianity from that of Catholicism. Luther's most important teaching was salvation by faith alone—that no amount of good works can win God's approval for salvation, that only trust in God's love and mercy will win salvation.

Luther's second important teaching was that religious truth and authority lie only in the Bible. As a result, Luther and other Protestant reformers simplified church doctrine and rituals. Protestant leaders, called ministers, preached the Bible, and Protestant worship services were held in the local language instead of Latin. In this way, people could understand and easily share in the services.

Luther also emphasized that the Church was not a hierarchy of clergy, but a community of believers. All useful occupations, not just the priesthood or ministry, were important. They were vocations, or callings, in which people could serve God and their neighbors. This view appealed especially to merchants and artisans. Businesspeople were glad to find a religious belief that gave respect to their occupations.

SECTION 3 REVIEW

Recall

1. **Define** justification by faith, indulgences, vocation.
2. **Identify** Protestant Reformation, Martin Luther, Pope Leo X.
3. **Explain** why Luther's transla-

tion of the Bible into German influenced the development of European civilization.

Critical Thinking

4. **Synthesizing Information** If you wanted to protest against something today, what medium

would you use to communicate your cause? Why?

Understanding Themes

5. **Conflict** Why did the pope ask Luther to recant his beliefs and then excommunicate him when Luther would not do so?

1509 John Calvin is born.

1525 Huldrych Zwingli establishes theocracy in Zurich.

1536 John Calvin publishes *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*.

1558 Queen Elizabeth I establishes Anglicanism in England.

Section 4

The Spread of Protestantism

Setting the Scene

- ▶ **Terms to Define**
theocracy, predestination
- ▶ **People to Meet**
Huldrych Zwingli, John Calvin, the Anabaptists, Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Mary, Elizabeth I
- ▶ **Places to Locate**
Zurich, Geneva

Find Out

What different forms of Protestantism emerged in Europe as the Reformation spread?

The Storyteller

Mary Queen of Scots was a prisoner for seventeen long years. What was she to do, as she and her keeper's wife sat together all that time? She could sew. Over the years, she and her attendant ladies embroidered seas of fabric: tablecloths, cushions, and hangings, every piece scattered with coats of arms and emblems, every piece sprinkled with gold and silver spangles to catch the light. Some became gifts; but occasionally her presents were rudely refused. Her own son, King James VI, returned a vest his mother had embroidered for him because she had addressed it to "The Prince of Scotland."

—adapted from *Mary Queen of Scots*, Roy Strong and Julia Trevelyan Oman, 1972



Mary Queen of Scots

Although the Protestant Reformation spread throughout Europe in the 1500s, divisions began to appear within the movement soon after it had started. Not only did the Protestant reformers not believe in the same methods; they did not even agree on the same goals.

Swiss Reformers

After the rise of Lutheranism in Germany, many preachers and merchants in neighboring Switzerland separated from Rome and set up churches known as Reformed. **Huldrych Zwingli**, a Swiss priest who lived from 1484 to 1531, led the Protestant movement in Switzerland. Like Luther, Zwingli stressed salvation by faith alone and denounced many Catholic beliefs and practices, such as purgatory and the sale of indulgences. Unlike Luther, though, Zwingli wanted to break completely from Catholic tradition. He wanted to establish a theocracy, or church-run state, in the Swiss city of **Zurich**. By 1525 Zwingli had achieved this goal. But in 1531 war broke out over Protestant missionary activity in the Catholic areas of Switzerland. Zwingli and his force of 1,500 followers were defeated by an army of 8,000 Catholics.

In the mid-1500s **John Calvin**, another reformer, established the most powerful and influential Reformed group in the Swiss city of **Geneva**. Here Calvin set up a theocracy similar to Zwingli's rule in Zurich.

Born in 1509, Calvin grew up in Catholic France at the start of the Reformation. He received an education in theology, law, and humanism that prompted him to study the Bible very carefully and to formulate his own Protestant theology. In 1536 Calvin published his theology in *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*, soon one of the most

popular books of its day, influencing religious reformers in Europe and later in North America.

The cornerstone of Calvin's theology was the belief that God possessed all-encompassing power and knowledge. Calvin contended that God alone directed everything that has happened in the past, that happens in the present, and that will happen in the future. Thus, he argued, God determines the fate of every person—a doctrine he called predestination.

To advance his views, Calvin tried to turn the corrupt city of Geneva into a model religious community. He began this project in 1541 by establishing the Consistory, a church council of 12 elders that was given the power to control almost every aspect of people's daily lives. All citizens were required to attend Reformed church services several times each week. The Consistory inspected homes annually to make sure that no one was disobeying the laws that forbade fighting, swearing, drunkenness, gambling, card playing, and dancing. It dispensed harsh punishments to people who disobeyed any of these laws. People convicted of holding Catholic beliefs or of practicing witchcraft might even be executed. This strict atmosphere earned Geneva the title "City of God" and attracted reformers from all parts of Europe.

Visitors to Geneva helped to spread Calvinism, or John Calvin's teaching, throughout Europe. Because the Calvinist church was led by local councils of ministers and elected church members, it was easy to establish in most countries. Furthermore, the somewhat democratic structure of this organization gave its participants a stake in its welfare and inspired their intense loyalty.

The people of the Netherlands and Scotland became some of Calvin's most ardent supporters. John Knox, a leader of the Reformation in Scotland, and other reformers used Calvin's teachings to encourage moral people to overthrow tyrannical rulers. They preached, as Calvin had, "We must obey princes and others who are in authority, but only insofar as they do not deny to God, the supreme King, Father, and Lord, what is due Him." Calvinism thus became a dynamic social force in western Europe in the 1500s and contributed to the rise of revolutionary movements later in the 1600s and 1700s.

Radical Reformers

Several new Protestant groups in western Europe, called the **Anabaptists**, initiated the practice of baptizing, or admitting into their groups, only adult members. They based this practice on the belief that only people who could make a free

and informed choice to become Christians should be allowed to do so. Catholic and established Protestant churches, in contrast, baptized infants, making them church members.

Many Anabaptists denied the authority of local governments to direct their lives. They refused to hold office, bear arms, or swear oaths, and many lived separate from a society they saw as sinful. Consequently, they were often persecuted by government officials, forcing many Anabaptists to wander from country to country seeking refuge.

Although most Anabaptists were peaceful, others were fanatical in their beliefs. These zealots brought about the downfall of the rest. When in 1534 radical Anabaptists seized power in the German city of Münster and proceeded to burn books, seize private property, and practice polygamy, Lutherans and Catholics united to crush them. Together they killed the Anabaptist leaders and persecuted any surviving Anabaptist believers.

As a result, many Anabaptist groups left Europe for North America during the 1600s. In the Americas, the Anabaptists promoted two ideas that would become crucial in forming the United States of America: religious liberty and separation of church and state.

England's Church

Reformation ideas filtered into England during the 1500s. A serious quarrel between King **Henry VIII** and the pope, however, brought these ideas to the forefront.

The quarrel arose over succession to the throne. Although Henry's wife **Catherine of Aragon** had borne six children, only one child, Mary, survived. Henry wanted to leave a male heir to the throne so that England might not be plunged into another civil war like the Wars of the Roses. Believing that Catherine was too old to have more children, the king decided to marry **Anne Boleyn**. In 1527 Henry

Footnotes to History

King Henry VIII

Henry VIII was a typical Renaissance ruler who tried

to excel in many areas. He enjoyed tennis, jousting, music, and discussions about religion and the sciences. He wrote a book of theology and composed several pieces of music, one of which may have been the song "Greensleeves."



History & Art Henry VIII, a portrait by Hans Holbein, shows the king's splendid royal attire, reflecting his authority. Why did Henry seek Parliament's support in breaking with the Catholic Church?

asked the pope to agree to a divorce between himself and Catherine. But Catherine's nephew was the powerful Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, upon whom the pope depended for protection. Charles wanted Catherine to remain as queen of England in order to influence the country's policies in favor of his own interests. The pope refused Henry's request.

Henry would not be thwarted. Gradually, and with Parliament's backing, he succeeded in breaking England's ties with the Catholic Church. The English Parliament granted Henry more authority over the English clergy. By rallying Parliament's

support, Henry was trying to show that breaking with the Catholic Church was the will of the English people, not merely a whim of his own. In 1534 Parliament finally passed the law that separated the Church of England from Rome and declared Henry head of the English Church.

Henry had the new church grant him his divorce and then married Anne Boleyn. But Anne did not give him the heir he wanted. Instead she gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth. A few years after Elizabeth's birth, Henry had Anne beheaded for treason. Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour, finally gave birth to a son, Edward, but she herself died 12 days later. The king married three more times before his death in 1547, but none of these marriages produced male heirs.

The sickly 9-year-old Edward VI succeeded his father. Because Edward was too young to rule, a council of lords governed England for him. Since most of the council members were Protestants, they brought Protestant doctrines into the English Church.

Upon Edward's death in 1553, Henry's Catholic daughter **Mary** became queen. Mary tried to restore Catholicism in England by burning hundreds of Protestants at the stake. These atrocities earned her the nickname "Bloody Mary" and only served to strengthen people's support for Protestantism.

Mary's Protestant half sister took the throne in 1558, becoming Queen **Elizabeth I**. To unite her people, she made the English Church Protestant with Catholic features. Anglicanism, as this blend of Protestant belief and Catholic practice was called, pleased most churchgoers. However, some Protestants insisted on removing all Catholic rituals. Because they strove to purge these remnants of Catholicism, or "purify" the Church, these Protestants became known as Puritans. Although at first in the minority, Puritans gradually became influential both in the Church of England and in the English Parliament.

SECTION 4 REVIEW

Recall

- 1. Define** theocracy, predestination.
- 2. Identify** Huldrych Zwingli, John Calvin, the Anabaptists, Henry VIII, Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn, Edward VI, Mary, Elizabeth I.

- 3. Explain** why divisions appeared among the different reformers within the Protestant movement.

Critical Thinking

- 4. Making Comparisons** How did the Calvinists and Anabaptists differ in their attitudes

toward the government church members participating in government activities?

Understanding Themes

- 5. Cultural Diffusion** Why did the Catholic Church want to stop the spread of Protestant ideas?

1536 Pope Paul III calls for reforms.

1540 Ignatius of Loyola founds Society of Jesus.

1563 Council of Trent ends.

Section 5

The Catholic Reformation

Setting the Scene

- ▶ **Terms to Define**
seminary, baroque
- ▶ **People to Meet**
Pope Paul III, Ignatius of Loyola, the Jesuits
- ▶ **Places to Locate**
Trent

Find Out

How did the Catholic Church try to halt the spread of Protestantism?

The Storyteller

The Inquisition sometimes used "ordeals" to determine guilt or innocence, confident that God would give victory to an innocent person and punish the guilty. In the "Trial of the Cross," both parties, accuser and accused, stood before a cross with arms outstretched. The first to drop his arms was judged guilty. In the "Trial by Hot Water," the accused lifted a stone from the bottom of a boiling cauldron. If, after three days, his wound had healed,

he was innocent. In the "Trial by Cold Water," the accused was tied up and lowered into water. If he sank, he was innocent. If he floated, he was guilty.

—from *The Medieval Inquisition*, Albert Clement Shannon, 1983



Trial of Books (detail)

Most of the people in Spain, France, Italy, Portugal, Hungary, Poland, and southern Germany remained Catholic during the Protestant Reformation. Nevertheless, Catholicism's power was threatened by Protestantism's increasing popularity in northern Europe. To counter the Protestant challenge, Catholics decided to reform church practices. The Catholic Church had had a history of periodic reform since the Middle Ages. Thus, in the movement that came to be known as the Counter-Reformation, or Catholic Reformation, the Catholic Church eliminated many abuses, clarified its theology, and reestablished the pope's authority over church members.

Redefining Catholicism

In 1536 Pope Paul III established a distinguished commission of cardinals and bishops to prepare a report on the need for reform and how such reform might be undertaken. The completed report blamed church leaders, including popes, for many abuses. It also called for reforms that would convince Protestants to rejoin the Church.

The reforms undertaken as a result of this report were only partially carried out. The Church's financial problems had increased, and the Church was unable to respond quickly and effectively to the Protestant threat.

By the 1540s Catholic Church leaders, sensing the importance of checking the spread of Protestantism, finally decided to embark on an ambitious reform program. The goals were to eliminate abuses, introduce a rebirth of faith among its followers, reassess the Church's principles, restore the authority of the pope, and halt the spread of Protestantism.



History & Art

The Council of Trent by Titian. Held off and on for about 20 years, this church council reaffirmed Catholic doctrine and introduced reforms. What Bible was made the only acceptable version?

The Inquisition

In 1542 the Church gave full powers to an Inquisition, a church court based in Italy, to find, try, and judge heretics—especially Protestants. The purpose of the Inquisition, however, was not merely to rid Italy of non-Catholics. The purge was also intended to restore the pope's authority over church members. With the imposition of rigid repression, the pope succeeded in restoring his authority over the entire Italian Peninsula. The Church also introduced censorship to curtail the humanist thinking that had fueled Italy's Renaissance. In 1543 the Inquisition published the first Index of Prohibited Books.

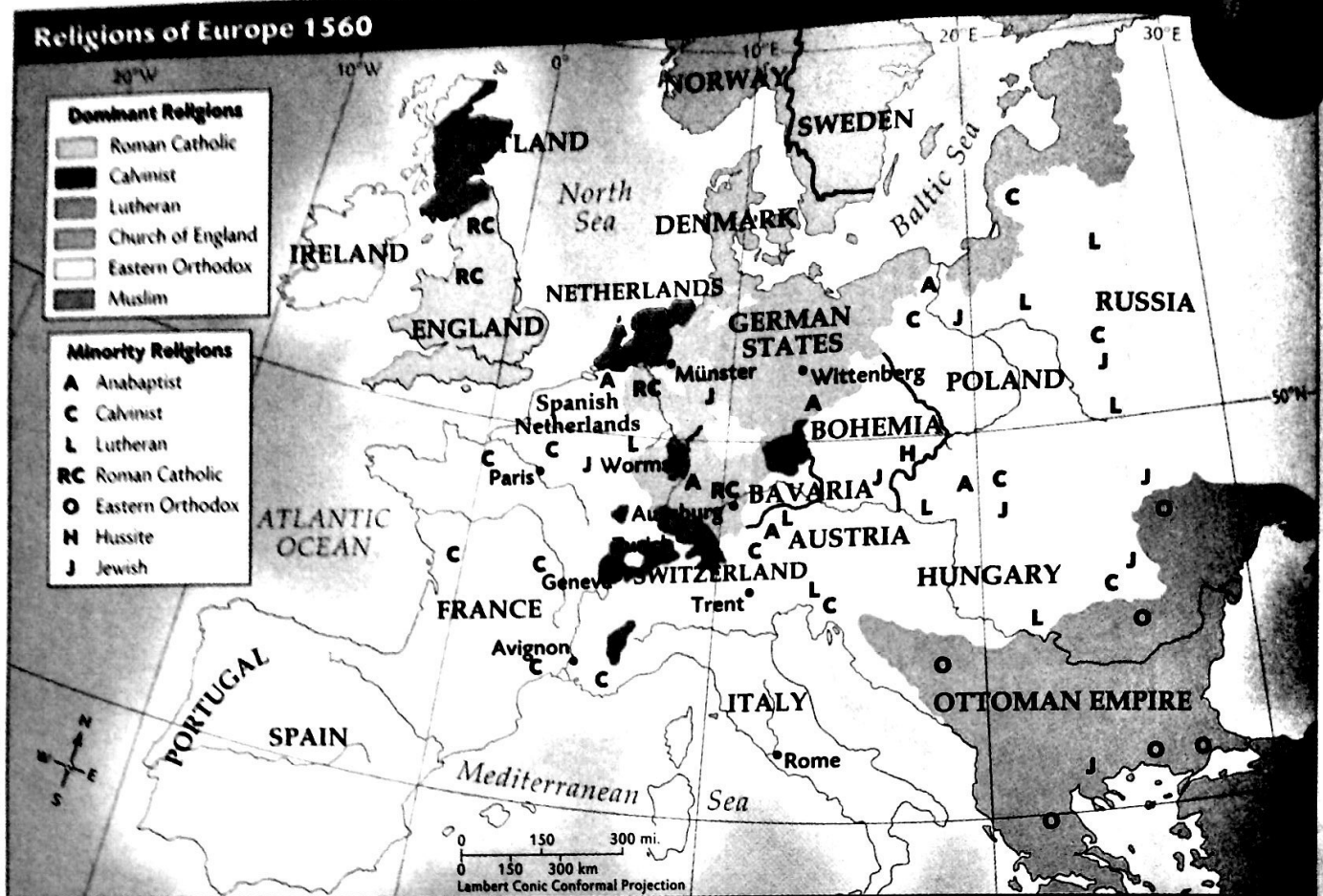
The Council of Trent

One of the needs of the Church was to clearly state and defend Catholic teaching. In 1545 Pope Paul III called a council of bishops at Trent, Italy, to define official doctrine. The Council of Trent met in several sessions from 1545 to 1563.

The Council strictly and clearly defined Catholic doctrine, especially teachings that the Protestants had challenged. Salvation, the Council declared, could not be achieved by faith alone, but only by faith and works together. The Latin Vulgate translation of the Bible was made the only acceptable version of scripture. In addition, the Church hierarchy alone was to decide the interpretation of the Bible.

The Council of Trent also put an end to many church abuses that had been practiced for centuries. It forbade the selling of indulgences. Clergy were ordered to follow strict rules of behavior. The Council decided that each diocese had to establish a seminary, or training school, for the proper education of priests.

The Council decided to maintain the elaborate art and ritual of the Church, and it declared that Mass should be said only in Latin. The Church's art and its Latin ritual were to serve as necessary sources of inspiration for less educated Catholics,



By 1560 many northern Europeans had become Protestants, yet most southern Europeans remained Catholics.
Region What were the results of this religious division?

who had difficulty understanding church teachings by other means. Thus, the Catholic Reformation renewed religious enthusiasm in the arts, sparking a new style of art and music called baroque (buh•ROHK). Renaissance art had demonstrated restraint, simplicity, and order, but baroque art emphasized emotion, complexity, and exaggeration for dramatic effect.

Spreading Catholicism

The Church planned to halt Protestantism in two phases. The first was to reform the Church. The second was to launch a missionary offensive against Protestants to reclaim formerly Catholic lands that were now Protestant.

Many religious orders and individuals in the Catholic Church became involved in this missionary effort. One reformer named **Ignatius of Loyola** played a particularly significant role. In 1521 Loyola gave up his life as a Spanish noble to serve the

Catholic Church. He developed a set of spiritual exercises to help people achieve inner peace. After a visit to Palestine, he decided to improve his education in order to preach more effectively. While in school, Loyola organized a group of followers to spread Catholic teachings. In 1536 the group went to Rome determined to win souls, not by the sword, but by educating the young.

In 1540 Loyola and his followers founded the Society of Jesus, later known as the **Jesuits**. Organized along military lines, the Jesuits pledged absolute obedience to the pope, wore the black robes of monks, and lived simple lives but did not withdraw from the world. They believed, as Loyola said, "The more universal your work, the more divine it becomes."

The Jesuits preached to the people, helped the poor, and set up schools. They also taught in universities, worked as missionaries, and served as advisers in royal courts. The Jesuits carried their message throughout Europe and in countries as far away as India, China, Japan, Brazil, and Ethiopia.

to strengthen the faith of Catholics and bring Protestants back to the Church.

The Jesuits' missionary efforts helped the Catholic Church to retain the loyalty of people in southern Germany, Bohemia, Poland, and Hungary. The Jesuits also established many universities, which remained prominent centers of education in Europe for the next 200 years. At these centers Jesuits not only taught Roman Catholic theology and philosophy but also advanced the study of physics, astronomy, mathematics, archaeology, linguistics, biology, chemistry, and genetics.

Results of the Reformation

By the mid-1500s, the Catholic Church had strengthened its following and reclaimed some territories that had previously been won over by Protestants. This success was due in part to the Catholic Reformation that had increased religious devotion and helped correct many church abuses.

The Catholic Reformation, however, did not succeed in its efforts to eliminate Protestantism. Large areas of Europe remained Protestant—especially in the north. Northern Germany and Scandinavia were mostly Lutheran as a result of the efforts of monarchs and princes. Areas of southern Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Scotland—with their growing economic wealth based in towns—held to Calvinist beliefs. England, divided in its religious loyalties, developed its own Anglican Church, a mixture of Protestantism and Catholicism under royal control.

There were many reasons why Europeans in large numbers supported Protestantism. One reason was undoubtedly religious conviction. However, nonreligious factors were also involved. German princes often accepted Protestant teachings in order to increase their own power. They made Lutheranism or Calvinism the state religion of their territories, placing it under their protection and control. They also seized lands and wealth owned by the Catholic Church.



Visualizing History

Jesuit missionaries in Japan are depicted by a Japanese painter. Who founded the original Society of Jesus?

Townpeople also rallied to the new faith, which supported their business practices. Many peasants sided with Protestantism as a form of protest against the Catholic nobility. Above all, northern Europeans saw Protestantism as a way to defy an Italian-controlled Catholic Church that drained so much money from their homelands.

For centuries, Europe would be roughly divided into a Protestant north and a Catholic south. During the 1500s and early 1600s this division would especially have catastrophic consequences, with each side wanting to prove that its faith was the true one. These religious claims erupted into full-scale religious wars, which ravaged Europe and brought great hardships to its people.

SECTION 5 REVIEW

Recall

1. **Define** seminary, baroque.
2. **Identify** Pope Paul III, Ignatius of Loyola, the Jesuits.
3. **List** the educational opportunities provided by the Jesuits.

Critical Thinking

4. **Analyzing Information** List any three of the reforms proposed by the Council of Trent. Beside each, give the Protestant viewpoint to which it responded.

Understanding Themes

5. **Reaction** Evaluate the actions the Church took to halt the spread of Protestantism and their effects. Which were successful, and which were not?