REFORMATION AND COUNTER-REFORMATION

Causes of the Reformation

- The Renaissance and Humanism led people to question Church authority.
- Strong monarchs were emerging. Sometimes they increased their power by going against the wishes of the Church.
- Ordinary people began to question the worldliness of the Church. Many felt that Church leaders
 acted more like kings and politicians than men of God. Others objected to increased fees for
 marriages and baptisms, and the selling of indulgences (pardons for sins).

Protestant Reformers

Martin Luther John Calvin He was a German monk Born in France Posted 95 Theses or arguments against the Believed that Christians could reach Church in 1517 in Wittenberg, Germany heaven by faith alone Did not believe in the sale of indulgences Believed people are born sinners Believed Christians reached heaven only Believed in predestination (God through faith in God, not by faith and good determined before the beginning of time who would gain salvation) deeds Did not believe priests had special powers Believed in living a strict, frugal, and disciplined life Believed that the Pope could not grant Had ideas that spread to Germany, France, pardon for sins Believed the Bible was the only source of Holland, England, and Scotland truth Led a community in Switzerland called Calvinists. He was excommunicated Had ideas that spread to northern Germany and Scandinavia His followers called themselves Protestants and eventually Lutherans

Martin Luther

John Calvin



The Counter Reformation

- The purpose of the Counter Reformation was a reform movement in the Catholic Church to strengthen the Church and keep Catholics from converting to Protestantism.
- Pope Paul III called the Council of Trent in 1545 to guide the reform movement. The council, which met on and off for 20 years, reaffirmed traditional Catholic beliefs and worked to end abuses in the Church. It also ended the sale of indulgences and created the Index a list of banned books.
- Ignatius Loyola founded the Society of Jesus or the Jesuits. Jesuits were a religious order that emphasized strict moral and spiritual life and they saw themselves as the defender of the Catholic Church. They spread Catholicism to Asia, Africa, and the Americas.
- The Inquisition was when the Church used a court made up of Church officials to root out heresy by force. Trials were held, often using torture, to find people suspected of having beliefs that differed from Church teachings.



Effects of the Reformation

- The Reformation created a loss of religious unity in Western Europe. Political divisions resulted as well. Rulers often chose a religion for their nations. While some states remained Catholic, others became Protestant.
- For more than 100 years after the Reformation, wars sparked by religion raged in Europe. In the 1500s religious civil wars occurred in Germany, France, and England.
- The Reformation brought even more persecution to Jews. Protestants and Catholics forced Jews to leave their homes, live in separate neighborhoods, and even murdered them.
- Religious fanatics led people to accuse others (especially women) of being witches. Thousands were put to death for this reason.