

Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura, Solus Christus, Sola  
Gratia, Soli Deo Gloria



# THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

*A GUIDE FOR TEACHERS &  
STUDENTS*



## *Chapter 1*

# WHAT WERE THE CAUSES & EFFECTS OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION?

### Film Clip: Martin Luther

Growing concerns about the corrupt power and influence of the Catholic Church in the 16th century fomented challenges to church doctrine known as the Protestant Reformation. Questionable church practices included simony, indulgences, excessive papal wealth, and clerical violations of church and biblical rules of behavior. The initial challenges to Catholic orthodoxy were meant to reform the practices of the church, but ultimately led to a schism in European Christendom. The split in European Christianity resulted in far-reaching political and social changes.





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## **Chapter 1: What were the causes and effects of the Protestant Reformation?**

### **Essential Questions**

1. What was the purpose of selling indulgences?
2. Which groups were impacted the most by the selling of indulgences?
3. What were the practices of the church that were considered corrupt?
4. How did the invention/use of the printing press impact the Protestant Reformation?

### **Key Vocabulary**

Indulgences

Protestant

Reform

Christendom

Purgatory

Simony

Nepotism

Pluralism

Salvation

95 Theses

Sacraments

Pope Leo X

### ***The Selling of Indulgences***

The most controversial practice during the Reformation period was the selling of indulgences by the Catholic Church. Indulgences were papal pardons for the reduction of the time a soul spent in purgatory. The money raised by the sell of indulgences was used to fund the construction of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome as authorized by Pope Leo X in the early 1500's.

### ***Groups Impacted by the Selling of Indulgences***

Many groups prospered and suffered as a result of the selling of indulgences. Besides the steady flow of vast sums of money into the hands of church officials, merchants, laborers, and bankers gained wealth through the use of money obtained from the selling of indulgences. On the other hand, state and national leaders, such as the German princes, saw their coffers regularly depleted as funds flowed south to Rome. Enticed by the idea of a quicker avenue to heaven, the poor were encouraged to spend money on a religious luxury they could not afford.

### ***Corrupt Practices within the Church***

While indulgences were a key focus of reformers during this time, many other questionable practices preceded it. For many years, clerical immorality such as the neglect of celibacy, drunkenness, and gambling, led people to question the moral authority of the church. Other questionable administrative practices included simony, nepotism, and

pluralism. All of these practices had the cumulative effect of diminishing the respect for and authority of the Catholic Church.

### ***Impact of the Printing Press***

The Reformation period was greatly impacted by the invention of the printing press. Johann Gutenberg's improvement on moveable type allowed for Reformation ideas to spread more rapidly and have a broader impact. The most profound effect of the printing press was its impact on literacy. Printed materials became more affordable and accessible to an ever widening audience.

**Explore:** [The Gutenberg Bible Exhibition](#)

### **Activity**

Using a marker, divide a blank piece of paper into four equal squares. Now choose one vocabulary word from the chapter and fill in each square with the following:

Square 1: Write the term.

Square 2: Write the definition of the term.

Square 3: Use the Internet to find 3 additional facts on your term.

Square 4: Draw a picture that explains your term or represents something about it.

### *Review 1.1*

#### **Question 1 of 4**

Which of these was not a questionable Church practice prior to the Reformation?

- ☐ **A.** Indulgences
- ☐ **B.** Neglect of Celibacy
- ☒ **C.** Doctrine of the Trinity
- ☐ **D.** Pluralism



Check Answer





## *Chapter 2*

# WHO WERE THE LEADING REFORMERS OF THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION?

There were many early challengers to the authority of the Catholic Church prior to Martin Luther posting his 95 Theses on the church doors in Wittenburg. Leaders such as John Wycliffe and Jan Huss, had previously questioned many of the practices that came to be common in the medieval church. Years later, Luther's challenge to church doctrine and unity encouraged other religious reformers like John Calvin. Calvin's doctrines spread from Geneva, Switzerland to the British Isles. In the British Isles what is known as the English Reformation was begun out of the dynastic concerns of King Henry VIII.





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## **Chapter 2: Who were the leading reformers of the Protestant Reformation?**

### **Essential Questions**

1. What/who were the influences on Martin Luther?
2. Compare/contrast the differences in doctrine between the leading reformers.
3. What were the major challenges that were faced by the early reformers?
4. Did the leading reformers help or hinder each other?

### **Key Vocabulary**

Martin Luther

John Calvin

Ulrich Zwingli

John Wycliffe

Jan Huss

Predestination

Transubstantiation

Consubstantiation

Excommunication

Diet of Worms

Interpretation

### ***Influences on Martin Luther***

Two of the early reformers whose works influenced Martin Luther and his concepts were John Wycliffe and Jan Huss. Wycliffe questioned the extravagance of the Church which resulted in his dismissal from his teaching position at Oxford University in England. The second person who impacted Luther's ideas was Jan Huss. Huss called into question the Church's immorality and worldliness. As a result, Huss was excommunicated and burned at the stake in 1412. Both of these early reformers also gave mass in the vernacular versus in Latin. Also, John Wycliffe was an early advocate of translating the Bible into the vernacular.

### ***Varying Doctrines of the Leading Reformers***

Each of the leading reformers developed concepts that were both similar to each other but yet unique to the individual reformer. For example, one of John Calvin's key ideas was the concept of predestination. This is the doctrine that the future is predetermined and that the "elect" will be saved. Martin Luther disagreed with Calvin's doctrine of predestination. However, both Calvin and Luther challenged the validity of the sacramental system of the Church. They believed that only baptism and communion were scripturally based and should be practiced by believers. In addition, early reformers believed in the concept of consubstantiation versus



transubstantiation. Consubstantiation is the belief that the bread and wine at communion represent the body and blood of Christ. Transubstantiation, the Catholic doctrine, proposes that the wine and bread become the body and blood of Christ.

### ***Challenges Faced by Reformers***

Each of the early reformers faced opposition from both the Church, the secular rulers, and their own communities. The initial skepticism of these groups quickly gave way to more hostile reactions which included excommunication, being shunned or in extreme cases being put to death. Financing their movements was also an issue. They required the patronage of a state or national ruler to back their cause.

### ***Fellow Reformers; Help or Hinderance.***

Each of the successive reformers benefitted at times from the experiences of his predecessors. Martin Luther, for example, when called to appear before the Diet of Worms in 1521, insisted on a guarantee of safe passage to and from the hearing. He insisted on this as a result of the execution of Jan Huss in 1415. Huss was similarly called before a church council to answer for his writing and vernacular preaching in Bohemia. His refusal to recant his beliefs and refrain from these practices led to his death as a result of the condemnation of that council. Different interpretations of Scriptural doctrine, however, led to divisions among the reformers which hindered them in their challenge to a unified Catholic Church.

## *Review 2.1*

### **Question 1 of 5**

Place the key figures in the locations where they belong.



|                 |            |            |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Luther          | Calvin     | Henry VIII |
| Ignatius of ... | Pope Leo X | John Knox  |



Check Answer

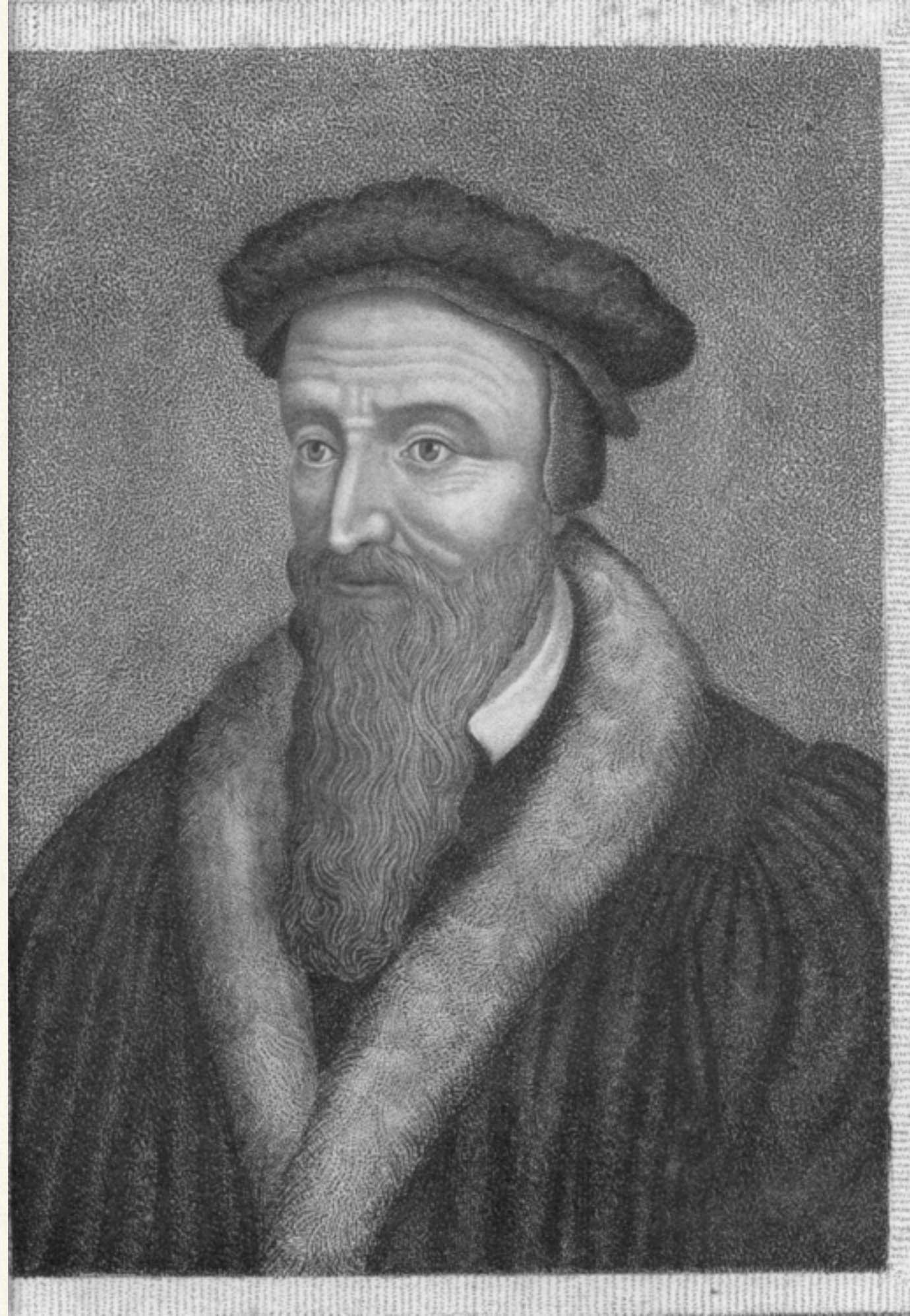




## *Chapter 3*

# WHAT WERE THE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL RAMIFICATIONS OF THE REFORMATION?

One of the effects of the Reformation and the lessening influence of the Catholic Church was that rulers wanted the church to be less involved in matters of state. This could be seen most clearly in England as Henry VIII proceeded to break from papal authority and establish the Church of England. Changes could also be seen throughout society as the Protestant emphasis on the individual reading Scripture placed a demand on improving literacy. Additionally, both Catholics and Protestants in their zeal to defend their faith, targeted religious minorities such as Jews and Muslims.





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## Chapter 3: What were the political and social ramifications of the Reformation?

### Essential Questions

1. How did the Protestant Reformation impact women? How did it impact the poor?
2. Did the Protestant Reformation increase or decrease the power of European monarchs?
3. What effect did the Reformation have on literacy?
4. Which European nations experienced the greatest and longest lasting impacts of the Reformation?

### Key Vocabulary

Persecution

Papal Authority

Vernacular

Theocracy

Monarchy

Act of Supremacy

Peasant Revolt

The League of Schmalkalden

Peace of Augsburg

Charles V

William Tyndale

Henry VIII

### *Women and the Poor during the Reformation*

The Protestant Reformation elevated the status of women in several ways. It emphasized the importance of marriage and the role of the woman in the Christian home. It encouraged the education of girls as the future teacher and nurturer in the home as wife and mother. The poor were influenced by Luther's writings and preaching to demand economic reforms through armed rebellion in the German states. While the economic reforms were supported by Luther, the violence actions of the peasants to achieve them earned his condemnation.

### *Power of the Monarchs during the Reformation*

The most impressive example of an expansion of power by a Reformation monarch is that of Henry VIII of England. Henry's desire for a male heir to the throne led to a complete break with the Roman Catholic Church when it rejected his marriage annulment petition. The Church of England was then established by Henry to give to the monarch control over ecclesiastical affairs in England. An example of the subsequent loss of power by a monarch was Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor. As a result of the Peace of Augsburg, 1555, Charles surrendered his right to choose the church for the German people. In addition, many of the newly converted Protestant monarchs enjoyed assuming control of Catholic church property and revenue.

[\*\*View Music Video: Henry & His Wives\*\*](#)



## Explore: Henry's Wives Continued

### ***Impact on Literacy***

The Protestant Reformers encouraged their followers to become literate in order to read the Scriptures. Martin Luther and William Tyndale, among others, translated the Scriptures into the vernacular languages of their countrymen in Germany and England. This encouraged a desire for literacy in order to facilitate a personal understanding of the Scriptures.

### ***Effects of the Reformation on European Nations***

The Protestant Reformation often led to opposition to the throne and the established church. In France those politically opposed to the throne allied themselves with the religious dissenters known as the Huguenots. This led to multi-year civil war throughout France. In England, as the off-spring of Henry VIII struggled for control of the throne, the new Church of England persevered through tumultuous times. In Ireland, the English ruling class adopted the Church of England while the Irish people remained predominantly Roman Catholic. In the German states, the northern states were largely Lutheran while the southern states tended to remain Roman Catholic.

**Activity: Think Pair Share** - With a partner create a chart listing the positive and negative effects of the Reformation on women. Then with your partner, decide if it was more beneficial for women to adopt Protestant beliefs or remain with the Catholic Church.

### *Review 3.1*

#### **Question 1 of 4**

Why did Henry VIII split from the Catholic Church?

- ☒ **A.** He was not granted a marriage annulment.
- ☐ **B.** He was at war with Rome.
- ☐ **C.** He wanted to be the head of the Church.
- ☐ **D.** His first wife was not Catholic.



Check Answer





## *Chapter 4*

# WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF THE REFORMATION ON EXPLORATION & COLONIZATION?

In addition to the economic motivation for exploration and discovery, religious zeal to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ was also a powerful motivating factor. The split in Western Christianity caused by the Protestant Reformation did not diminish that zeal, but on the contrary it gave the additional powerful motivating factor of the escape of religious persecution which characterized the reason for the establishment of many new world colonies.





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## **Chapter 4: What was the impact of the Reformation on exploration and colonization?**

### **Essential Questions**

1. How did the Protestant Reformation impact the effort of European nations to control the colonies?
2. Which motivation for exploration and discovery was the most powerful--economic or religious? Or were they equally motivating?
3. How did the religious beliefs of the explorers impact the indigenous people?

### **Key Vocabulary**

Converts

Missionary

Christopher Columbus

Ferdinand and Isabella

Columbian Exchange

Colonization

Indigenous

Imperialism

Heathen

### ***The Reformation's Impact on Colonization***

As a result of the Protestant Reformation, the race for colonies was driven in part by the desire to convert indigenous peoples to the Protestant or Catholic Faith. In South and Central America, the Spanish conquistadors were followed by Jesuit priests and colonists. The English colonies in North America represented the entire spectrum of Christendom. Puritans, Quakers, Catholics, and Anglicans all inhabited various portions of the thirteen colonies.

### ***Economic and Religious Motivations***

Gold, glory, and God, were all equally compelling motivations for exploration and discovery. The desire to spread the Gospel often competed with the desire for gold. The Catholic majesties of Spain, for example, filled their treasury with New World silver and gold which simultaneously sending Jesuits over to establish missions to spread the Gospel among the indigenous people. Spain's successful empire building created interest, jealousy, and then competition with France, the Netherlands and England. This competition soon led to wars for global, political, economic, and religious domination.

### ***Impact on Indigenous People***

Missions were established throughout Latin America to seek converts and educate them in the ways of Catholicism. Native Americans in these Spanish holdings were voluntarily and/or forcefully converted to Catholicism. Many others

were used as slave laborers by the Spanish land owners. Mistreatment of the native population was often justified by their “heathen” practices and refusal to convert to Christianity. Unintentionally, these contacts resulted in the spread of diseases, such as small pox, that drastically reduced the overall native population.

**Activity:** Write a paragraph explaining which explorer and country had the greatest impact on the indigenous people of the New World. Use the link below to send me your answer.



### *Review 4.1*

#### **Question 1 of 4**

Which European nation was the first to have a significant religious impact in the New World?

- ☐ **A.** The Netherlands
- ☐ **B.** France
- ☐ **C.** England
- ☒ **D.** Spain



Check Answer

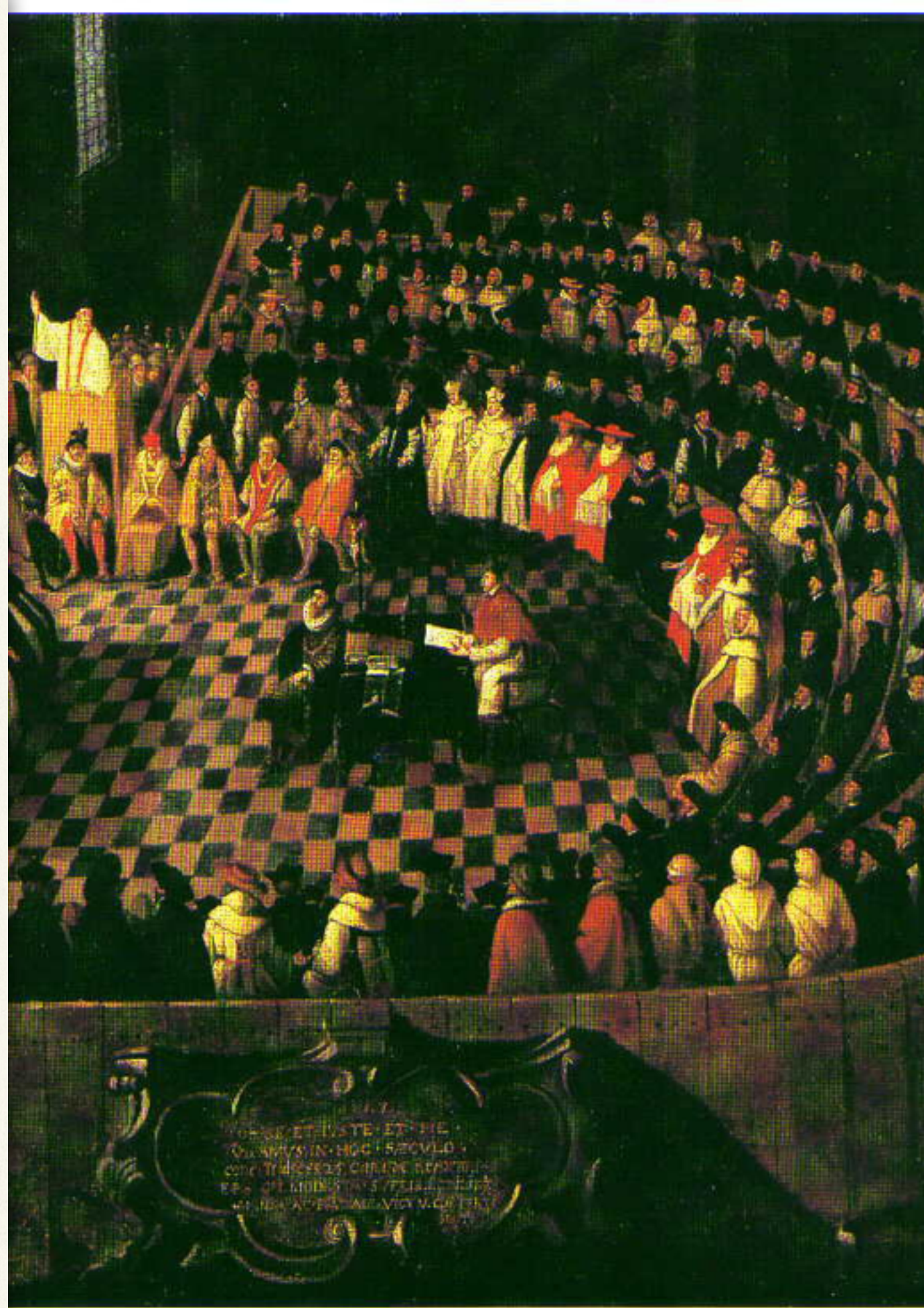




## *Chapter 5*

# WHAT EFFECT DID THE REFORMATION HAVE ON THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

In a counter reformation, the Catholic Church established the Inquisition, a church court designed to try people accused of heresy which often included Protestants as victims of this church justice. Additionally, the church created an index of forbidden books in order to stamp out heretical rebellious doctrines. To further promote Catholicism, new religious orders were found such as the Jesuits.





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## **Chapter 5: What effect did the Reformation have on the Catholic Church?**

### **Essential Questions**

1. What was the reaction of the Catholic Church to the early reformers?
2. How did the Catholic Church combat the spread of Protestant ideals? List some positive and negative methods used by the church in this endeavor.
3. What was the purpose/impact of the Council of Trent?
4. Would you judge the Inquisition to have been a success or failure? Why?

### **Key Vocabulary**

Heresy

Inquisition

Jesuits

Ignatius of Loyola

Friars

Council of Trent

Ursuline Order

Teresa of Avila

Index of Forbidden Books

### ***Catholic Church Response to Early Reformers***

The Catholic Church used multiple methods to respond to perceived heresies within the Church. Punishments ranged from recantation, to excommunication, to death. In addition, the Catholic Church developed a list of approved books and a list of subversive books for the benefit of their members. The list of subversive books was known as the Index of Forbidden Books.

### ***Stopping the Spread of Protestantism***

The Catholic Church formed two new institutions to combat the spread of Protestantism and to return people to the fold. The Jesuit Order, founded by Ignatius of Loyola, used education as a means to stem the tide of Protestantism. They established schools and universities to aid them in the process achieving considerable results. Also, the Ursuline Order, founded by Teresa of Avila, was established by the Catholic Church to educate and regain the loyalty of young girls. On a darker note, the Court of the Inquisition sought harsher means of combating heresy and preventing dissent from Church teachings. Likewise, the Index of Forbidden Books was an unsuccessful attempt to stop the spread of Protestant theology.



### ***The Council of Trent Convenes***

The Council of Trent was convened in 1545 to confront the growing Protestant threat to the supremacy of the Roman Catholic Church and its doctrine. The most important conclusion that the Council reached was to reaffirm the equal validity of Scripture and church tradition. The Church also retained the right of sole interpreter of the meaning of the Scriptures. In addition the Church repudiated the Protestant claim that faith alone secured salvation. The Church would continue to preach instead the doctrine of faith and good works.

### ***The Inquisition: Success or Failure?***

Prior to the Protestant Reformation, the church had occasionally used Inquisitions to stamp out perceived heretical activities, the most famous being the Spanish Inquisition in 1478. With the Reformation, the Church established a more permanent institution called the Roman Inquisition to vigorously pursue and stamp out this new and more virulent heresy. Similar to the early Spanish Inquisition they employed tactics such as: imprisonment, confiscation of property, and using the secular authorities to torture victims to extort confessions and carry out punishments. Contrary to the hopes of the Roman Inquisitors, they did not succeed in stamping out the Protestant Churches nor bringing the majority of their members back into the fold of the Roman Catholic Church. Ultimately the secular authorities in Italy would end the Roman Inquisition in mid eighteenth century.

**Activity: Torture: Beneficial or Ineffective Mean of Interrogation?** Watch the video below and conduct your own research to prepare for a class debate at the chosen time of the instructor. Be prepared to defend either side regardless of your personal opinion.

### ***Video: The Torture Debate***

#### *Review 5.1*

#### **Question 1 of 4**

What was the name of the list of subversive books created by the Catholic Church?

- ☐ **A.** Undesirables
- ☐ **B.** The Heresies
- ☒ **C.** The Index of Forbidden Books
- ☐ **D.** The Glossary of the Forbidden



Check Answer





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