

## Germany



Martin Luther



Charles V

### The Peasants' Revolt

Some people began to apply Luther's revolutionary ideas to society. In 1524, German peasants, excited by reformers' talk of Christian freedom, demanded an end to **serfdom (feudalism)**. Bands (groups) of angry peasants went about the countryside raiding monasteries, pillaging, and burning. The revolt horrified Luther. He wrote a pamphlet (article) urging the German princes to show the peasants no mercy. The princes' armies crushed the revolt, killing as many as 100,000 people. Feeling betrayed, many peasants rejected Luther's religious leadership.

### Germany at War

In **contrast** (difference) to the upset peasants, many northern German Princes supported Lutheranism. While some princes genuinely shared Luther's beliefs, others liked Luther's ideas for selfish reasons. They saw his teachings as a good excuse to **seize** (take) Church property and to assert their independence from Charles V.

In 1529, German Princes who remained loyal to the Pope agreed to join forces against Luther's ideas. Those German Princes who supported Luther signed a **protest** against that agreement. These protesting Princes came to be known as **Protestants (Protestors)**. Eventually, the term Protestant was applied to Christians who belonged to non-Catholic churches.

Still determined that his subjects should remain Catholic, Charles V went to war against the Protestant Princes. Even though he defeated them in 1547, he failed to force them back into the Catholic Church. In 1555, Charles, weary (tired) of fighting, ordered all German Princes, both Protestant and Catholic, to assemble in the city of Augsburg. There the Princes agreed that each ruler would decide the religion of his state. This famous religious settlement was known as the **Peace of Augsburg**.

## The English Reformation



Henry VIII



Catherine of Aragon



Pope Clement VII



Anne Boleyn



Sir Thomas More



Elizabeth I

In 1509 the King of England, Henry VIII, married Catherine of Aragon from Spain. She was his brother's widow and the youngest child of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand. They had a daughter, Mary, in 1516; as well as a son. The son died in infancy, though, leaving Henry with no male heir. After years of no male heir, Henry was fed up. He wished to **annul** his marriage with his wife. This is an action that officially ends a marriage. He turned to the Catholic Church for help.

Henry VIII was a strong supporter of the Catholic Church. He had even written an essay defending the Church at the beginning of the Reformation. For this he received the title "Defender of Faith" from Pope Leo X in 1521.

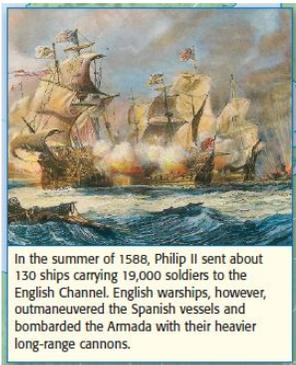
In 1527, Henry asked Pope Clement VII for an **annulment**, an official ending of a marriage recognized by the Catholic Church. He had already found his next bride in Anne Boleyn. The Pope refused. An angry Henry ignored the Pope's ruling and **banished** Queen Catherine from the court, giving all her rooms to Anne. All blame for the Pope's ruling fell onto the Lord Chancellor, Thomas Wolsey. Wolsey was stripped of his title and replaced by Sir Thomas More in 1529.

As Henry's defiance of the Pope grew stronger, More's **qualms** (problems) grew, as well. In 1532, Thomas Cromwell brought before **Parliament**, England's lawmaking body, a number of **acts** (rules) that shows the royal supremacy or control that the King has over the Church. More, a devoted Catholic, stepped down as Lord Chancellor, leaving the job to Cromwell. More would be executed, beheaded, for **treason** (going against your country) for keeping with his Catholic beliefs.

In 1533, Henry married Anne without the consent or approval of the Pope or Catholic Church. She gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, also that year. That next year, Parliament passed the **Act of Supremacy** that gave Henry control over the Church of England. The split with the Catholic Church was complete. All adults in England had to take an **oath** (promise) that they acknowledged and agree to the Act and printing anything about the King's annulment and future marriage as invalid could be punishable by death.

Over the next few years, Henry realized Anne too, could not give him a son and he had her executed in 1536. His third wife, Jane Seymour, died after complications giving birth to Henry's only son, Edward VI in 1537. Henry annulled his marriage to his fourth wife, and executed his fifth. He died in 1547 while married to his sixth wife, Catherine Parr. His heir to the throne, his only son, Edward VI, died at the age of 15 while trying to keep his older half-sisters, Elizabeth and Mary, from gaining the throne. Catherine of Aragon's daughter, Mary I, a devoted Catholic came to rule next in 1553 and when she died Anne Boleyn's daughter, Elizabeth I came to rule in 1558. She was Protestant and upheld her father's later ideas on religion. She was also the first **monarch** to recognize she ruled by popular **consent**. (the people wanted her)

## Spain



**Famous Spanish Armada**



**King Phillip II of Spain**

### SETTING THE STAGE

Charles V became the new ruler of Spain in 1516. He became one of the most powerful kings ever in Europe. As the Hapsburg King, Charles inherited Spain, Spain's American colonies, parts of Italy, and lands in Austria and the Netherlands. As the elected **Holy Roman Emperor**, he ruled much of Germany. It was the first time since Charlemagne that a European ruler controlled so much territory.

## A Powerful Spanish Empire

A devout Catholic, Charles not only fought Muslims but also opposed Lutherans. In 1555, he unwillingly agreed to the **Peace of Augsburg**, which allowed German princes to choose the religion for their territory. The following year, Charles V divided his **immense** (large) empire and retired to a monastery. To his brother Ferdinand, he left Austria and the Holy Roman Empire. His son, Philip II, inherited Spain, the Spanish Netherlands, and the American colonies.

## Philip II's Empire

In 1580, the King of Portugal died without an heir. Because Philip was the king's nephew, he seized the Portuguese kingdom. Counting Portuguese strongholds in Africa, India, and the East Indies, he now had an empire that circled the globe.

Philip's empire provided him with incredible wealth. By 1600, American mines had supplied Spain with an estimated 339,000 pounds of gold. With this wealth, Spain was able to support a large standing army of about 50,000 soldiers.

## Defender of Catholicism

When Philip **assumed** (took control) the throne, Europe was experiencing religious wars caused by the Reformation. However, religious conflict was not new to Spain. The **Reconquista**, the campaign to drive Muslims from Spain, had been completed only 64 years before. In addition, Philip's great-grandparents Isabella and Ferdinand had used the Court of Inquisition to investigate suspected **heretics**, or non-believers in Christianity.

Philip believed it was his duty to defend Catholicism against the Muslims of the Ottoman Empire and the Protestants of Europe. In 1571, the Pope called on all Catholic princes to take up arms against the mounting power of the Ottoman Empire. Philip responded like a true crusader. More than 200 Spanish and Venetian ships defeated a large Ottoman fleet in a fierce battle near Lepanto. In 1588, Philip launched the Spanish Armada in an attempt to punish Protestant England and its queen, Elizabeth. Elizabeth had supported Protestant subjects who had rebelled against Philip. However, his fleet was defeated by Elizabeth.

Although this setback seriously weakened Spain, its wealth gave it the appearance of strength for a while longer. Philip's gray granite palace, the Escorial, had massive walls and huge gates that demonstrated his power. The Escorial also reflected Philip's faith. Within its walls stood a monastery as well as a palace.

# Netherlands

## The Dutch Revolt

In the Spanish Netherlands, Philip had to maintain an army to keep his subjects under control. The Dutch had little in common with their Spanish rulers. While Spain was Catholic, the Netherlands had many Calvinist congregations. Also, Spain had a sluggish economy, while the Dutch had a prosperous middle class. Philip raised taxes in the Netherlands and took steps to crush Protestantism. In response, in 1566, angry Protestant mobs swept through Catholic churches. Philip then sent an army under the Spanish duke of Alva to punish the rebels. On a single day in 1568, the duke executed 1,500 Protestants and suspected rebels. The Dutch continued to fight the Spanish for another 11 years. Finally, in 1579, the seven northern provinces of the Netherlands, which were largely Protestant, united and declared their independence from Spain. They became the United Provinces of the Netherlands. The ten southern provinces (present-day Belgium) were Catholic and remained under Spanish control.

## The Independent Dutch Prosper

The United Provinces of the Netherlands was different from other European states of the time. For one thing, the people there practiced religious toleration. In addition, the United Provinces was not a kingdom but a republic. Each province had an elected governor, whose power depended on the support of merchants and landholders.

## Dutch Trading Empire

The stability of the government allowed the Dutch people to concentrate on economic growth. The merchants of Amsterdam bought surplus grain in Poland and crammed it into their warehouses. When they heard about poor harvests in southern Europe, they shipped the grain south while prices were highest. The Dutch had the largest fleet of ships in the world—perhaps 4,800 ships in 1636. This fleet helped the Dutch East India Company (a trading company controlled by the Dutch government) to dominate the Asian spice trade and the Indian Ocean trade. Gradually, the Dutch replaced the Italians as the bankers of Europe.

## France



**King Henry IV**



**Cardinal Richelieu**

### SETTING THE STAGE

In 1559, King Henry II of France died, leaving four young sons. Three of them ruled, one after the other, but all proved **incompetent** (horrible rulers). The real power behind the throne during this period was their mother, Catherine de Médicis. Catherine tried to preserve royal authority, but growing conflicts between Catholics and Huguenots (French Protestants) rocked the country. Between 1562 and 1598, Huguenots and Catholics fought eight religious wars. Chaos spread through France.

### Religious Wars and Power Struggles

In 1572, the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre in Paris **sparked** (started) a six-week, nationwide slaughter of Huguenots. The massacre occurred when many Huguenot nobles were in Paris. They were attending the marriage of Catherine's daughter to a Huguenot prince, Henry of Navarre. Most of these nobles died, but Henry survived.

## Henry of Navarre

**Descended** (came from) from the popular medieval king Louis IX, Henry was robust, athletic, and handsome. In 1589, when both Catherine and her last son died, Prince Henry inherited the throne. He became Henry IV, the first king of the Bourbon Dynasty in France. As king, he showed himself to be decisive, fearless in battle, and a clever politician. Many Catholics, including the people of Paris, opposed Henry. For the sake of his war-weary country, Henry chose to give up Protestantism and become a Catholic. Explaining his conversion, Henry reportedly declared, "Paris is well worth a mass."

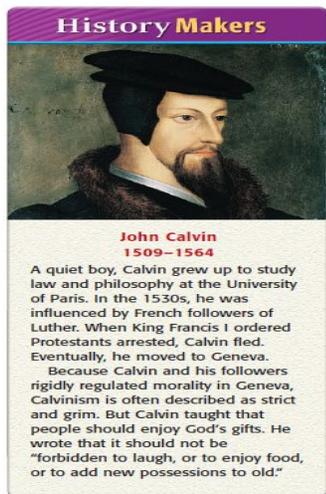
## Louis XIII and Cardinal Richelieu

After Henry IV's death, his son Louis XIII reigned. Louis was a weak king, but in 1624, he appointed a strong minister who made up for all of Louis's weaknesses. Cardinal Richelieu (RIHSH•uh•LOO) became, in effect, the ruler of France.

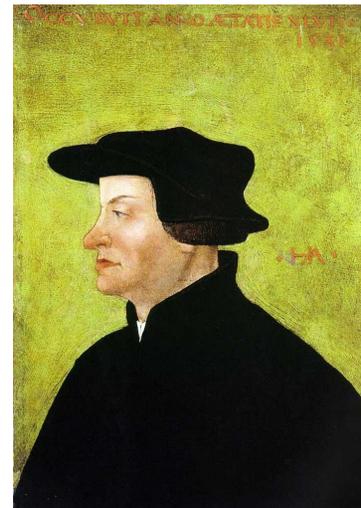
Richelieu took two steps to increase the power of the Bourbon Monarchy. First, he moved against Huguenots. He believed that Protestantism often served as an excuse for political **conspiracies** (plans) against the Catholic king. Although Richelieu did not take away the Huguenots' right to worship, he forbid Protestant cities to have walls. He did not want them to be able to defy the king and then withdraw behind strong defenses.

The efforts of Henry IV and Richelieu to strengthen the French monarchy paved the way for the most powerful ruler in French history—Louis XIV. After Colbert's death, Louis announced a policy that will slow France's economic progress. In 1685, he canceled the **Edict of Nantes**, which protected the religious freedom of Huguenots. In response, thousands of Huguenot artisans and business people fled the country. Louis's policy thus robbed France of many skilled workers.

## Switzerland



John Calvin



Ulrich Zwingli

## Calvin Continues the Reformation

Religious **reform or change** in Switzerland was begun by Huldrych Zwingli (HUL•drykh ZWIHNG•lee), a Catholic priest in Zurich. He was influenced both by the Christian **humanism** of Erasmus and by the **reforms** of Luther. In 1520, Zwingli openly attacked abuses in the Catholic Church. He called for a return to the more personal faith of early Christianity. He also wanted believers to have more control over the Church.

Zwingli's reforms were adopted in Zurich and other cities. In 1531, a bitter war between Swiss Protestants and Catholics broke out. During the fighting, Zwingli met his death. Meanwhile, John Calvin, then a young law student in France with a growing interest in Church doctrine or beliefs, was beginning to speak about his religious beliefs.

## Calvin Formalizes Protestant Ideas

When Martin Luther posted his **95 Theses** in 1517, John Calvin had been only eight years old. But Calvin grew up to have as much influence in the spread of Protestantism as Luther did. He would give order to the faith Luther had begun.

In 1536, Calvin published *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. This book expressed ideas about God, salvation, and human nature. It was a summary of Protestant **theology**, or religious beliefs. Calvin wrote that men and women are sinful by nature. Taking Luther's idea that humans cannot earn salvation, Calvin went on to say that God chooses a very few people to save. Calvin called these few the "elect." He believed that God has known since the beginning of time who will be saved. This doctrine is called **PREDESTINATION**. God has "already chosen those for salvation... The religion based on Calvin's teachings is called Calvinism.

## Calvin Leads the Reformation in Switzerland

Calvin believed that the ideal government was a **theocracy**, a government controlled by religious leaders. In 1541, Protestants in Geneva, Switzerland, asked Calvin to lead their city. When Calvin arrived there in the 1540s, Geneva was a self-governing city of about 20,000 people. He and his followers ran the city according to strict rules. Everyone attended religion class. No one wore bright clothing or played card games. Authorities would imprison, excommunicate, or **banish** (kick out) those who broke such rules. Anyone who preached different **doctrines** (beliefs) might be burned at the stake. Yet, to many Protestants, Calvin's Geneva was a model city of highly moral citizens.

## Calvinism Spreads

One admiring visitor to Geneva was a Scottish preacher named John Knox. When he returned to Scotland in 1559, Knox put Calvin's ideas to work. Each community church was governed by a group of laymen called elders or presbyters (PREHZ•buh•tuhrs). Followers of Knox became known as Presbyterians. In the 1560s, Protestant nobles led by Knox made Calvinism Scotland's official religion. They also deposed their Catholic ruler, Mary Queen of Scots, in favor of her infant son, James.

## Other Protestant Reformers

### The Anabaptists

One group said you should only baptize those persons who were old enough to decide for themselves to be Christian. They said that persons who had been baptized as children should be **re-baptized** as adults. These believers were called Anabaptists, from a Greek word meaning “**baptize again.**”

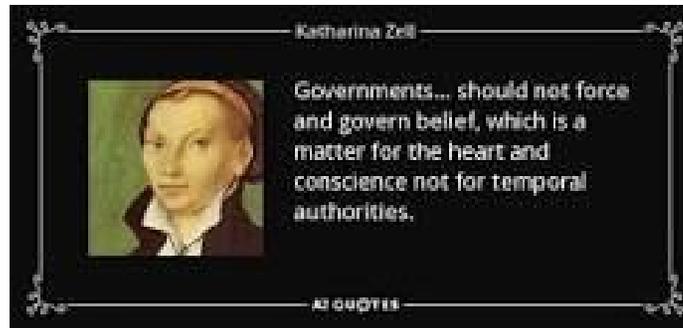
The Anabaptists also taught that **church and state should be separate**, and they refused to fight in wars. They shared their possessions. Viewing Anabaptists as radicals who threatened society, both Catholics and Protestants persecuted them.

But the Anabaptists survived and became the forerunners or beginners of the Mennonites and the Amish. Their teaching will later influence groups such as the Quakers and Baptists, who split from the Anglican Church later.

### Women



Marguerite of Navarre



Katherina Zell

### Women's Role in the Reformation

Many women played prominent or important roles in the **Reformation**, especially during the early years. For example, the sister of King Francis I, Marguerite of Navarre, protected John Calvin from being executed for his beliefs while he lived in France. Other noblewomen also protected reformers. The wives of some reformers, too, had influence. Katherina Zell, married to Matthew Zell of Strasbourg, once scolded a minister for speaking harshly of another reformer. The minister responded by saying that she had “disturbed the peace.” She answered his criticism sharply:

## PRIMARY SOURCE

Do you call this disturbing the peace that instead of spending my time in frivolous amusements I have visited the plague-infested and carried out the dead? I have visited those in prison and under sentence of death. Often for three days and three nights I have neither eaten nor slept. I have never mounted the pulpit, but I have done more than any minister in visiting those in misery.

KATHERINA ZELL, quoted in *Women of the Reformation*

Katherina Zell played a more typical, behind-the-scenes role as Luther's wife. Katherina was sent to a convent at about age ten, and had become a nun. Inspired by Luther's teaching, she fled the convent. After marrying Luther, Katherina had six children. She also managed the family finances, fed all who visited their house, and supported her husband's work. She respected Luther's position but argued with him about women's equal role in marriage. As Protestant religions became more firmly established, their organization became more formal. Male religious leaders narrowly limited women's activities to the home and discouraged them from being leaders in the church. In fact, it was Luther who said, "God's highest gift on earth is a pious, cheerful, God-fearing, home-keeping wife."