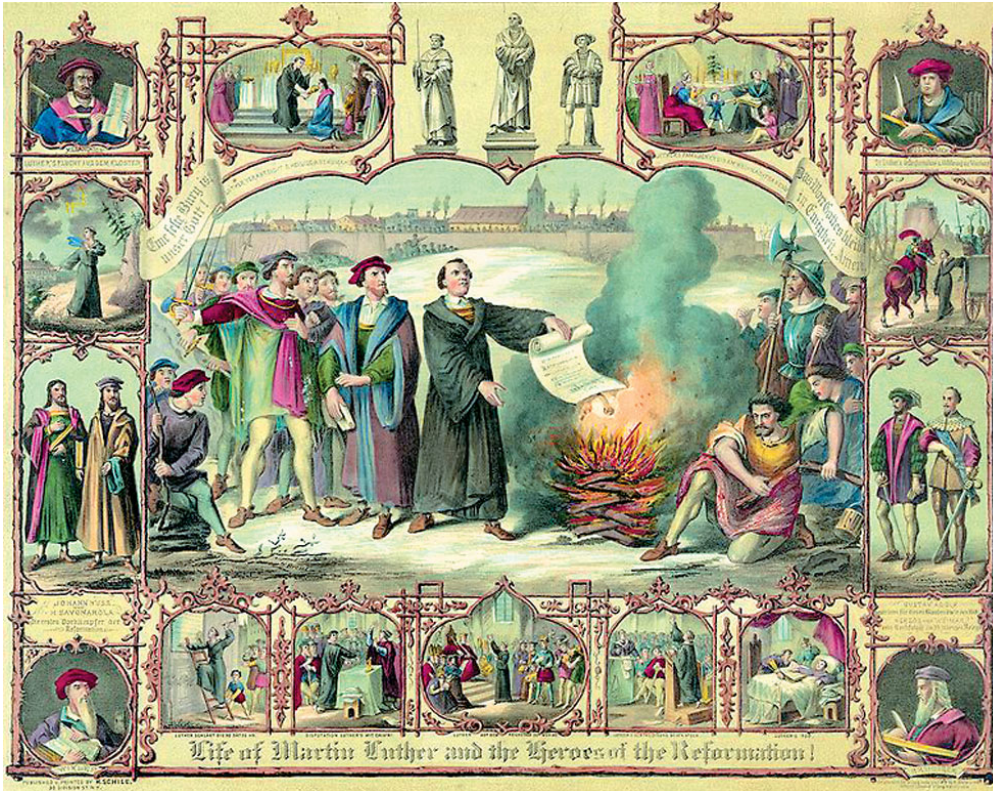


Causes of the Protestant Reformation



Crises of the 14th and 15th Centuries

Babylonian Captivity/
Avignon Papacy
and the Great Schism
14th century



Conciliar Movement
14th, 15th, and 16th centuries



simony:
the sale of church offices

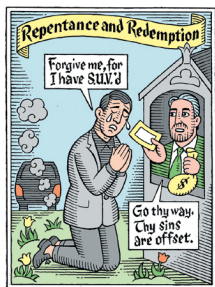
Pope Innocent VIII sold 24
offices in 1487 (!)

Corruption in the Catholic Church



absenteeism

pluralism



Corruption in the Catholic Church

sale of indulgences:
people paying money to the Church
to absolve their sins or sins of their loved ones



certificates were issued by the Catholic Church

the idea was that saints had done so many good deeds there were "extras" stored in heaven

Pope Leo X sold indulgences to raise money to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome

Catholic German Dominican preacher John Tetzel was a notorious indulgence-seller



Corruption in the Catholic Church

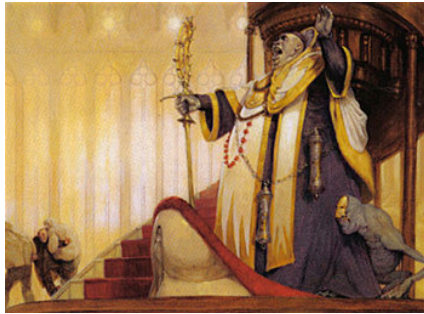


moral decline of the papacy and priests

Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503) had numerous affairs and children out of wedlock



20% of all priests in the diocese of Trent kept concubines during the early 16th century



clerical ignorance

many abused their power for personal gain

Critics of the Church

John Wyclif
(1328-1384)

English priest and Oxford professor
said the Bible was the sole authority on religion

he wrote the first English translation of the Bible

supported a return to simplicity and poverty

stressed having a personal communion with God

condemned the pomp and luxury of the papacy

his followers were called Lollards (a derogatory term for nonacademics)

Peasants' Revolt of 1381: rebelled against the English gov't

Wyclif was convicted 75 years later (1456) in absentia of heresy

his bones were dug up from consecrated ground and burned with his writings

supported by English kings and nobles



Critics of the Church



Jan Hus
(1369-1415)

Czech priest, philosopher,
reformer, and college professor

criticized the Church for its
corruption, greed

led a unsuccessful nationalist
movement

was declared a heretic

convicted and burned at the stake



Lorenzo Valla
(1407-1457)

Italian priest who proved the Donation of
Constantine was a fake

Roman imperial decree by which the
emperor Constantine I transferred authority
over Rome to the Pope

Valla proved it couldn't have been written
when they claimed it was

Impact of Renaissance Humanism



THE PRAISE OF
FOLLY

DESIDERIUS
ERASMUS

Christian humanists of the Northern
Renaissance criticized the church and
questioned the validity of the Catholic Bible

Erasmus, *The Praise of Folly* (1509)
criticized the corruption in the church:
"Erasmus laid the egg that Luther hatched."

new translations of the Bible undermined
Catholic authority

the Italian Renaissance was marked by a
de-emphasis on religion while emphasizing
secularism and individualism