

The Spread of the Protestant Reformation

Peasants' War or German Peasants' Revolt (1524-1525)



Twelve Articles, 1525

peasants created their own list of demands to end the oppressive practices of feudalism

Luther sympathized with some of the peasants' complaints, but he believed that people should obey their political authorities

many German princes in the north had supported Lutheranism

had just gained land and power and now lose it to peasants (!)



German princes violently stamped out the revolt, killing as many as 100,000 peasants

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Northern Germany

Holy Roman Emperor Charles V sought to maintain religious and political unity
he allied with the pope to try to "stamp out heresy"

League of Schmalkalden formed in 1531
newly Protestant (Lutheran) princes in Northern Germany would fight Charles V



Francis I of France allied with the League against HRE

France and the HRE were fighting the Habsburg-Valois Wars (1521-1555) over Italy

Charles was finally victorious over the League in 1547

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Peace of Augsburg (1555)



Princes in Germany could choose either Protestantism or Catholicism

Protestants living in Catholic states were allowed to move to Protestant states and vice-versa.

Resulted in permanent religious division of Germany

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Switzerland - Anabaptists

formed in 1525 in Zurich, Switzerland

voluntary association of believers with no connection or allegiance to any state

did not believe in childhood baptism

believed the end of the world was near

in 1532, Anabaptists led by John of Leiden took control of the German city of Münster

polygamy was instituted

all books except the Bible were burned

began killing some Lutherans and Catholics

in 1534 combined Protestant and Catholic armies captured the city and executed Anabaptist leaders

In January 1536 John of Leiden and several other prominent Anabaptist leaders were captured, imprisoned, tortured, and executed in the marketplace of Münster. Their dead bodies were exhibited in cages, which hung from the steeple of St. Lambert's Church; the cages still hang there, though the bones were removed later.



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Switzerland - Ulrich Zwingli

Zwingli adopted Lutheranism and became a pastor in Zurich in 1518

attacked the custom of fasting during Lent and saw the Eucharist as only symbolic

promoted clerical marriage and introduced a new communion liturgy in 1525 to replace the Mass

established what amounted to a theocracy in Zurich, removing statues, paintings, altars, bones of local saints, etc.



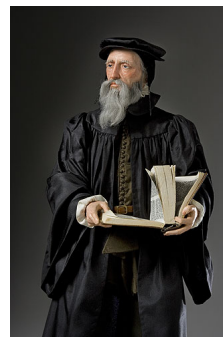
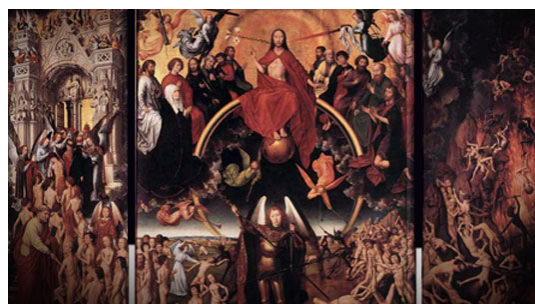
Colloquy of Marburg (1529):
Zwingli officially split with
Luther over issue of
Eucharist



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Switzerland - John Calvin

Frenchman who was threatened with arrest after writing a controversial attack on Paris Catholics



while in Geneva he wrote the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536)

believed in predestination, or the belief that God has already chosen who is going to Heaven

there is no such thing as free will since God has already made His decision

“good works” is not what gets someone into heaven, they are a sign that one has been chosen

church members who have had a “conversion experience” are known as the “elect” and become model Christians, or “visible saints”

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Calvinism

Calvin believed church and city should combine to enforce Christian behavior



established a theocracy in Geneva by 1540

Calvinism became the most militant and uncompromising of all Protestant sects

created the Consistory, a judiciary made up of lay elders called presbyters who had the power to impose harsh penalties for those who did not follow God's law

activities such as drinking, singing, dancing, and gambling were prohibited

Protestant Work Ethic: emphasized the importance of hard work

Calvinism had a far greater impact on future generations than Lutheranism

Presbyterianism (a Calvinist spin-off) became the dominant religion in Scotland

Huguenots – French Calvinists; brutally suppressed in France

Puritans in England

did not spread to Ireland, Spain, or Italy (heavily Catholic)

