

Station #1

European Religions 1100-1200





Station #1

European Religions 1560

Station #1

European Religions 1648



Station #2

Erasmus, *The Praise of Folly*

The Praise of Folly is one of the most famous pieces of literature of the sixteenth century. Both contemporaries and later generations have appreciated "this laughing parody of every form and rank of human life." In this selection, Erasmus belittles one of his favorite objects of scorn-the monks.

“Those who are the closest to these [the theologians] in happiness are generally called "the religious" or "monks," both of which are deceiving names, since for the most part they stay as far away from religion as possible and frequent every sort of place. I cannot, however, see how ally life could be more gloomy than the life of these monks if I did not assist them in many ways. Though most people detest these men so much that accidentally meeting one is considered to be bad luck, the monks themselves believe that they are magnificent creatures. One of their chief beliefs is that to be illiterate is to be of a high state of sanctity, and so they make sure that they are not able to read. Another is that when braying out their gospels in church they are making themselves very pleasing and satisfying to God, when in fact they are uttering these psalms as a matter of repetition rather than from their hearts...they think that they are superior to all other people.”

Station #2

Erasmus, *The Praise of Folly*



Folly Speaks



Illustrations by Hans Holbein the younger that appeared in many printed versions of The Praise of Folly by Erasmus



Early 17th-century illustration for Erasmus' 'In Praise of Folly'

Station #3

The Sale of Indulgences



“coffer”
a strongbox or small chest
for holding valuables



Certificate of Indulgence

In the Catholic Church, an **indulgence** is a way to reduce the amount of punishment one has to undergo for sins. It may reduce either the penance required after a sin has been forgiven and/or the temporal punishment after death.

COUNCIL OF TRENT
DECREE CONCERNING INDULGENCES

Twenty-Fifth Session, 1563

Station #3

The Sale of Indulgences

Whereas the power of conferring Indulgences was granted by Christ to the Church; and she has, even in the most ancient times, used the said power, delivered unto her of God; the sacred holy Synod teaches, and enjoins, that the use of Indulgences, for the Christian people most salutary, and approved of by the authority of sacred Councils, is to be retained in the Church; and It condemns with anathema those who either assert, that they are useless; or who deny that there is in the Church the power of granting them. In granting them, however,

It desires that, in accordance with the ancient and approved custom in the Church, moderation be observed; lest, by excessive facility, ecclesiastical discipline be enervated. And being desirous that the abuses which have crept therein, and by occasion of which this honourable name of Indulgences is blasphemed by heretics, be amended and corrected, It ordains generally by this decree, that all evil gains for the obtaining thereof,-whence a most prolific cause of abuses amongst the Christian people has been derived,-be wholly abolished.

But as regards the other abuses which have proceeded from superstition, ignorance, irreverence, or from whatever other source, since by reason of the manifold corruptions in the places and provinces where the said abuses are committed, they cannot conveniently be specially prohibited; It commands all bishops, diligently to collect, each in his own church, all abuses of this nature, and to report them in the first provincial Synod; that, after having been reviewed by the opinions of the other bishops also, they may forthwith be referred to the Sovereign Roman Pontiff, by whose authority and prudence that which may be expedient for the universal Church will be ordained; that thus the gift of holy Indulgences may be dispensed to all the faithful, piously, holily, and incorruptly....



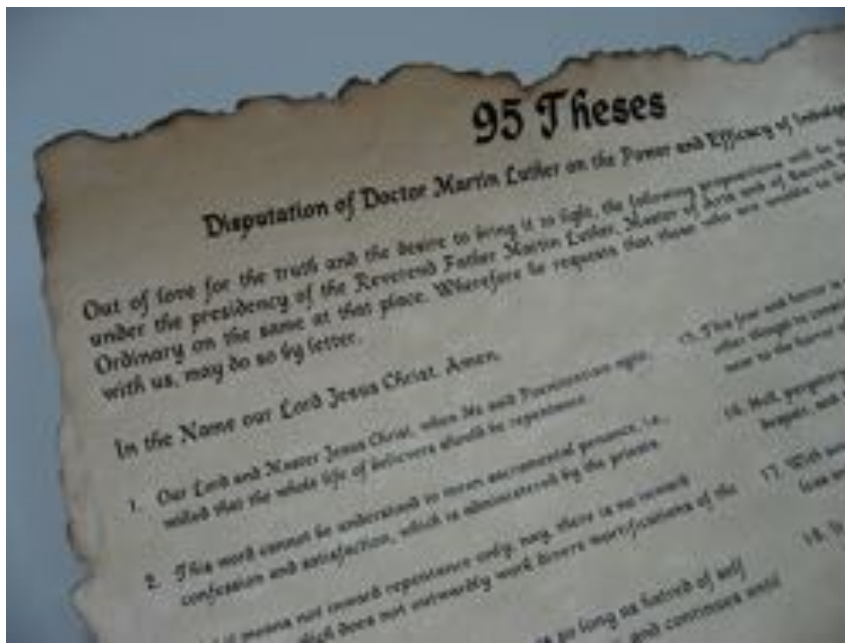
Station #4

Martin Luther



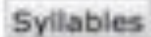
Station #4

Martin Luther



protest

[*n.* proh-test; *v.* pruh-test, proh-test] 



[Synonyms](#) [Examples](#) [Word Origin](#)

noun

1. an expression or declaration of objection, disapproval, or dissent, often in opposition to something a person is powerless to prevent or avoid:

"a protest against increased taxation."

Station #5

Definitions

reform

[ri-fawrm]  

noun

1. the improvement or amendment of what is wrong, corrupt, unsatisfactory, etc.:

"social reform; spelling reform."

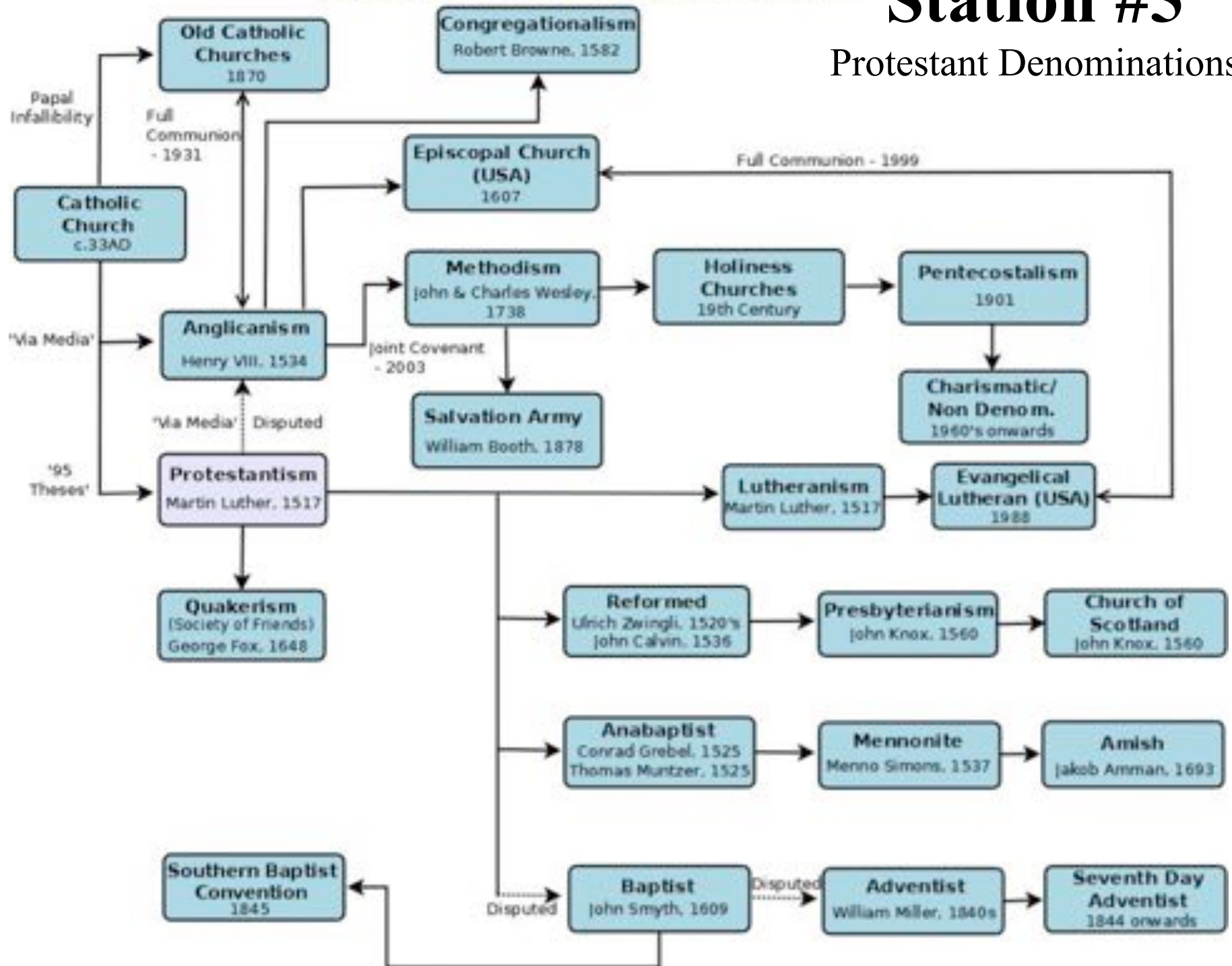
2. an instance of this.
3. the amendment of conduct, belief, etc.

verb (used with object)

4. to change to a better state, form, etc.; improve by alteration, substitution, abolition, etc.
5. to cause (a person) to abandon wrong or evil ways of life or conduct.
6. to put an end to (abuses, disorders, etc.).

Station #5

Protestant Denominations



The mouth of hell, straddled by Lucifer, with the Pope inside



Station #6

Art of the Period

"Birth and Origin of the Pope," Lucas Cranach, artist, 1545
one of a set commissioned by Martin Luther



PAPA LOQVITVR.

*Sententia nostra etiam iniusta
metuenda sunt.*

Responsio.

maledicta

*Affrice nudatas gens furiosa nates.
Ecco qui Papa ei mio bel vedere.*



Station #6

Art of the Period

**“HIC OSCULA PEDIBUS
PAPAE FIGUNTUR.”**

“Kissing the Pope’s feet.”

Lucas Cranach

from a series of woodcuts
commissioned by Martin Luther, 1545

*German peasants respond to a papal
bull of Pope Paul III.*