

Church History



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- *Introduction to Church History*
- *The Ancient Church* AD 1st-3rd centuries
- *The Rise of Christendom* AD 4th-5th centuries
- *The Early Middle Ages* AD 6th-10th centuries
- *The Age of Crusades* AD 11th-13th centuries
- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
- *The Age of Enlightenment* AD 17th-18th centuries
- *The Age of Revolution* AD 19th century
- *The Modern Age* AD 20th century
- *The Postmodern Age* AD 21st century



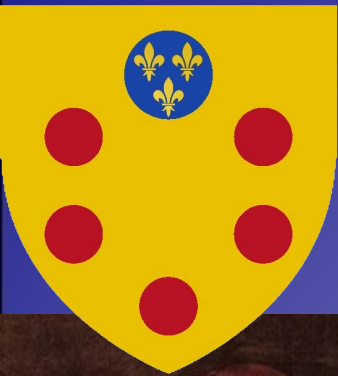
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- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
 - *Martin Luther*
 - *Conquests of Various Kinds*



The Reformation

- At the turn of the century, things got worse
1513 Medici Pope Leo X took power in Rome
 - Leo's lifestyle bankrupted the Church, so he sold off *anything* to make money (statues of the apostles from the Vatican, cardinals' birettas, holy offices, furniture, dishes, silverware, etc.) —including indulgences by the score, for pretty much any sin that people could financially afford to commit



The Reformation

- The Church got a much-needed Reform
 - 1517 Martin Luther protested with 95 *Theses*
 - Luther ended up launching his own, German church, completely disconnected from Rome (with help from his fellow Wittenberg professor, Philipp Melanchthon)
 - (NOTE: My [Lutheran] professor of Church History in seminary commented that “Melanchthon was actually a better Lutheran than Luther ever was”)
 - Melanchthon was a more systematic theologian, who established doctrinal rationales for Lutheran dogma and liturgy (drafting most of the *Augsberg Confession*), and tempered Luther's aggressive and caustic spirit with more grace and diplomacy
 - He also tempered Luther's strict determinism with a more *synergistic* one, which argued that God's Divine call to our spirits somehow work together with our God-given free will to draw us to salvation
 - (thus putting a name—and a more consistently *Lutheran* application—to the doctrine of “*sola fide*,” that we are justified only by our faith)



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 - He also tempered Luther's strict determinism with a more *synergistic* one
 - He also considered the possibility that maybe, Christ *wasn't* actually *physically* present in the elements of the Eucharist
 - Luther decried him as an obvious follower of Ulrich Zwingli



The Reformation

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Remember, at the same time that Luther was bringing about a Reformation in Germany, there were *other* Reform movements going on
 - For instance, in 1519, priest Ulrich Zwingli began preaching through the New Testament in Zurich—using Erasmus' translation of the Bible
 - This might not seem like a big deal, but no one had really preached like that since John Chrysostom, 1150 years earlier
 - (NOTE: Homilies were generally on points of doctrine or Christian behavior—what we'd call “topical” sermons today)



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 - As he preached through Matthew, and Acts, and the Epistles, then went back to the Old Testament, he increasingly began to realize that what the Catholic Church taught was simply not *in* there
 - He began preaching that excommunication is not a Biblical mandate, that infants are not automatically damned without baptism, that the veneration of saints was in fact idolatry, etc.
 - In 1522, he even made it a point—during the middle of the fasting season of Lent—to publicly cut and distribute two smoked sausages, proclaiming that “Christians are free to fast or not to fast because the Bible does not prohibit the eating of meat during Lent.”
 - These sausages launched the Swiss Reformation



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 - For instance, in 1519, priest Ulrich Zwingli began preaching through the New Testament in Zurich
 - That same year, Dominican monk Martin Butzer left his order to preach Reform as well
 - Like Luther, Melanchthon, and Zwingli, he preached “*sola scriptura*” (that the Bible was the only true authority upon which to base doctrine)
 - From that foundation, he began to preach that the Mass was not, in fact, a re-crucifixion of Jesus, but rather a poignant and meaningful remembrance and celebration of our salvation
 - He launched a Reformation in Straßburg when he settled there in 1524, and connected himself (at least loosely) with Zwingli’s work in Zurich
 - In fact, he came to agree with Zwingli that the elements in Communion were *symbolic*, rather than being spiritually or physically connected to the actual blood and body of Jesus Christ



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 - He even tried for half a decade to help Zwingli and Luther to find common ground on the subject, but Luther became caustic and ultimately refused all communication with them



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 - About all of this, Butzer would later write,
 - “If you immediately condemn anyone who doesn't quite believe the same as you do as ‘forsaken by Christ's Spirit,’ and consider anyone to be the ‘enemy of truth’ who holds something false to be true, who, pray tell, can you still consider a brother? I, for one, have never met two people who believed *exactly* the same thing...”



The Reformation

- Funky little teaching moment²—
 - That same year, Spain began exploding with new power and wealth
 - Spanish King Carlos I became Emperor Carlos V, taking over the Holy Roman Empire
 - Between that power shift and the German states pulling away to follow Reform movements, the map began to change dramatically
 - But not just the map of Europe...
 - In 1519, Portuguese Fernão de Magalhães sailed westward with five ships and 240 men, intending to circle the globe on behalf of Spain
 - Magellan himself died in the Philippines in 1521, but his voyage was successfully completed by Captain Juan Elcano in 1522... with one remaining ship, crewed by 17 surviving sailors



(NOTE: Several were lost when three of the crews mutinied off Argentina—Magellan had them drawn and quartered, and their remains impaled on the beach... to be found 58 years later by Sir Francis Drake)



The Reformation

- Funky little teaching moment³—
 - 1519 was also the same year that Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés began his conquest of Mexico
 - He'd travelled to Hispaniola in 1504, and after courting the sister-in-law of the governor, he gained enough political power to lead the expedition to conquer the kingdom of the Aztecs
 - He landed in the Yucatán with 11 ships, 500 men, 13 horses, and several cannons to make use of... and immediately scuttled his ships, to prevent his men from even *considering* mutinying
 - Taking over the Spanish garrison at Veracruz (overthrowing the governor), he took 600 men and marched on to Tenochtitlan—the Aztec capital city
 - (NOTE: The Spanish were actually *supported* in this effort by local Native American tribes—who didn't really *like* the Aztecs



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- (NOTE: The Spanish were actually supported in this effort by local Native American tribes—who didn't really like the Aztecs, what with their nasty habit of conquering the local tribes and sacrificing the still-beating hearts of their victims)



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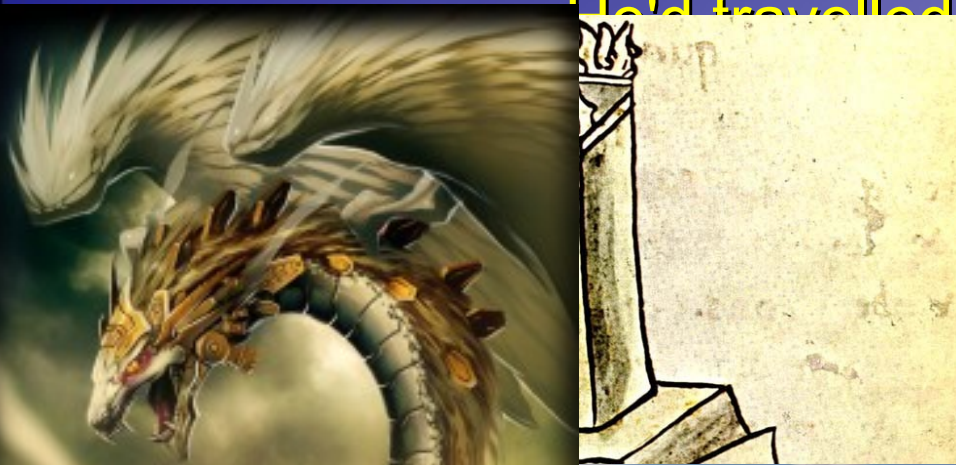
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- (NOTE²: Each corner of each level of their pyramids had to be consecrated with the blood of an infant—which didn't endear them to their neighbors)



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Taking over the Spanish garrison at Veracruz (overthrowing the governor), he took 600 men and marched on to Tenochtitlan—the Aztec capital city.

- (NOTE³: It also helped that the natives thought that Cortés just *might* be their god, Quetzalcoatl—a fierce, winged serpent who had traveled on the sea from the East, only to transform into a bearded white man when he came ashore)

- Where might the natives have gotten *that* myth?



The Reformation

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 - 1519 was also the same year that Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés began his conquest of Mexico
 - Aztec ruler Moctezuma II allowed Cortés into the city and showered him with lavish gifts, thinking to discern a weakness that he could later exploit
 - Cortés instead saw that as an open door to their treasure, and took over the city
 - While Cortés was gone, fighting off the Spanish troops sent to arrest him, his men slaughtered upwards of a thousand people during one of the Aztecs' religious festivals
 - To give Cortés credit, he did officially denounce the slaughter when he returned—but he still had Moctezuma killed and used the massacre as a launching pad for the general takeover of the kingdom
 - Cortés found Mexico a thriving nation of 22 million people
 - Between disease and violence, by the end of the century, there were less than 2 million Native Americans left (that's a 91% mortality rate)



The Reformation

- Funky little teaching moment⁴—
 - 1519 was also the same year that Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés began his conquest of Mexico
 - The very next year, the Portuguese established their first trading post in the Far East—*just* before Magellan got there for the Spanish
 - They set up a port and fortress at the village of Lamakera, in the Solor Archipelago, in Indonesia
 - Thus, some of the natives were open to Magellan's overtures, while others were already predisposed to spurn him in deference to the Portuguese
 - Forty years later, the Dominicans built a church on the island—which the Muslims burned to the ground a year later
 - For the next century, the island became a hotspot of conflict between the Portuguese traders, the Dutch, the Muslims, the pagan islanders, and the Dominicans—all vying for control



The Reformation

- The Church got a much-needed Reform
 - 1521 Was another HUGE year across Europe
 - Martin Luther refused to recant his teachings at the Diet of Worms (saying, “Here I stand...”)
 - Pope Leo X officially excommunicated Luther
 - Leo then bestowed the title of “Fidei Defensor”
 - (the “Defender of the Faith”—echoing historical titles once given to people like Charles Martel and Charlemagne)



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 - A devout Catholic and brilliant thinker, Henry wrote *The Defence of the Seven Sacraments*, in response to Luther's *Theses* (roundly regarded as the best theological critique of Luther that *anyone* ever put together)



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 - To which Luther wrote a typically scathing response
 - To which Henry's friend and Lord Chancellor, Thomas More, wrote yet another response



The Reformation

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Everybody knows at least a *little* bit about Henry's marital woes
 - He was married to six different wives over his lifetime—

King Henry the Eighth,
to six wives he was wedded.
One died, one survived,
two divorced, two beheaded.
 - (Actually, there wasn't a legal "divorce" as such at the time, so two were "annulled")



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 - Everybody knows at least a little bit about Henry's marital woes
 - He was married to six different wives over his lifetime
 - It was that first annulment that was the most significant for the history of the Church
 - In 1503, 11-year-old Henry was betrothed to Catarina (Catherine) of Aragón—the 17-year-old widow of his recently deceased older brother, Arthur
 - But Henry had no real love for Catherine (nor her for him), and try as they might, they could never produce a male heir that lived (though their daughter, Mary, later became queen)



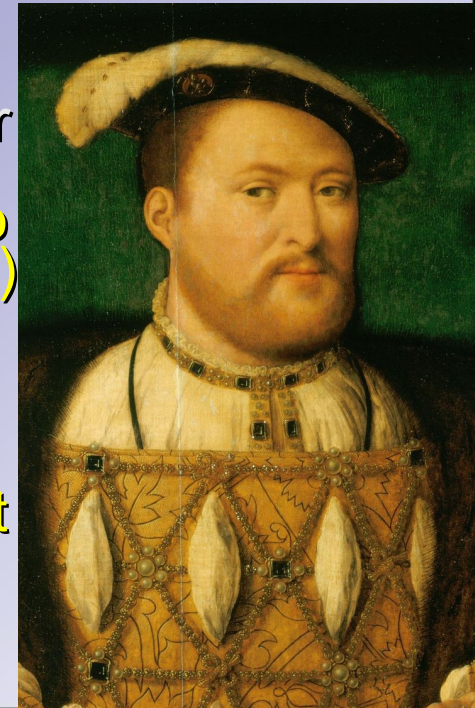
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 - But Henry had no real love for Catherine (nor her for him), and try as they might, they could never produce a male heir that lived
 - So he had an affair with her sly lady-in-waiting, Mary Boleyn and later decided that he *really* wanted Mary's sister, Anne
 - Anne was more ambitious, and she demanded that he actually *marry* her



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 - But Henry had no real love for Catherine (nor her for him), and try as they might, they could never produce a male heir that lived
 - So the *Fidei Defensor* appealed to Pope Clement VII (another Medici) for an annulment from Catherine
 - But there was *no way* that Clement was going to snub both Spain and the Holy Roman Empire by allowing that
 - So Henry was in a pickle



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 - Disregarding the Pope, Henry had his friend, Thomas Cranmer, elevated to Archbishop of Canterbury
 - And then Cranmer declared the marriage annulled, and then solemnized Henry's marriage to Anne
 - And they lived happily ever after...
 - Except that the Pope denounced the whole thing and so did Thomas More



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 - But Anne kept miscarrying... (though *their* daughter, Elizabeth, also later became queen)



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 - But Anne kept miscarrying...
 - So Henry declared her an adulteress and had her executed so that he could marry Jane Seymour
 - But Henry had learned *nothing* from Henry II and his problems with Thomas Becket...



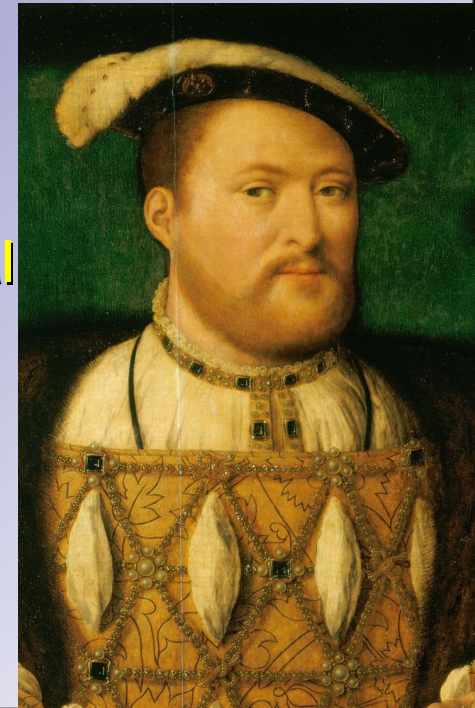
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 - Thomas Cranmer actually went on record that he thought Anne was innocent
 - Henry became disgusted with dealing with churchmen, and declared *himself* the head of the Church in England
 - Which then also brought him into conflict with Sir Thomas More again...
...so Henry had him jailed, and eventually executed...



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 - Cranmer spent the next several years trying to help Henry retroactively come up with doctrines to justify breaking away from Rome in 1532
 - Which was when Clement excommunicated Henry...
...and why they (ironically) sought out Melanchthon...



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 - 1521** **Was another HUGE year across Europe**
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 - **Since Portugal had gotten Indonesia, Magellan claimed the Philippines for Spain**
(named for King Felipe II—i.e.; “Philip”—of Spain)



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 - **So Portugal turned around and made a grab for China under the Ming Dynasty**
 - **China repelled the invasion, and it damaged Chinese-Portuguese relations for years**



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- **The Ottoman Empire was more successful**
In 1521, they invaded Belgrade, deepening Islam's hold on Europe...



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1523 Reform hit Zurich hard

- In a series of public disputations with Catholic bishops and the Vicar General, Johann Faber, Zwingli set forth the basic theology of his new, Reformed, *Bible-based* church
 - Faber simply argued that Rome had pre-eminent church authority, and thus must *always* be right
 - Zwingli laid out a carefully-written, Biblically-documented case, with 67 major points
 - Public opinion swayed *heavily* toward Zwingli



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 - Zwingli and his followers called for major Reforms to be brought about in carefully-considered waves
 - The Mass should be abolished
 - All icons and statues should be removed from church buildings
 - All music should be removed from the service, so that the *sermon* could be the focus
 - A German-language Bible was commissioned, and services were performed in German
 - The Swiss Reformation kicked in



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- **Bavarian Catholic pastor Balthasar Hubmaier came to Zurich to consult with Zwingli and support him in the disputations**

- Building off of the Reformers' teaching that we are saved "*sola fide*," and that we should base our theology "*sola scriptura*" (and off of Zwingli's comment that unbaptized children ought to be taught about Christ before being baptized), he argued that baptism should rightly be restricted to those who actually *have* faith, arguing that no example is given in Scripture of any other practice

- Thus was born the *Anabaptist* movement...

