

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



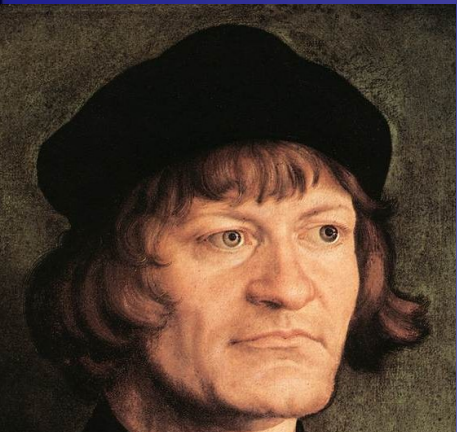
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- *The Renaissance* AD 14th-15th centuries
- *Conquest and Reformation* AD 16th century
 - *Martin Luther*
 - *Conquests of Various Kinds*
 - *The New Martyrdom of the Church*
 - *Die Warhet Ist Untödllich*



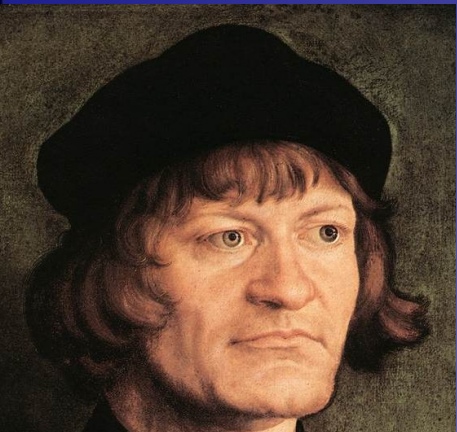
The Reformation

- The Reformation began to institutionalize
1528 Reformers intertwine with the State
 - Zwingli brought Anabaptist preacher Balthasar Hubmaier up on charges again for heresy
 - He had successfully convinced the city council of Zurich to make re-baptism a *capital* offense but even though Hubmaier had been tortured for seven months into recanting *before*, he now stood by his Anabaptism again, as strongly as ever
 - So Hubmaier was tortured again—though this time, he refused to recant—and then burned alive at the stake
 - His wife, Elsbeth, shouted encouragements to him as he burned, and he called for his followers to pray and support one another in suffering—but not to repay evil with evil
 - Three days later, Zwingli had Elsbeth drowned in the Danube



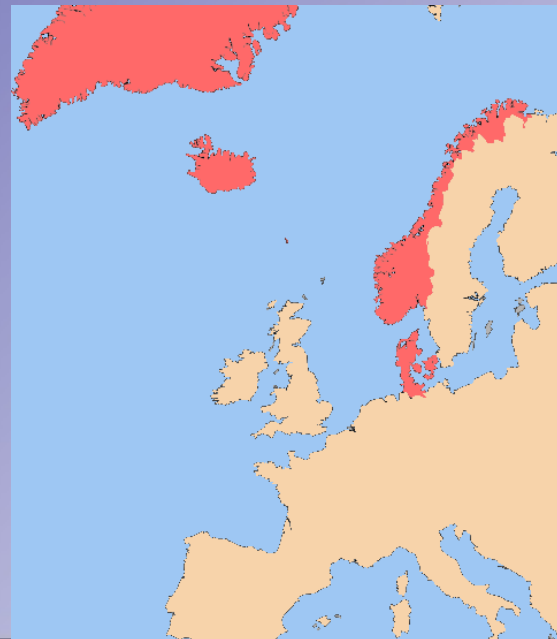
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 - So Hubmaier was tortured again—though this time, he refused to recant—and then burned alive at the stake
 - But Hubmaier's personal motto was to outlive him by centuries—“*Die warhet ist untödlich*” (“The truth is unkillable”)



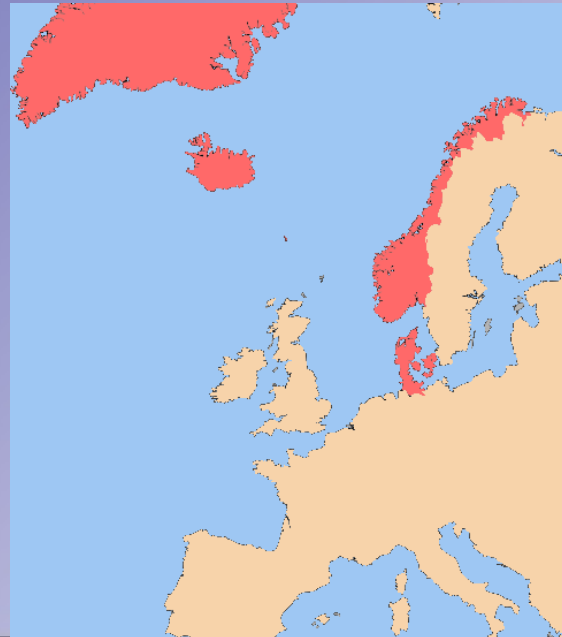
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 - This was also the year that Denmark-Norway accepted Lutheranism as its State religion through the work of future King Christian III
 - Thus, if you were born in Denmark-Norway, you were *automatically* part of the Lutheran Church (the church that taught “*sola fide*”)



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 - Thus, if you were born in Denmark-Norway, you were *automatically* part of the Lutheran Church
 - This “State religion” concept became a crucial arguing point for Reformers for the next several centuries...



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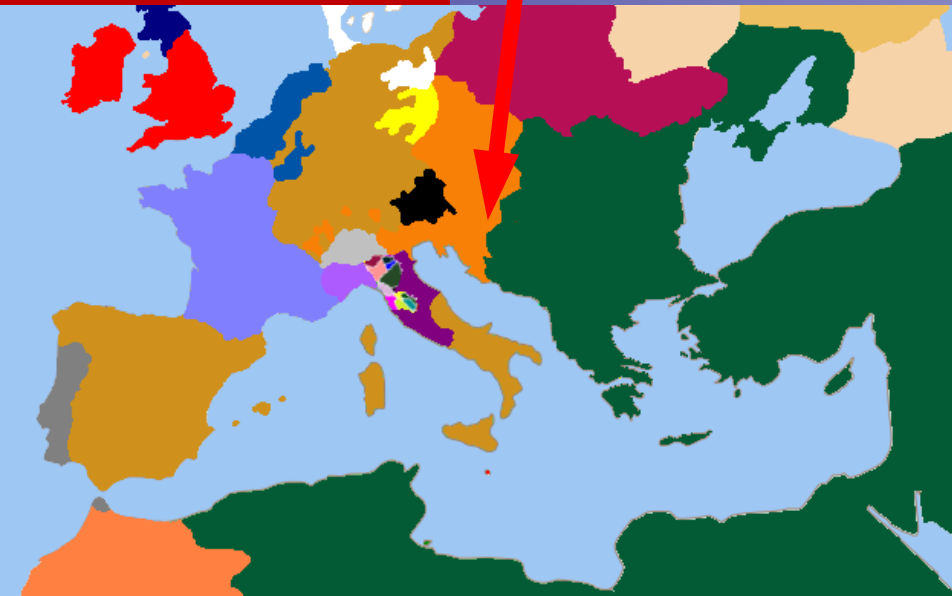
1529

Reformers intertwine with the State

This was a big year for empire-builders...

The unstoppable Ottoman Empire made its push into Austria via Vienna, laying siege to the city...
...where they were *stopped cold*...

- Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent had assumed that their century of victories would continue as he sent his 150,000 troops deeper and deeper into Europe



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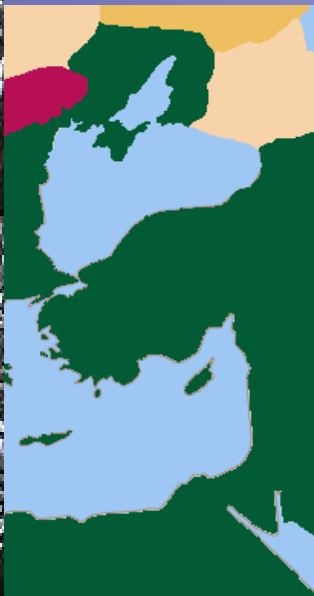
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- Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent had assumed that their century of victories would continue as he sent his 150,000 troops deeper and deeper into Europe but he failed to count on three things:

- 1) Count Niklas of Salm, the 70-year-old veteran soldier whom the Viennese called upon to strengthen their defenses

- Niklas turned Vienna into a virtual fortress by building up its walls and building several inner redoubts—even to the point of demolishing buildings to create a defensible perimeter
- He even had the Viennese tear up their own streets so that the Ottoman cannonballs would hit and sink in the soft dirt, rather than bounce and tumble and cause more damage
- He also built up the city's artillery and trained its citizens to fight back



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1) Count Niklas of Salm

2) The heavy rains of the Balkan Spring

- Even today, the areas around Vienna can get dangerously flooded by the near-constant rainfall, and Suleiman's massive artillery simply couldn't be brought to bear easily against Niklas' newly-fortified walls

- And by the time Suleiman's troops got to Vienna, most of them were fairly ill from being out in the cold rain for weeks (and many of the rest were light cavalry—who aren't much help in siege warfare)



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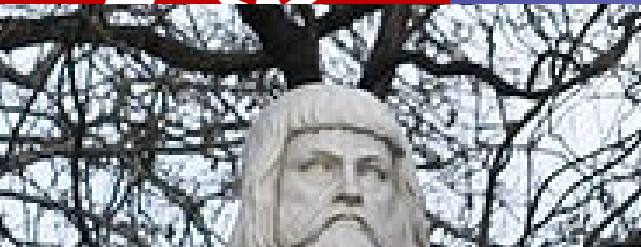
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- 1) Count Niklas of Salm
- 2) The heavy rains of the Balkan Spring
- 3) The Landsknechte



The Reformation

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - The Landsknechte were developed by and for the Holy Roman Empire, as a direct counterpart to the Pope's impressive Swiss Guard
 - They were combat-hardened super-soldiers who were as renowned for their fighting prowess as they were for their unusually gaudy style of dress
 - Historians give two completely understandable reasons for these guys dressing like such dandies



- 1) They were constantly facing certain death, so they wanted to live well during the short lifespans that they had
- 2) They wanted every army who came against them to *instantly* recognize that they were up against the *Landsknechte*—an early expression of psychological warfare



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 - They were combat-hardened super-soldiers
 - Emperor Carlos V sent 17,000 Landsknechte to defend Vienna, and they were game-changers
 - Not only were they exceedingly tough soldiers, but they also made use of cutting-edge technologies
 - They fought in the Swiss' square formations with 18-foot pikes topped with 10-inch blades that were excellent weapons against Suleiman's light cavalry



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 - They wielded 6-foot swords that were not only formidable in a swordfight, but more often used against *enemy* pikes and lances—again, making *them* excellent weapons against light cavalry as well



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 - They fought in the Swiss' square formations with 18-foot pikes
 - They wielded 6-foot swords
 - They made use of the new matchlock firearm known as the arquebus, as well as grenades and other mobile, hand-held weapons of mass destruction
 - When the Ottomans were finally able to make their one major break in the walls of Vienna, the Landsknechte stood in the gap and slaughtered wave after wave of Turks



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- **For the first time, after a century of constant victory, the Ottoman Empire had been *beaten*, and this was as far as they ever got into Europe**
 - They spent the next several centuries slowly losing ground and sinking back into Turkey
 - This was an absolutely *crucial* victory of “Christendom” against the Islamic world
 - But is “Christendom” always a healthy concept?



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 - This was also the year that Spain and Portugal finally nailed down what to do about the Far East
 - 1479—The Treaty of Alcáçovas gave Africa and everything east of Africa to Portugal and everything west of Africa to Spain



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 - 1494—The Treaty of Tordesillas divided the New World between the two superpowers, essentially giving Brazil to Portugal
 - But is, say, Japan west of Spain's New World, or east of Portugal's Africa?



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 - Portugal held the world's only source of nutmeg and cloves, having gotten to the Far East first and Spain held most of everything else, thanks to Magellan's voyage



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- Medici Pope Clement VII presided over the Treaty, giving Portugal everything up to a certain meridian, (with exceptions like the Spanish-held Philippines)



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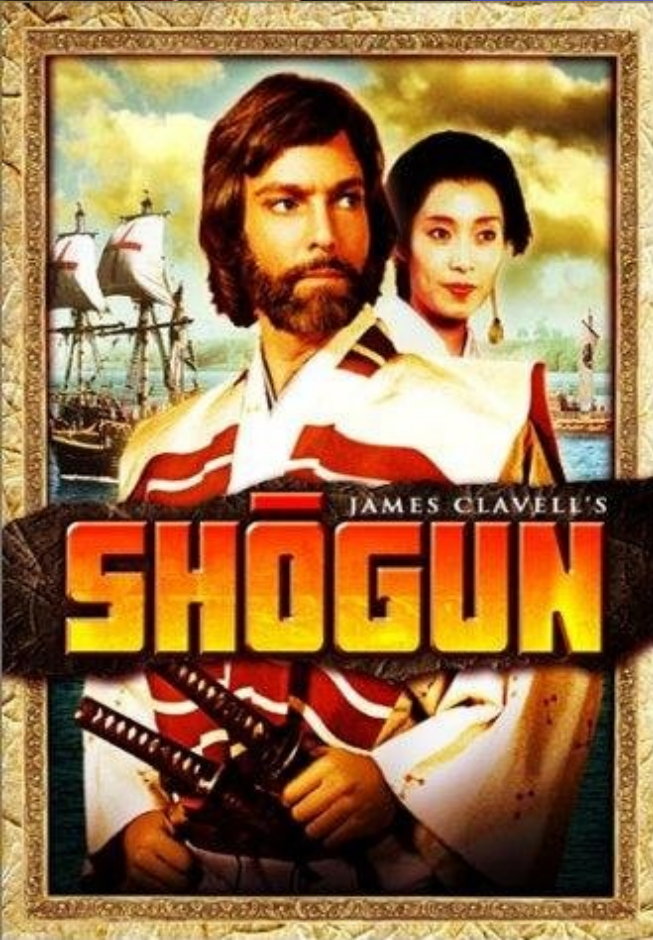
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- The 1980 mini-series *Shōgun* even took time to explain it



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1531 **A year of upsets**

- As we've already talked about, this was the year that King Henry VIII of England declared *himself* the head of the English church, in practice breaking away from Rome

- In 1532, the Church of England surrendered *all* of its legislative rights to the King

- Over 1533-1534, all rights to appeal to Rome were cut, making the Archbishop of Canterbury the final clerical authority in England

- In 1536, Henry was officially named "Supreme Head of the Church of England"

- (NOTE: That was later changed to "Supreme Governor of the Church of England"—a title *still* held by all Kings of England today)



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(AKA "*Schmalkaldischer Bund*," named after the town of Schmalkalden, where their accord was drawn up)



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- So Denmark-Norway, England, and large chunks of Germany had now *officially* broken away from the Catholic Church—not just by having clumps of "heretical" groups residing within their borders, but by making Reformed churches their official, *State* churches

- The Reformation is becoming a *socio-political* movement...



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- Similarly, the "Five States" was formed to stand against the Zwinglian governments in Zurich, Berne, Basel, Schaffhausen, Biel, Mulhouse, Neuchâtel, St. Gallen, and Geneva
- The Five States sent 7,000 troops, who attacked Zwingli's 2,000 soldiers at the village of "Chapel on the Albis"
- 500 Zwinglians were killed in the battle including Ulrich Zwingli himself
 - His dead body was then publicly burned as a heretic



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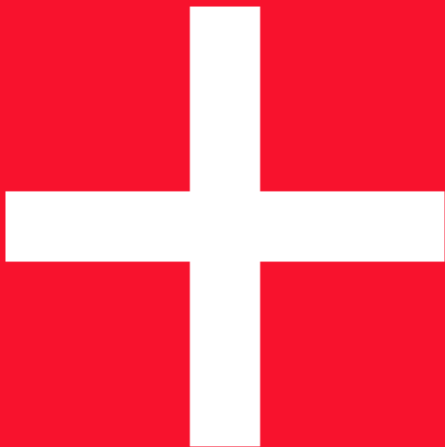
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- **Similarly, the "Five States" was formed to stand against the Zwinglian governments in Zurich, Berne, Basel, Schaffhausen, Biel, Mulhouse, Neuchâtel, St. Gallen, and Geneva**
 - As a result, the Old Swiss Confederacy ended up being one of the very few European nations to allow *dual* State religions—both Catholicism *and* Zwinglianism
 - Arguably, this is a large part of what led to Switzerland becoming renowned as a "neutral" state that refused to take only one side or another in a conflict



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 - 1533 Two Christian leaders' lives were changed
 - Ivan IV Vasilyevich
(AKA “Иван Грозный”—“*Ivan Grozny*”—which literally means, “Ivan the Formidable,” but is often translated in English as “Ivan the Terrible”)



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(resurrecting the title that his grandfather—Ivan III—had coined for himself in 1480 as a way of positioning himself at the same level as Emperor Carlos V and Ottoman Sultan Suleiman)



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 - So Ivan *did* govern more area than Carlos did...



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 - He was devoutly Orthodox and a brilliant scholar, writing poetry, political texts, hymns, etc.
 - But he was also quite nuts—prone to wild bouts of sexual debauchery
(always followed by devout repentance)



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 - He held weekend-long orgies in the Kremlin which sometimes engaged 1,000-1,500 young girls to service his nobles and court (and yet, he had most of his seven wives executed for “exceeding whorishness”)



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- (NOTE: He was famous for coming up with new and horrific forms of torture for his perceived enemies—and prided himself on keeping his flayed and/or dismembered victims alive as long as possible to extend their torment)

- (NOTE²: He also invented the concept of the “secret police” with his ruthless “*Oprichniki*”)



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 - In one such episode of rage, he visited the private chambers of his eldest—and favorite—son, and was so enraged to find his pregnant daughter-in-law in “indecently light clothing” that he beat her into miscarrying their heir
 - His son—Ivan Ivanovich—tried to stop him (shouting, “You sent my first wife to a convent for no reason, you did the same with my second, and now you strike the third, causing the death of the son she holds in her womb!”)



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 - By the end of his life, he was utterly obsessed with guilt, and begged to be tonsured as a monk, renaming himself “Jonah”
 - When he finally died in 1584, the Tsar of All the Russias was buried in a monk's simple robes...



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 - **Also in 1533, a 24-year-old lawyer who had originally trained to become a priest experienced a profound conversion experience while studying in either Paris or nearby Orléans**
 - His name was Jehan Cauvin
(AKA “Jean Calvin” or “John Calvin”)

