

Church History



Church History

- *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*
 - *Calvinists and Mennonites*
 - *The Counter-Reformation (part 1)*



The Reformation

- The Catholic Church was still in business
1540 Pope Paul III approved the Society of Jesus



The Reformation

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Paul was from that same influential family that had produced Boniface VIII
 - (You remember this class act, whom Dante's *Comedy* placed in the Eighth Circle of Hell, whom the troops of King Philip slapped when they arrested [rightly] him for fraud and lechery, and whose life ultimately ended... *badly...*)



The Reformation

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - Paul was from that same influential family that had produced Boniface VIII
 - Luckily for Paul, his sister, Guilia, was beautiful and Cèsar Borgia said that she was really, really good at sex (which she apparently liked a lot) which is why Cèsar's father, Pope Alexander VI, took her on as his mistress
 - Thus, Paul was made into a Cardinal by Alexander, and groomed to become a Pope



The Reformation

- **Funky little teaching moment—**
 - Paul was from that same influential family that had produced Boniface VIII
 - **But, to the utter amazement of history, he tried really, really hard to be a *good* Pope**
 - He issued rulings against simony and fraud by priests and bishops, brought about major reforms within the Church itself, and even issued bulls against the enslavement of native peoples
 - After centuries of arguably “black hat” Popes, this one was at least a pretty light, smudgy gray
 - (NOTE: I'd love to give him “white hat” status, but he did have his own mistress on the side, ruthlessly taxed and fought against the peasants in his own lands, politicked and maneuvered to get his own family into good positions, etc.)



The Reformation

- The Catholic Church was still in business
- 1540
 - Pope Paul III approved the Society of Jesus
 - Founded by Ignatius of Loyola (who had been a Basque knight from the Spanish region of Loyola—thus, he was named Iñigo López de Loyola)



The Reformation

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- 1540 Pope Paul III approved the Society of Jesus
- Founded by Ignatius of Loyola, the Society of Jesus integrated Iñigo's military background (since he was a successful knight back in Spain when he was younger)



The Reformation

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - In fact, it was because he'd become such a secular warrior that Iñigo had become a priest in the first place
 - He'd fought in several successful campaigns on behalf of the Duke of Navarre and was gravely wounded at a battle at Pamplona
 - As a result, he was forced to do nothing but lay in bed for several weeks and read
 - Thus, he was exposed to the works of several famous Catholic mystics and read several works on the "life of Christ" (mystical meditations on Christ's youth, life, miracles, and death)



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 - He thus renounced his secular calling and accepted the call to the priesthood, determined to follow Christ's example



The Reformation

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1540

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- The Jesuits thus combined three elements that became absolutely crucial in helping with Paul's attempts at reform

- 1) They were absolutely dedicated to being righteous, God-honoring priests who were genuinely focused on reform—both social reform and Church reform
- 2) They were also focused on education and learning, grounding their good works in theology and philosophy
- 3) They were utterly dedicated to the Papacy
 - They even took a special oath to always obey and follow the Pope, right or wrong
 - As Ignatius once famously said, "I will believe that the white that I see before me is black if the Church hierarchy so defines it"



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 - Thus, both Ignatius and his Jesuits quickly became massively influential in the Catholic Church
 - Thanks, in part, to the Jesuits' emphasis on personal study, a new *Catholic* emphasis on priests reading the Bible connected itself to Paul's reform efforts
 - Soon, Ignatius' "Blackrobes" were everywhere



The Reformation

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 - 1540 Pope Paul III approved the Society of Jesus
 - 1542 Pope Paul III institutionalized the Inquisition
 - There had been various localized inquisitions for centuries, and the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions had been running for decades
 - But Paul centralized the authority of the Inquisitions by creating a permanent “congregation” of cardinals and bishops in Rome to supervise all of the other Inquisitions



- It was this *Roman* Inquisition who later tried Italian astronomer Galileo for his obviously wrong beliefs that the Earth travelled around the Sun, and that comets didn't just dance between the Earth and the Moon
- As we'll see in a century, Galileo's biggest problem is that he *published* his ideas...



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 - 1543 Books got people into trouble
 - This was the year that Prussian astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus published his own book, *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium*, which also argued that the Earth revolved around the Sun
 - Mathematics aside, the Church believed that the Scriptures were quite clear on this subject
 - The Bible declares that “The world is firmly established; it cannot be moved.” (*Psalms* 93:1)
 - And God once commanded in the midst of a battle, “O sun, stand still...” (*Joshua 10:12*)
 - Thus, the Sun clearly *moves* in the heavens, and the Earth clearly *doesn't*



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 - (NOTE: The word “moved” here is actually talking about the planet’s structural integrity, not its motion—the Earth isn’t in danger of falling out of the sky soon)
 - (NOTE²: This was a poetical way of referring to time essentially standing still, not actual solar movement)



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- Interestingly, though a few Dominicans wrote against the book, there wasn't as widespread or vehement a reaction against it as there would be against Galileo a century later—probably because very few people gave the theory any credence (even amongst the various Reformed camps)

- (NOTE: Jean Calvin wrote, "We indeed are not ignorant that the circuit of the heavens is finite, and that the earth, like a little globe, is placed in the centre")

- (NOTE²: Philipp Melanchthon wrote, "some people believe it is a marvelous achievement to extol so crazy a thing, like that Polish astronomer who makes the earth move and the sun stand still...")



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 - But by the time Galileo started arguing the same thing in the 17th century, enough people were beginning to buy into it that the Church realized that they needed to stamp the heresy out



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 - This was also the same year that Henry VIII's Parliament officially banned William Tyndale's 1526 English translation of the Bible
 - They decried Tyndale's work as a “crafty, false and untrue translation” that “shall be clearly and utterly abolished, extinguished, and forbidden to be kept or used in this realm”
 - Remember: Tyndale had consciously translated words such as *ἐκκλησία* as “congregation” (instead of “Church”), *πρεσβύτερος* as “elder” (instead of “Priest”), and *ἐπίσκοπος* as “overseer” (instead of “Bishop”), in a conscious attempt to undermine entrenched Catholic traditional interpretations and get back to their original, Greek meanings



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- **Instead, the Church of England pushed the use of Henry's official English "Great Bible" for use in British worship services**

- In large part, the Great Bible was simply Tyndale's Bible, re-revised to change his subversively anti-Catholic etymologies back to more traditional (i.e.; Catholic) words
- But English Reformers still held onto Tyndale's translation, which they—ironically—viewed as being more value-neutral



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 - This was also the same year that Martin Luther published *Von den Juden und Ihren Lügen*, calling them “the devil’s people” and inciting violence against them
 - “We are at fault in not slaying them,” he argued, and calling for Christians to burn down Jewish synagogues, destroy their houses and businesses, loot and reclaim all of their property and assets, and forbid all rabbis from teaching and Jews from congregating
 - “God’s anger with them is so intense that a gentle mercy will merely tend to make them worse, while even a sharp mercy will reform them only a little. Therefore, in any case, we must do away with them...”



The Reformation

- Funky little teaching moment—
 - As you might imagine, Luther's thoughts were later cited by Adolf Hitler as a Christian justification for the Nazis' actions against German Jews in the 20th century
 - But it wasn't only Hitler and the Nazis—several German church federations issued statements *agreeing* with institutionalized anti-semitism
 - As Dr. Martin Sasse (bishop of the Thuringian Lutheran Evangelical Church) wrote favorably, “On 10 November 1938, on Luther's birthday, the synagogues are burning in Germany”
 - He applauded Martin Luther as “the greatest anti-semite of his era, the warner of his people against the Jews”



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 - Philipp Melanchthon moved himself farther away from Luther, expressing his concern that Luther had fallen victim to the “rabies of theologians”
 - Melanchthon recognized the inherent danger of *any* reform—that to the hammer, everything looks like a nail
 - A significant number of reform movements, ministries of apologetics, etc., grow to believe that *everyone* else must be inherently wrong (for much the same reasons that Union leaders can never be truly satisfied with the contracts they’ve just negotiated—because their existence is *based* on continually negotiating new contracts)



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 - 1545 **Millions of Aztecs died from disease...**

