Church History



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- Introduction to Church History
- The Ancient Church
- The Rise of Christendom
- The Early Middle Ages
- The Age of Crusades
- The Renaissance
- Conquest and Reformation
- The Age of Enlightenment
- The Age of Revolution
- The Modern Age
- The Postmodern Age

- AD 1st-3rd centuries
- AD 4th-5th centuries
- AD 6th-10th centuries
- AD 11th-13th centuries
- AD 14th-15th centuries
- AD 16th century
- AD 17th-18th centuries
- AD 19th century
- AD 20th century
- AD 21st century

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- The Ancient Church
- The Rise of Christendom
- The Early Middle Ages
- The Age of Crusades
- The Renaissance
- Conquest and Reformation
 - Martin Luther
 - Conquests of Various Kinds
 - The New Martyrdom of the Church
 - Die Warhet Ist Untödlich
 - Calvinists and Mennonites
 - The Counter-Reformation (part 1)

AD 1st-3rd centuries

AD 4th-5th centuries

AD 6th-10th centuries

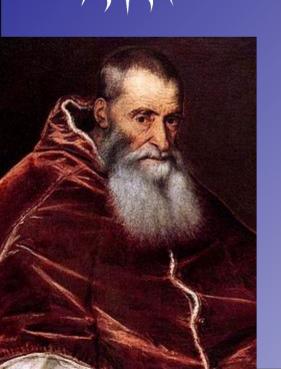
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AD 16th century



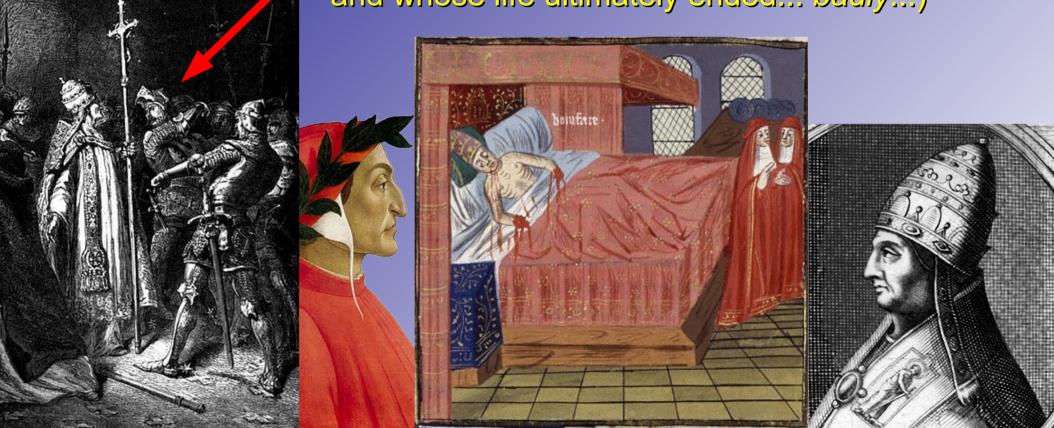
The Catholic Church was still in business
1540 Pope Paul III approved the Society of Jesus





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...)

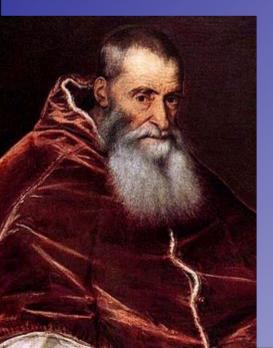


Funky little teaching moment—
Paul was from that same influential family that had produced Boniface VIII
Luckily for Paul, his sister, Guilia, was beautiful and Cèsar Borgia said that she was really, really good at sex (which she apparently liked a lot) which is why Cèsar's father, Pope Alexander VI,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

Thus, Paul was made into a Cardinal by Alexander, and groomed to become a Pope



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.)





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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 lñigo
López de Loyola)



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



Funky little teaching moment—
In fact, it was because he'd become such a secular warrior that lñigo 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



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Jesus integrated Inigo's military background into
forming companies of teachers, theologians, and social activists

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

They were also focused on education and learning, grounding their good works in theology and philosophy
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



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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

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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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." (Psalm
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: This was a poetical way of referring to time essentially standing still, not actual solar movement)



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1540 1542 1<mark>543</mark>

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(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

(Note: 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 εκκλησία as "congregation" (instead of "Church"), πρεσβύτερος as "elder" (instead of "Priest"), and επίσκοπος as "overseer" (instead of "Bishop"), in a conscious attempt to undermine entrenched Catholic traditional interpretations and get back to their interpretations and get back to their original, Greek meanings



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Instead, the Church of England
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British worship services

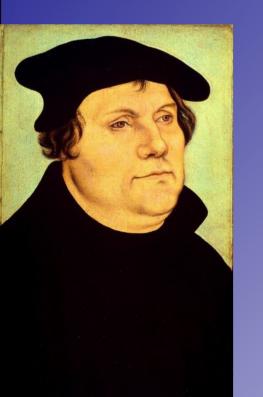
British worship services
In large part, the Great Bible was simply Tyndale's Bible, re-revised to change his subversively anti-Catholic etymologies back to more traditional (i.e.; Catholic) words
But English Reformers still held onto Tyndale's translation, which they—ironically—viewed as being more value-neutral



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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

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..."

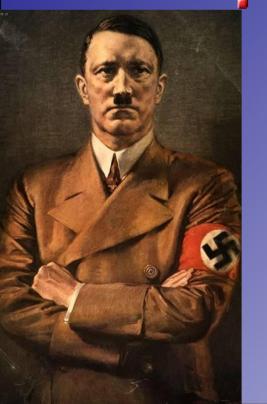




Funky little teaching moment—
As you might imagine, Luther's thoughts were later cited by Adolf Hitler as a Christian justification for the Nazis' actions against German Jews in the 20th century

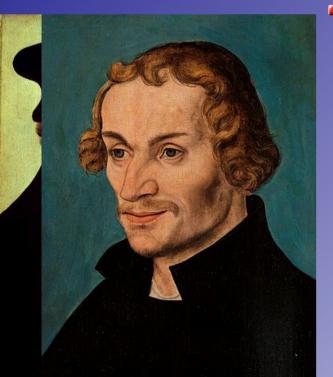
But it wasn't only Hitler and the Nazis—several German church federations issued statements agreeing with institutionalized anti-semitism. As Dr. Martin Sasse (bishop of the Thuringian Lutheran Evangelical Church) wrote favorably, "On 10 November 1938, on Luther's birthday, the synagogues are burning 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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"We are at fault in not slaying them," he argued 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.

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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1542 Pope Paul III institutionalized the Inquisition
1543 Books got people into trouble
1545 Millions of Aztecs died from disease...

