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
- The Age of Enlightenment (sort of)

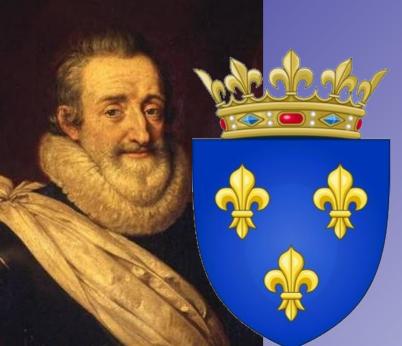
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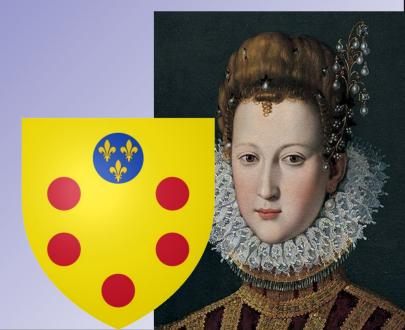
(Note: Technically, most modern historians don't end the "Reformation" or start the "Enlightenment" until the end of the Thirty Years' War in 1648—but that means that Bacon, Galileo, Descartes, Winthrop, the Westminster Confession, and the founding of Harvard would all be pre-Enlightenment, and that doesn't seem right to me)

Europe is on the cusp of paradigm shifts
1600
Henri IV got married... again...
After getting his long and unhappy marriage to
Margaret annulled in 1599, Henri made plans to
marry his long-time mistress, Gabrielle d'Estrées
who then unfortunately died before the wedding
That left Henri without any queen or offspring at all
so he made an alliance with Italy by marrying Maria
de' Medici, with whom he ended up having several

children

(And that's gonna get really colorful in a couple of years...)





Europe is on the cusp of paradigm shifts
1600 Henri IV got married... again...
Giordano Bruno was executed as a heretic
A Dominican scholar who dabbled astronomy in particular, Bruno was convinced that Copernicus

had been correct—

"There are countless suns and countless earths all rotating round their suns in exactly the same way as the seven planets of our system. We see only the suns because they are the largest bodies and are luminous, but their planets remain invisible to us because they are smaller and non-luminous..."
In fact, Bruno argued that each of these planets was the same size and structure as the Earth, and that each was inhabited by its own race of men





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A Dominican scholar who dabbled astronomy in particular, Bruno was convinced that Copernicus had been correct—and he began teaching his views across Europe (rather obnoxiously, in fact)

He even applied for a teaching position to the university in Padua, but it instead went to the more conservative Galileo Galilei

But Bruno didn't come to his conclusions because of Copernicus' work, or even because of his own astronomical studies

He had become enamored with the concept of material magic—the pantheistic belief that God is in all things, and all things are in God, and thus that the spiritual and the material are simply two phases of the same reality

If God is infinite, then the space from which God is comprised must be infinite, and the races with which He desires relationship

must also be infinite in number



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He was imprisoned by the Roman Inquisition and charged with eight counts of heresy—including not only heliocentrism, but also denying the virgin birth and divinity of Jesus, denying transubstantiation, and practicing magical arts

As punishment, his tongue was "imprisoned" in a wooden vise, and he was burned at the stake

in the public square



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Henri IV got married... again...

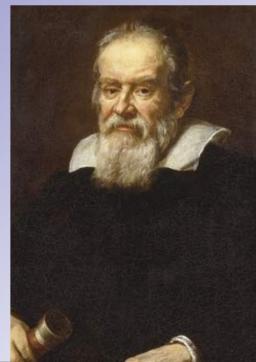
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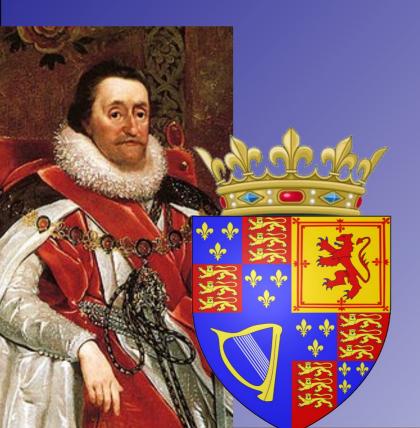
Modern pseudo-science history tends to see Bruno as a poor, stalwart martyr for science, but he was really more of a spoiled, rich, obnoxious nutcase

But his trial and execution were public enough that they had a crucial bearing on how similar-sounding views were heard when Galileo presented them a few years later on...



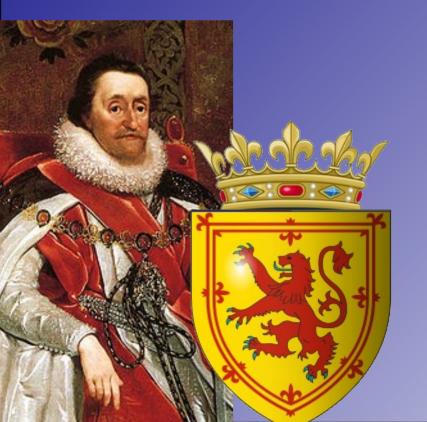


Europe is on the cusp of paradigm shifts
1600 Henri IV got married... again...
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King James I knighted Sir Francis Bacon





Funky little teaching moment—
English King James I had—until 1603—been Scottish King James VI
He was the only son of Mary, Queen of Scots (who herself was the daughter of Marie de Guise)
So James was very powerful on his mother's side





Funky little teaching moment—
English King James I had—until 1603—been
Scottish King James VI
He was the only son of Mary, Queen of Scots
(who herself was the daughter of Marie de Guise)
But he was also the great-grandson of
English Henry VII, who'd won the War of the Roses
and established the Tudors as the royal house of **England**

So James was very powerful on his father's side (well, both sides had Tudor blood in 'em)







Funky little teaching moment—
English King James I had—until 1603—been Scottish King James VI
His father died young and James VI was crowned the new King of Scotland at only 13 months old (and John Knox preached at his coronation)
But the Scottish had learned the from the whole "Marie de Guise regency of an infant" debacle and Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned so that little James could be raised by good, Protestant regents



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regents

But it wasn't that simple
Mary escaped and kept trying
to re-take the throne And even other Protestant nobles like William, Lord Ruthven, 1st Earl of Gowrie, tried to kidnap the young king to raise him in an even more

radically anti-Catholic regime (Ruthven actually controlled Scotland for a year or so until he and his family were all killed or driven into exile)



Funky little teaching moment—

English King James I had—until 1603—been Scottish King James VI

His father died young and James VI was crowned the new King of Scotland at only 13 months old James himself grew to be strong and intelligent (he even wrote several scholarly texts on theology and political theory)





Funky little teaching moment—
English King James I had—until 1603—been Scottish King James VI
His father died young and James VI was crowned the new King of Scotland at only 13 months old James himself grew to be strong and intelligent and he courted Anne of Denmark as his queen Ignoring time-honored, Renaissance traditions, James and Anne seemed to truly love one another They were married in Oslo (currently controlled by her family)





Funky little teaching moment

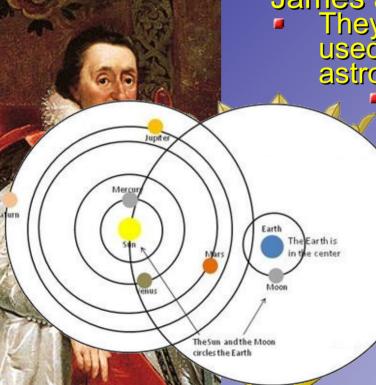
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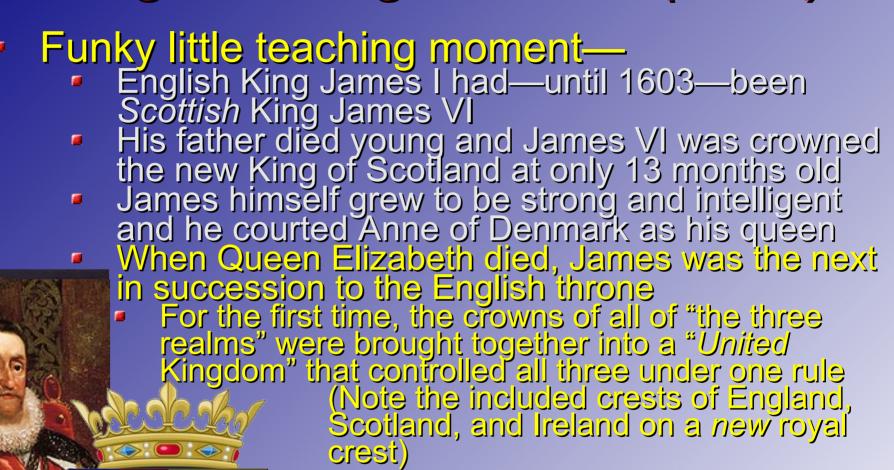
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Brahe had solved that whole pesky heliocentrism debate

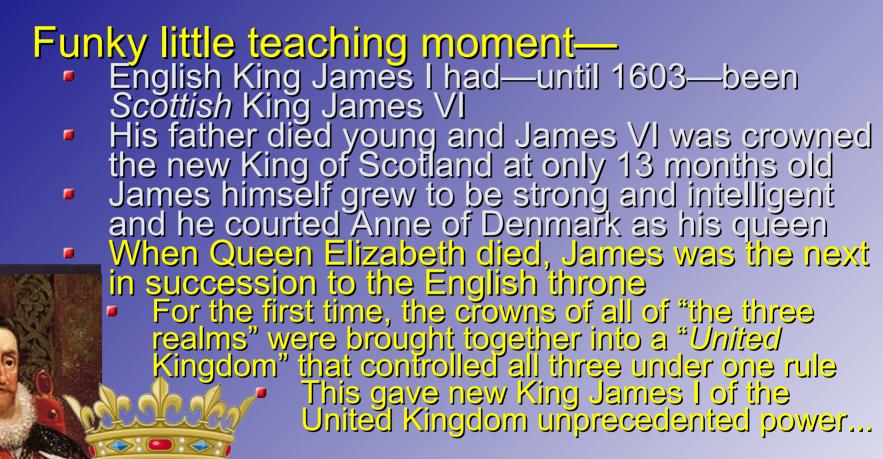
pesky heliocentrism debate by having the Sun and Moon orbit the Earth, and all the other planets orbit the Sun He also famously wore a brass nose, after having lost his real one in a duel

over a math equation











Europe is on the cusp of paradigm shifts

Henri IV got married... again...

Giordano Bruno was executed as a heretic

King James I knighted Sir Francis Bacon

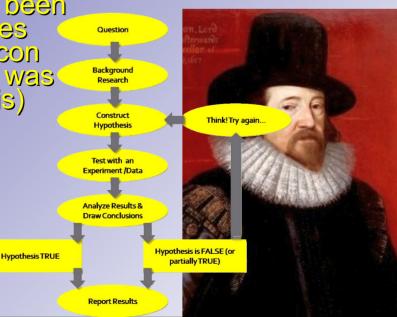
Bacon was the son of a knight in London

He'd wanted to study science, but instead was placed by his father on the fast track to becoming a judge and Parliamentarian

Nonetheless, he'd taken his roles seriously, and established a rule of empiricism in his decisions thus, creating an early form of what later became known as the "Baconian" or "scientific method"

(similar to what had been devised four centuries

levised four centuries earlier by Roger Bacon—who, confusingly, was no relation to Francis)



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Bacon felt particularly drawn to the up-and-coming movement of the Puritans—Calvinists who believed in the critical importance of moral and ecclesiological purity over all else

They stressed not only rooting out corruption in high offices of the Church, but also in bringing down those offices as essentially corrupt

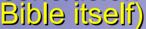
Since all sin comes from a desire for personal pleasure over and

for personal pleasure over and above striving for God's glory, then all personal pleasure was at least suspect—if not sinful by association for personal pleasure, art for art's sake, etc., were all often seen as inherently detrimental to the spiritual life of a Christian



Funky little teaching moment
One off-shoot of the Puritan movement was led
by John Smyth—an English pastor serving his
expatriate Calvinist congregation in Holland
In 1609, Smyth taught that the congregation should
separate itself from the Church of England,
because the Church was in error about two things:

1) The Church was still baptizing infants, and the
Scriptures bear no record of that—instead, only
believers should be baptized
(NOTE: They did not consider themselves
part of the Anabaptist movement, nor did
they repudiate any other Calvinist teachings,
but simply thought that they arrived at this
conclusion independently by reading the
Bible itself)





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1) The Church was still baptizing infants, and the Scriptures bear no record of that—instead, only believers should be baptized
2) Thus, the Church is comprised only of believers
(i.e.; There can be no "state church" that assures people that they are Christians, simply because they were born in that kingdom)





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Given this emphasis on baptism, Smyth's sect of Puritan Separatists became more popularly known as simply the "Baptists"

(Note: Today, there are now well over 200
Baptist denominations in the world, with more than 100 million members)





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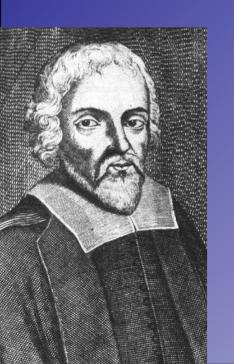
King James I knighted Sir Francis Bacon
Bacon was the son of a knight in London
Bacon felt particularly drawn to the up-and-coming movement of the Puritans—Calvinists who believed in the critical importance of moral and ecclesiological purity over all else
In part because of his affection for Bacon, James listened to the Puritans' case at the Hampton Court Conference in 1604, where they argued against
Making the sign of the cross during baptism
The concept and practice of Confirmation
Baptisms performed on infants by lay people
The use of a ring in marriage ceremonies
Bowing at the name of Jesus
The requirement of clerical vestments of any kind
Clergy receiving pay for their ministerial roles





Funky little teaching moment—
Ironically, that was the same year that Italian theologian Fausto Sozzini proposed to his Polish Brethren church that everything they'd believed was basically wrong
The Holy Spirit is simply an expression of God's power, not a distinct "person," per se
Jesus wasn't God in the flesh—He was simply God's son, conceived in Mary's virgin flesh
Jesus was thus the perfect human being, but only a human being—and He didn't exist before His birth
When He died, He didn't die to pay for anyone's sins, but rather as an example of the kind of utter seliflessness that we must all show in order to be saved from our sins

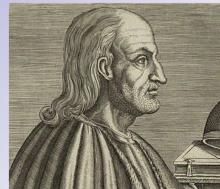
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So Sozzini's "Socinianism" was built on Peter Abélard's "Moral Influence Theory" of atonement and Michael Servetus' "Unitarian" theology of God Several Enlightenment thinkers self-declared themselves as Socinians, including Samuel Coleridge, Thomas Jefferson, Isaac Newton, Voltaire, and others





Europe is on the cusp of paradigm shifts

1600 Henri IV got married... again...
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The Gunpowder Plot
Radical Catholic Guy Fawkes had had enough of
James and his tolerance toward Protestants
So to bring England back to its senses, Fawkes and
his crew collected 36 barrels of gunpowder, with the
intent of blowing up Parliament, the King, the Queen,
and the whole royal family on November 5, when
Parliament next convened
The conspirators sent an anonymous

The conspirators sent an anonymous

letter beforehand, so that when it happened, they could claim credit

As a result, they were all caught, and publicly drawn and quartered

In fact, Parliament passed into law that henceforth, November 5 should be a public holiday in Britain, so that Guy Fawkes might continually be burged in efficient. continually be burned in effigy (people often host bonfire parties and wear "Guy Fawkes" masks... popularized by V for Vendetta...)



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Radical Catholic Guy Fawkes had had enough of
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The Gunpowder Plot is even commemorated in a
children's poem that begins:
Remember, remember!
The fifth of November,
The Gunpowder Treason and Plot;
I know of no reason
Why the Gunpowder Treason

Why the Gunpowder Treason Should ever be forgot!



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Obviously, King James survived the attempt on his life, and sat on the throne for another twenty years—with some significant accomplishments under his belt...





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Jamestown was founded
The Virginia Company
(named by Walter Raleigh after the "Virgin Queen,"
Elizabeth—who got the nickname not because she
was never sexually active, but because she never
married or had children)







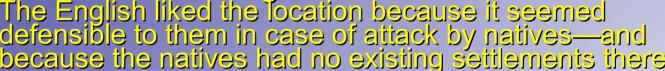
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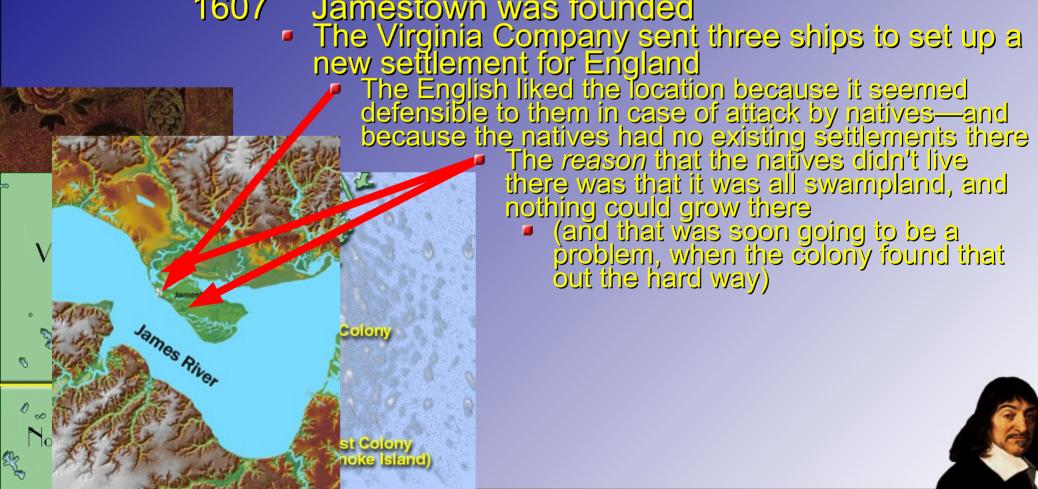
The Virginia Company sent three ships to set up a new settlement for England just up the coastline from the "lost colony" of Roanoke, in a tributary off of Chesapeake Bay (that they named the "James River")





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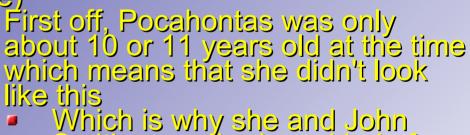


Funky little teaching moment—
They'd had some problems with the natives, but most of that seemed behind them
One of the leaders of the colony—a man named John Smith—was captured by the local natives in April and was taken to their chief, Wahunsenakuk, who was going to bash Smith's brains in until the chief's daughter, Pocahontas, saved him



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(which actually probably did happen—just not like in the Disney movie)

First off, Pocahontas was only

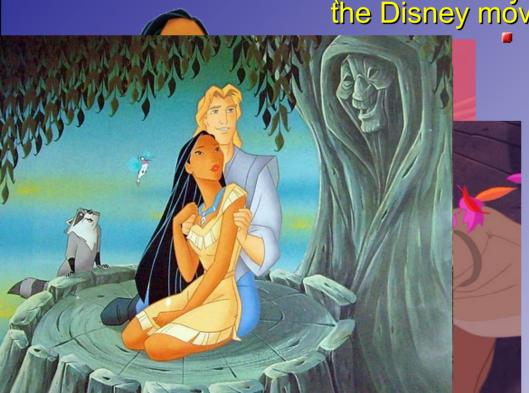


Which is why she and John Smith never had any kind of a

love affair

Later on, she did become a devout Christian and marry a man named John Rolfe

(which, to be fair, Disney sorta tried to fix with their Pocahontas II...)



Funky little teaching moment²—
This guy down here—the villain, John Ratcliffe—was actually a fairly nice guy in real life
One of the local native tribes even invited him to their village to trade for food for the starving colony at which point, they slowly skinned him with mussel shells, and then burned him alive

(so, arguably, Ratcliffe was the "victim" in real life)





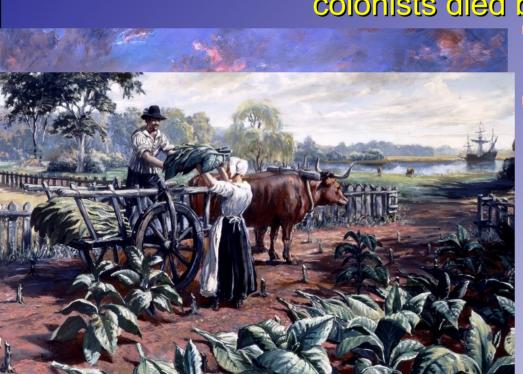
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The Virginia Company sent three ships to set up a new settlement for England
 The food situation was so horrible that 2/3 of the

colonists died before relief ships could get there
They called it "The Starving Time"
and yes, at least one 14-year-old girl
was cannibalized

But once the seven-ship fleet finally arrived from England in 1610, Jamestown became relatively selfsufficient

(Note: That fleet brought John Rolfe, who married Pocahontas—and began a profitable new industry when he planted the tobacco seeds he'd brought with him from Bermuda...)



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1603 1605 1607 **1611** King James Version of the Bible was published

