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
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- AD 11th-13th centuries
- AD 14th-15th centuries
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- AD 17th-18th centuries
- AD 19th century
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- AD 21st century

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 - Cromwell
 - Philosophers and Kings, Missionaries and Explorers
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AD 1st-3rd centuries

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AD 11th-13th centuries

AD 14th-15th centuries

AD 16th century

AD 17th-18th centuries



New ways of thinking changed everything
 1721 Pyotr Alekseyevich became Emperor in Russia





Funky little teaching moment—
Before I say anything about him, what can you see about Pyotr already, just from this portrait?
In what way(s) would you say that Pyotr differed from the other "big" monarchs of his age?
Pyotr was a young, athletic, military man, and he saw himself as thoroughly modern in every sense of the word









New ways of thinking changed everything
1721 Pyotr Alekseyevich became Emperor in Russia
Pyotr was the third son of Tsar Alexis I, who wasn't that modern at all

When Alexis died, he left the throne to his eldest son, Feodor III—a weak, sickly Tsar who reigned for about a minute and a half
So Pyotr and his older brother, Ivan V, became joint-rulers as children, which meant that the real power fell to their regent, their older half-sister, Sophia (in fact, she famously cut a hole in the back of their throne so that she could

throne so that she could hide and feed them lines when they sat at court)

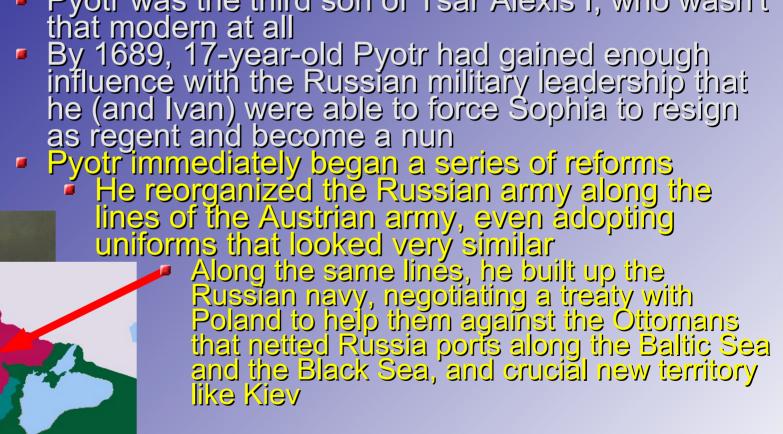


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By 1689, 17-year-old Pyotr had gained enough influence with the Russian military leadership that he (and Ivan) were able to force Sophia to resign as regent and become a nun Very quickly, Ivan took a back seat to Pyotr's energetic and charismatic leadership, essentially being a "Tsar" in name only and leaving Pyotr to lead Russia independently



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as regent and become a nun

Pyotr immediately began a series of reforms

He reorganized the Russian army along the lines of the Austrian army, even adopting uniforms that looked very similar

Similarly, he reorganized the Russian court as well, demanding that nobles dress and cut their beards like modern, Western Europeans

When traditionalists balked, he instituted a hefty tax on the wearing of beards and robes

He also changed the Russian calendar

So the Russian year 7207 suddenly became the Julian year 1700, and New Year's Day was moved from September 1 to January 1—just like the rest of Europe

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 He also used serfs to build the city of Saint Petersburg on the Baltic coast, and moved the capital and seat of government there
 By 1721, he had finished his wars against Sweden and Persia, and nestled in as the "Emperor of all the Russias"



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To consolidate his rule, the new Emperor also reformed the church throughout his empire
When Patriarch Adrian of Moscow died in 1700

Pyotr refused to allow a new Patriarch to be

named in his place
(Pyotr had no respect for something as archaic as a church, and he didn't like the idea of a rival leader—especially one who ruled from the old capital city)

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So, in 1721, Pyotr dissolved the office and instead created a Holy Synod that would be led by a government agent, and whose members would be appointed by Pyotr



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 Effectively, the state now completely controlled the church in Russia... and regulated it firmly
 Pyotr taxed churches heavily, made it illegal to become clergy earlier than the age of 50, and created colleges and seminaries to train clergy which emphasized Latin and modern philosophy over Eastern Orthodoxy



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The Patriarchy wasn't re-instituted until

August of 1917... only two months before the October Revolution that created the church-opposing Soviet Union...

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Today—thanks to his long rule and his constant reforms that dragged Russia kicking and screaming into the modern age—Pyotr is more commonly known as "Peter the Great"



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Born to a noble family from Austria and Saxony,
Count Zinzendorf grew up as a devout Lutheran
though he also saw himself as a Pietist
Though trained as a diplomat, he felt a call to be a
minister, emphasizing the priesthood of all
believers, a disconnection from "state churches,"
and the need for a personal relationship with Christ
Thus, when the persecuted Christians of Moravia
(the spiritual descendants of Jan Hus and his

(who had been burned at the stake in Germany way back in 1415 for following the teachings of John Wycliffe and the Lollards who were themselves condemned and had been burned at the stake in England starting back in 1408)

(all because they believed the heresies that worship could be done in your own language, that the Bible was for all the read, that communion is

a remembrance, etc.)



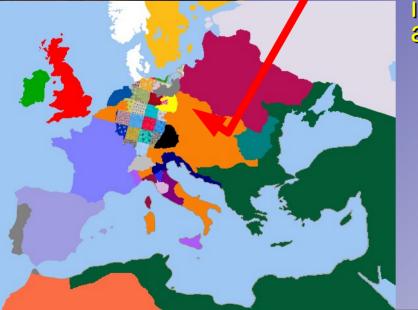
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Hussites and Jakob Hutter and his Hutterites)
(Anabaptists who had been driven out of

(Anabaptists who had been driven out of Tyrolia way back in 1533—the same year that Jean Calvin had been converted to

Christianity—because they believed the heresies that war and violence were bad, that baptism was for those who have actively repented, that the church should live as a community of faith, etc.)

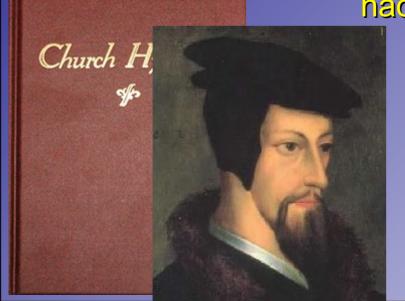
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Thus, when the persecuted Christians of Moravia
asked Zinzendorf for refuge on his lands in Saxony
in 1722, he was primed to help them out,
allowing them to build the village of Hermhut
Soon, Hermhut became a Mecca of sorts
for European sects seeking sanctuary from
persecution—including sects that held
wildly differing beliefs

wildly differing beliefs
Zinzendorf left his diplomatic work to pray
with and lead Bible studies with the people
of Herrnhut, to try to help them work
together to be a Christian community,
despite their diversity



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The Puritans cited Jean Calvin that hymns
should be sung without any instruments, and
that the hymns themselves should come
directly from Scripture, and that the
congregation should simply come together and
sing whatever melody or melodies that God
had laid on their hearts

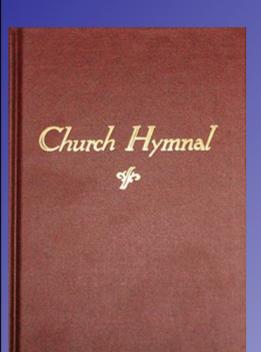
(since the idea of writing down the notes as if one were simply mindlessly following a map prevents the Holy Spirit from allowing you to follow God's leading instead)





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Take note of these arguments about the use of contemporary music in worship—
It forced worship to be focused on being novel
The melodies aren't as beautiful as the classics

There are so many new songs every year that you're constantly having to learn new ones
And that creates disorder in the service
The new songs make use of modern instruments
—you might as well be at a public concert
There's nothing wrong or lacking with the classics, so we don't need all of these new songs

It creates a gulf between mature Christians and

young Christians, who divide over music styles
The use of contemporary music disconnects us
from the saints of old—when we sing the classics,
we sing the same words and notes that they did

Have you heard any of these arguments

floating around nowadays?
Well, these were from those New England
Puritans back in 1723...

Funky little teaching moment—
It was around this time that Isaac Watts was shaking things up in the church with his music A Nonconformist

(i.e.; someone who didn't "conform" to the Act of Uniformity 1662, which forced all British churches to follow the same doctrine and practices—namely, those of the "Church of England")



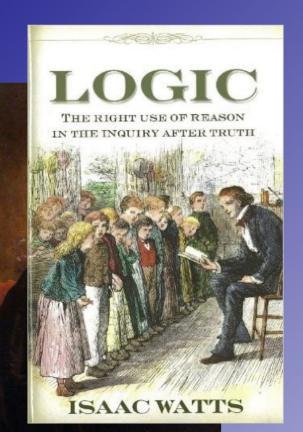


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A Nonconformist, Watts preached in small, unofficial churches and taught logic classes to make a living (in fact, in 1724, he wrote what was considered "the book" on the subject of logic, entitled Logic, or The Right Use of Reason in the Enquiry After Truth With a Variety of Rules to Guard Against Error in the Affairs of Religion and Human Life, as Well as in the Sciences)

(not only was it generally considered both brilliant and comprehensive, but it also—like Descartes had done nearly a century earlier—attempted to make philosophical enquiry accessible to the common reader)





Funky little teaching moment—

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A Nonconformist, Watts preached in small, unofficial churches and taught logic classes to make a living.

Watts became distressed that the singing of hymns had devolved into droning on over the same long, drearily-arranged Psalms over and over again.

(NOTE: In his day, the general practice in churches was for a deacon to read a line of the text, and for the congregation to then sing the line in response—and to do so through an entire Psalm).

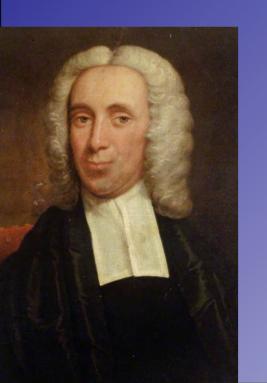
(as one contemporary critic wrote,

"Could poor King David but for once,

To Salem Church repair,

And hear his Psalms thus warbled out,

Good Lord, how he would swear!")





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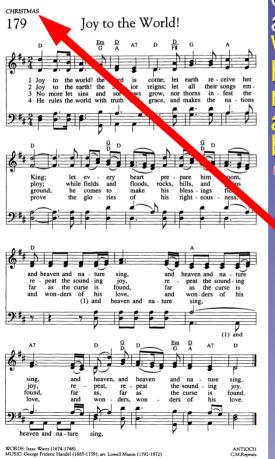
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Watts argued that this was never David's intention, and he set about "updating" the Davidic Psalms to reflect more specifically Christian imagery and principles and re-infusing them with the joy that they had originally

(for instance, he came under fire for writing the song "Joy to the World," about Christ's second coming, since the Church officially argued that the Day of Judgment was not something to be "joyful" about) (today, we just tend to ignorantly sing the song as if it were talking about Christ's first coming)





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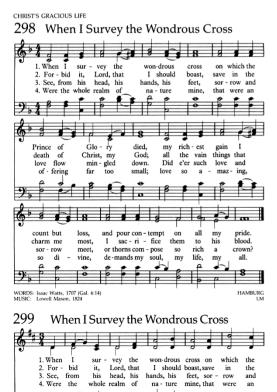
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(for instance, he came under fire for writing the song "Joy to the World," about Christ's second coming) (and he caused even a bigger stir when he wrote "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," since—after Irish "Be Thou My Vision"—this was one of the first hymns ever written in the first person)

(it was considered tacky and presumptuous to a song as if one had some sort of a

personal relationship with God

seen as too "modern," "secular," and centered" to be used in a worship



WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1707 (Gal. 6:14) MUSIC: Anon.; arr. by Edward Miller. 1790

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(for instance, he came under fire for writing the song "Joy to the World," about Christ's second coming) (and he caused even a bigger stir when he wrote "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross") (in 2001, Christ Tomlin updated the song as "The Wonderful Cross"—ironically coming under fire for doing exactly what Watts had done in the first place)

(even this Spring, a blogger complained that it's too discordant to sing such a modern chorus alongside such a classic hymn updating the classics just "ignores the historical significance of our hymns")



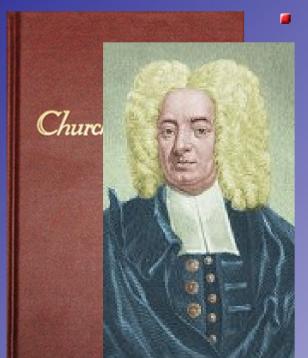
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to the Puritans because they saw it as an affront to

The work of hymn-writers like Watts and others introduced what was quickly labelled "the New Way" of worship music, and the idea of singing more modern music (in ways that more directly mirrored the ways that secular songs were sung)

a concept which was itself highly criticized by the

traditionalists)

(when the first organ was used in the Americas in 1713 at King's Chapel in Boston, Puritan preacher Cotton Mather preached a series of sermons about how the city had fallen into wickedness for allowing such an infernally secular instrument to be played in a sanctuary)



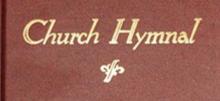


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But even then—even today (since we still tend to institutionalize what was new a generation ago, and fight the introduction of new new things)—the "New Way" quickly became simply the newest version of a tradition to be followed

(for instance, do you see church organs as neutral, or as symbols of modernity, or as symbols of traditionalism?)

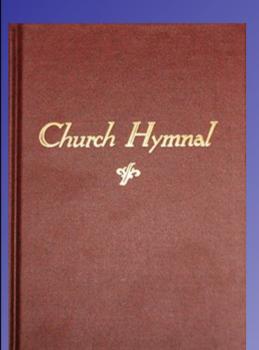


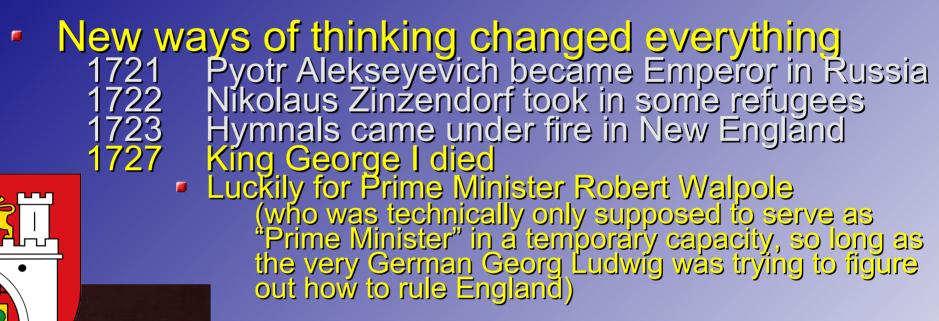
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The work of hymn-writers like Watts and others introduced what was quickly labelled "the New Way" of worship music, and the idea of singing more modern music (in ways that more directly mirrored the ways that secular songs were sung) became the new norm in Protestant churches

But even then—even today (since we still tend to institutionalize what was new a generation ago, and fight the introduction of new new things)—the "New Way" quickly became simply the newest version of a tradition to be followed.

Ironically, hymnals—once a symbol of bringing novelty into the worship service—tacitly became the bastions of church traditionalism









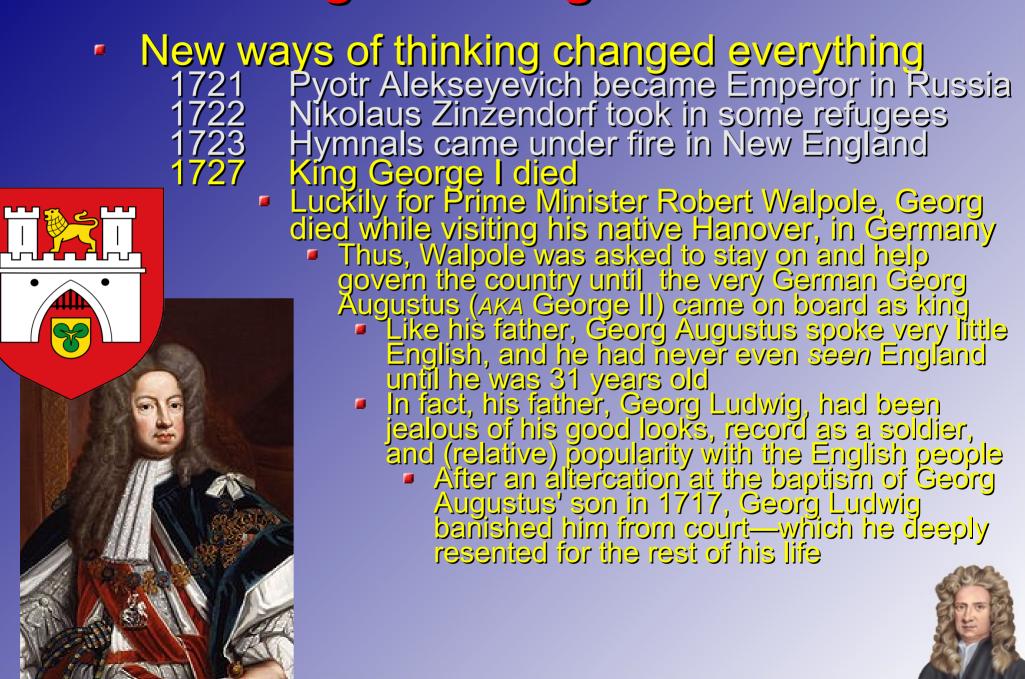
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King George I died
Luckily for Prime Minister Robert Walpole, Georg
died while visiting his native Hanover, in Germany
Thus, Walpole was asked to stay on and help
govern the country until the very German Georg
Augustus (AKA George II) came on board as king
Like his father, Georg Augustus spoke very little

English

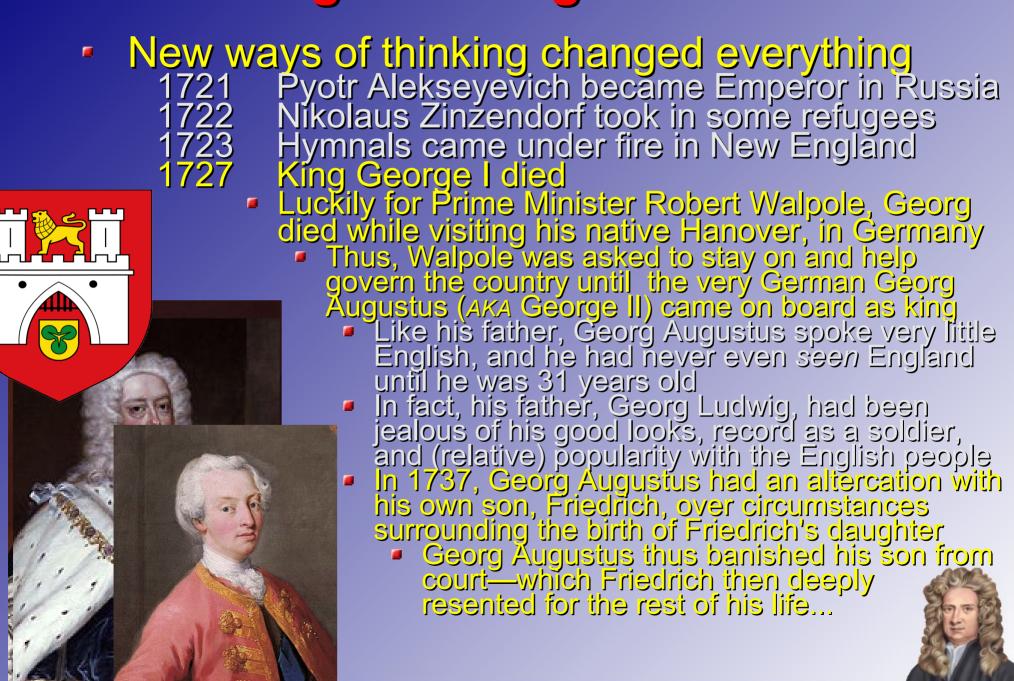
(being a German noble, his first language was French, the language of all European courts—AKA the "lingua franca")











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"The Golden Summer" revival broke out

After several years of prayer and Bible study together under young Count Zinzendorf, the various refugee groups at Herrnhut experienced a HAS COL revival

At a worship service in August of 1727, the various factions came together and had their own "Pentecost experience," when the Holy Spirit flooded them with His presence, and they all left

profoundly changed

After that day, they "learned to love one another" and get past their petty differences, and became one church family (an aggregate which later became known as the "Moravian Church")

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As a result, the Moravian Church exploded in growth and in missions emphasis In fact, they were the first Protestant church to officially send out missionaries around the world

Two of the first missionaries sent out were Johann Dober and David Nitschmann, who offered to minister to African slaves being sent over to the New World

When they were told by the slavers that they wouldn't be allowed to sail with them, they offered to sell themselves into slavery so that they could sail with the

slaves as brothers

(FYI—the slavers relented)



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Other missionaries established missions among the Inuit in Greenland, the Algonquin in New York, the Lenape in Pennsylvania, the Cherokee in Georgia, and elsewhere

around the world Soon, other churches took notice...