

Bell Work

- You live in a small town in Germany in the 1500s. The Catholic Church has a lot of influence here. Often, church officials clash with local nobles over who has the final say in certain political issues. The church also demands that the nobles pay high taxes. Lately, however, a local priest has been openly criticizing church leaders. He wants to make some changes. **As a citizen, how do you react? Write a paragraph explaining your answer.**

The Reformation of Christianity

I can explain why people were angry at the Catholic church, including the main ideas of Martin Luther, John Calvin, Desiderius Erasmus, and William Tyndal.

7.55 Outline the reasons for the growing discontent with the Catholic Church, including the main ideas of Martin Luther (salvation by faith), John Calvin (predestination), Desiderius Erasmus (free will), and William Tyndale (translating the Bible into English), and their attempts to reconcile what they viewed as God's word with Church action. (C, H, P)

Background

- By the early 1500s Renaissance ideas had caused many Europeans to view their lives with a more critical eye. They thought their lives could be changed for the better.
- One area that some people thought needed improvement was religion.



Reformers Call for Change

- By the late Renaissance some people had started to complain about problems in the Catholic Church.
- They called on its leaders to end corruption and focus on religion.
- Their calls led to the Reformation.

Unpopular Church Practices

- Some of the complaints of those who wanted reform was the following:
 - Priests and bishops weren't religious.
 - The pope was too involved in politics
 - The church had grown too rich.
 - Many people objected to the ways the church earned its money. One method was the sale of *indulgences*. An indulgence was a document given by the pope that excused a person from penalties for the sins that he or she had committed. According to the church, an indulgence reduced the time that a person would serve in purgatory. In Catholic teachings, purgatory was a place where souls went to make up for their sins before they went to heaven. Many Christians thought that by selling indulgences, the church was letting people buy their way into heaven.

Martin Luther

- <http://www.history.com/topics/reformation>
- Read Martin Luther on p. 570 – 571.
- Answer the following in your notes:
 1. What is Luther's list of complaints called?
 2. Who called Luther a heretic and excommunicated him?
 3. What happened as a result of Germany's ruler ordering Luther to appear before a diet?
 4. Protestants who followed Luther were known as...
 5. Summarize Luther's teachings that are found in the fourth paragraph.
 6. What did Luther do to help people understand the Bible? Why was this significant?



Other Reformers

- John Calvin
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ivVAcg5pyI>
- Through his writings and preaching, Calvin spread basic Reformation ideas such as the right of the common people to make church policy.
- Unlike many other religious leaders, Calvin didn't think that the pursuit of profits would keep businesspeople from being saved.
- This idea would eventually help lead to the growth of capitalism.
 - What is capitalism?



Other Reformers

- Read *Other Reformers* on p. 571 – 572.
- Write down three bullet points that you think are the most important from the text.
- Make sure you find out what you can about William Tyndale.

Other Reformers - Desiderius Erasmus

- Desiderius Erasmus was one of Europe's most famous and influential scholars.
- He was a humanist who was the greatest scholar of the northern Renaissance, the first editor of the New Testament, and also an important figure and patristics and classical literature.
- Though Erasmus supported Protestant ideals, he was against the radicalism of some of its leaders, and, in 1523, he condemned Luther's methods.
- Erasmus fell ill and died from an attack of dysentery. Though he remained loyal to the Church of Rome, he did not receive last rites.
- This seems to reflect his view that what mattered most was a believer's direct relationship with God.

Exit Ticket

- Write a paragraph explaining (in your opinion) who the most influential person of the Reformation was. Make sure you use text evidence to back up your answer.