Lecture 13: The European Reformation

Why the Reformation

• The Revival of Commerce - Europe recovers trade networks, Manorialism declines, serfdom declines
• Renaissance
  the “rebirth” of classical culture that occurred in Italy between 1350 and 1550.
• The New World is found in 1492/1493
• The Printing Press is invented in 1455? Printing of Greek and Roman Classics, humanism, lay reading, Bible is printed
• The Plague of 1347

The Northern Renaissance

• Christian Humanism
• Erasmus (1466 – 1536)
  • *The Praise and Folly* (1511), a parody of his corrupt society
• Thomas More (1478 – 1535)
  • *Utopia* (1516), cooperation and reason replaces fame and power
• Corruption and worldliness of the Catholic Church

Catholic Church Corrupt?

• Salvation could only be won through good works -- fasting, chastity, abstinence and asceticism.
• Church’s growing emphasis on rituals
• Church’s growing secularization
• The poor resented the wealth of the papacy
• The very rich were jealous of such wealth.
• Pope’s bought and sold offices
• Church sold indulgences
• Clergy was lax, corrupt, and immoral

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

• What must I do to be saved?
• Who was Martin Luther?
• The Thunderstorm?
• Ordained in 1507
• 1512 Professor of Theology at Wittenberg University
• 1517 Luther will write the famous “95 Theses”
• Luther will further define “Protestantism” at Leipzig Debate (1519)
• 1520, Luther published three highly influential works
  – *To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation*,
  – *The Babylonian Captivity of the Church*,
  – *The Freedom of a Christian*
• 1521, Diet of Worms “Justification by faith”
• Luther supported by German Princes/municipalities
The English Reformation

- Worldly affairs necessitate a split with Rome
- 1534, Act of Supremacy declares King Henry head of Church of England
- 1536, Henry VIII dissolves 376 monasteries and nunneries.
- Little doctrine is changed in “Anglican” church
- Henry dies and young King Edward VI takes throne (1547-1553)
- English bishops (Cranmer) move English church into Protestantism
  – *Book of Common Prayer*

The English Reformation

- The Catholic Mary I (Mary Tudor) becomes Queen (r. 1553-1558/9)
- Queen Elizabeth takes thrown (r. 1558-1603)
- Religion as an issue fades away
- England becomes a camp of Anglicans, Catholics, Protestants, and Puritans
- England will fight a series of “civil wars” in the 1500’s spurred by religion and government

Calvin and Calvinism

- Who was John Calvin?
- Calvin would synthesize protestant doctrine in
  – *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536)
- Calvin would set up ministry in Geneva
- Calvinism set itself apart from Lutheranism with doctrine of Predestination
- Calvinism quickly replaced Lutheranism as the “international” form of Protestantism
- Anabaptists formed the radical reformed church (a.k.a Mennonites, Amish)

Catholicism vs. Protestantism (1500’s)

- Strict interpretation vs. Lose interpretation
- Free will & Justification by works vs. Predestination & Justification by faith alone
- Vulgate vs. Vernacular
- Separate, centralized Episcopacy vs. Decentralized “Priesthood of All Believers”

Reformation: The Social Impact

- Follow my direction and bear me children
- Creation of Nuclear family
- The broadening of education
- Emphasis on collective prayer
- Emphasis on evangelicalism
• Emphasis on duty during life as opposed to duty in death

The Counter Reformation
• The regeneration and creation of religious orders
• Schools, conversion, and anti-Protestantism
• The revival of the Roman Inquisition (1542)
• Council of Trent 1545
• Does the Catholic Church want to reform?

French Wars of Religion (1562-1598)
• Saint Bartholomew’s Day Massacre, 1572
• French Kings persecute Calvinists
  – War of the Three Henry’s (1587-1589)
  – House of Bourbon Huguenot
  – Towns and provinces who resisted centralized Monarchy
• Edict of Nantes (1598),
  – Catholicism official religion
  – Guaranteeing Huguenot right to worship

The European Wars of Religion
• Spanish monarchy and French monarchy fight a series of religious wars in the Holy Roman Empire, 1521 - 1544
• King Phillip II attempts to stop a series of “protestant” revolts
• Peace of Augsburg (1555)
• Spanish Armada will fail to take England in 1588

Significance of the Reformation
• Europe is divided by religion into catholic and protestant camps
• Many nations, such as England, gain greater control over the church
• The Reformation
  – spurs the search for a stable secular order of politics and universe