Chapter 3
The Reformation in Europe

People
John Wycliffe: a fourteenth century English reformer who believed that individuals are saved by God directly, not through Church, and that the Bible should be available in English.

Martin Luther: German monk who questioned the Church’s teachings and inspired Reformation, breaking away from Rome’s control.

Charles V: Emperor of the German States, he presided over the Diet of Worms, an assembly of leaders who gathered to discuss Luther’s ideas.

Ulrich Zwingli: Swiss Reformation leader who based his religious ideas on scripture, not tradition or Church authority, and established one type of Protestantism in Zurich.

John Calvin: French Protestant who moved to Geneva, Switzerland and established Reformed Protestantism there. He is famous for writing The Institutes of the Christian Religion and emphasizing the supremacy of God.

Michael Servetus: Spanish humanist who escaped Catholic Inquisition, but was executed for heresy in Protestant Geneva.

Henry VIII: King of England who wanted to end his marriage, so cut ties to Rome, establishing the Church of England with himself at its head.

Teresa of Avila: Spanish saint who wrote about her spiritual visions in an autobiography, and reformed the Carmelite order of nuns.

Angela Merici: founded a new religious order, the Ursulines, who were dedicated to the education of young girls and care of the sick and poor.

Ignatius Loyola: Spanish nobleman who had a dramatic religious experience and wrote Spiritual Exercises, and founded the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), which regarded itself as the army of the church.

Terms
indulgences: acts of penitence (associated with donations) in the Catholic Church that result in forgiveness of sin.
ninety-five theses: list of Luther’s arguments against current practices of Roman Catholicism, posted on his church door as an invitation to debate them.
sovereignty: a state, territory, or community that has the right to make its own laws, engage in war, make treaties, etc.
predestination: the idea that God knows has already determined which people are bound for heaven.
Inquisition: a tribunal of the Roman Catholic Church whose main function was to seek out and punish heresy.
sola fide: Reformation idea that people are saved by God because of faith in Jesus, not by their own good works.
sola scriptura: emphasis of Protestants on the individual’s ability to interpret truth for themselves based on the Bible, not the teachings and traditions of the Church.
**Jesuits:** a reformation religious order known for its loyalty to the papacy, emphasis on education, and its missionary zeal.

**Council of Trent:** a meeting of Church leaders to deal with reform ideas, and which affirmed the seven sacraments and belief in scripture and tradition.

**pluralism:** idea that a number of religious/cultural/ethnic groups should co-exist in a spirit of mutual tolerance.

1. Luther had challenged the Church on several points and had been excommunicated as a heretic.
   - The Diet (assembly called to discuss the ideas) met April 1521.
   - There, Luther was ordered to recant (take back) his views.
   - He refused to do so until shown he was wrong from the Bible, saying “Here I stand.”

2. They were Protestant leaders in Germany and Switzerland, respectively. Both believed in the individual’s ability to read scripture for themselves, but each had a different view of the Eucharist.
   - Believed in adult baptism by conscious choice.
   - Organized in small groups, independent of the state.
   - Church to be a voluntary association of believers.
   - They were often lower class, rural people seeking a simple life.
   - Women ministers were sometimes permitted.
   - They tended to be pacifists.
   - They believed in separation of church and state and so were often persecuted by both.

3. German states wanted peace after fighting for 35 years.
   - Emperor Charles V involved.
   - In 1555, Roman Catholics and Lutherans agreed to stop war.
   - Formalized current reality, “who rules the territory determines the religion.”

4. An icon is an image, or religious picture. Iconoclasm means image-breaking, or destroying religious idols.
   - Calvinists were destroying sculptures and paintings in the church as a way of purifying church worship.
6.
• In 1535, Geneva became Protestant.
• Calvin moved there, fleeing persecution in France.
• He moved away, but returned in 1540 at request of the city, influencing it to accept new rules and structure, with a council to watch over people’s lives.

7.
• England’s situation was different from the continent.
• But, as in Germany, there was opposition to the “foreign” papacy.
• Henry VIII had defended Catholic beliefs but wanted to end his marriage and to reduce Rome’s power.
• The Act of Supremacy was passed, making him Head of an independent Church of England.

8.
• Family became a more important unit, with Bible reading and prayer done at home.
• Education included more middle class people, with studies in the language of daily life, not Latin.
• Work had more dignity, as all people were “called” to jobs, not only religious vocations.

9.
• Response to the crisis of Protestantism is called the Counter-Reformation.
• Some reforms initiated by grassroots movements; others by leadership, especially Pope Paul III who:
  – Gave official status to the Jesuit order.
  – Called the Council of Trent.
  – Established the Holy Office to ensure conformity.

10.
• Ended the dream of religious unity.
• Inspired education (due to desire to study the Bible).
• Monastic life abandoned (new emphasis on this world).
• Encouraged greater equality (clergy status decreased).
• Fostered individualism (stress on personal salvation).
• Allowed for more religious choice.
• Increased state authority over religion in some ways.