CHAPTER 29

The Reformation
1475 A.D.–1650 A.D.

Indulgence box

Martin Luther, Church reformer

- 1517: Luther posts 95 theses
- 1534: Henry VIII heads Church of England
- 1545: Council of Trent meets
- 1588: England defeats the Armada
- 1598: Edict of Nantes is signed
- 1618: Thirty Years’ War begins
SECTION 1  Martin Luther

One reformer who challenged the Church was a German monk named Martin Luther. Luther, born in 1483, was the son of peasants. His family wanted him to be a lawyer, but he decided to become a monk. As a monk, Luther faithfully followed Church teachings and practices. However, he could find no peace of mind. He wondered how God would judge his actions.

While studying the New Testament, Luther found the answer to the questions that had been troubling him. He decided that trusting in Jesus, rather than doing good works, would save people from their sins. Luther’s ideas soon brought him into conflict with the Church. In 1517, Pope Leo X wanted money to
rebuild St. Peter’s Church in Rome. He sent out monks to sell **indulgences** (in dul’ juhnt sez), or documents that freed their owners from the punishment they were due to receive for their sins. Luther believed the sale of indulgences led people to think they could buy God’s forgiveness for their sins.

One night Luther posted a list of 95 **theses** (thē’ séz), or statements of beliefs, on the door of the castle church in Wittenberg (wit’ uhn buhrg), Germany. In the list, Luther stated that only God could forgive sins. He challenged anyone who disagreed to debate with him.

Luther began to attack other Catholic beliefs openly. He said that Popes could make mistakes; that the only true guide to religious truth was the Bible, which every Christian had the right to read; and that every Christian had the right to pray to God without the aid of a priest.

In 1520, Pope Leo condemned Luther’s teachings and excommunicated him. Leo insisted that the German emperor,
Charles V, try Luther as a **heretic** (her’ uh tik), or person who holds a belief that is different from the accepted belief of the Church. Charles was loyal to the Church, but he relied on German princes who supported Luther. To keep their loyalty, Charles agreed to give Luther a fair trial. At the same time, he secretly promised the Pope that Luther would be condemned. In 1521, Luther was tried by the German Diet of Worms. When he refused to give up his ideas, he was condemned for heresy.

**Section 1 Assessment**

1. **Define:** reformation, indulgences, theses, heretic.
2. Why did Luther come into conflict with the Church?
3. What happened to Luther at Worms?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Identifying Central Issues** What was the central or underlying issue in the debate between Luther and Pope Leo X?

**SECTION 2 A New Religion**

By 1524, most people in northern Germany supported Luther. They left the Roman Catholic Church and formed the Lutheran (lū’ thuhr uhn) Church.

The Lutheran princes of Germany had strong armies, which Charles V could not defeat. In 1555, Charles realized he could not force the people to return to the Roman Catholic Church. He then agreed to sign a treaty known as the Peace of Augsburg (ogz’ buhrg). There could be both Catholic and Lutheran churches in Germany. The Peace of Augsburg kept German Lutherans and Catholics from fighting each other for nearly 50 years.

**Protestant Groups** Luther’s ideas soon spread to other areas of Europe. People in Scandinavia founded Lutheran churches. Preachers and merchants in Switzerland (swit’ suhr luhnd) also left the Roman Catholic Church. They set up Reformed churches. Because they protested against Catholic ideas, Lutheran and Reformed churches were called Protestant (prot’ uh stuhnt). Protestant church leaders were called **ministers**. They spent more time teaching from the Bible. They conducted services in the language of the area instead of in Latin. This made services easier for people to understand.

**Reading Check**

- Why did the Pope want to try Luther as a **heretic**?
- How did Protestant **ministers** differ from Catholic priests?
Ulrich Zwingli was important in leading the Protestant movement in Switzerland. Zwingli lived from 1484 to 1531. Unlike Luther, however, he wanted to break completely from Catholic rituals. He ordered the removal of images from churches, and he wanted to close monasteries. Zwingli led a group of Protestants from Zurich, Switzerland, in a battle against Catholic forces in 1531 and was killed. After Zwingli’s death, the Protestant church was firmly established in Switzerland.

John Calvin The most powerful Reformed group was in the Swiss city of Geneva (juh nē’ vuh). There, John Calvin set up the first Protestant church governed by a council of ministers and elected church members. Calvin also wrote books that became a guide for Protestants throughout Europe.

Calvin believed that there was nothing in the past, present, or future that God did not know about or control. He also held that from the beginning of time, God decided who would be saved and who would not. Calvin used the scriptures to support his ideas. He believed that God’s will was written in the Bible, which ministers had the right to interpret. The ministers also had the right to make sure everyone obeyed God’s will. Calvin had the Geneva town council pass laws to force people to follow strict rules of behavior. They could not dance, play cards, go to the theater, or take part in drinking parties. Those who refused to obey these laws were put in prison, executed, or banished.

Calvinism taught people to work hard and to save money. For this reason, many rich merchants supported Calvin. With their help, Calvin worked to improve Geneva. Streets and buildings were kept clean. New workshops opened, providing more jobs for people. Persecuted Protestants from all over Europe found safety in Geneva. Young men came to study at the school Calvin founded to train Reformed ministers. Many of them later returned to their own countries to set up Reformed churches.

Section 2 Assessment

1. Define: ministers.
2. What was the Peace of Augsburg?
3. Why were Lutheran and Reformed churches called Protestant?

Critical Thinking

4. Analyzing Information What ideas of Calvinism do you agree with? What ideas do you disagree with?

Graphic Organizer Activity

5. Draw this diagram, and use it to compare Protestant and Catholic practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protestant Practices</th>
<th>Catholic Practices</th>
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SECTION 3 Catholic Reform

While Protestants formed new churches, Catholic reformers worked to improve their church. Many came from Spain and Italy, the leading countries of the Catholic reform movement.

One of the best known Catholic reformers was Ignatius (ig nā’ shē uhs) of Loyola (loi ē’ luh). In 1521, he gave up his life as a Spanish noble to serve God and the Roman Catholic Church. In 1540, he founded the Society of Jesus. Its members were called Jesuits (jezh’ ŭ ı ts). This group was formed to spread Roman Catholic ideas to all parts of the world. Jesuits also worked to help the people strengthen their faith. They wore black robes and lived simple lives. They set up schools, helped the poor, and preached to the people. They also taught in universities and served as advisers in royal courts. Jesuit missionaries were the first to carry Catholic ideas to India, China, and Japan.

Church Membership

Worldwide, the Roman Catholic Church is still the largest Christian church, with about 968 million people. About 466 million follow some of the many varieties of Protestantism. The next largest Christian community, with nearly 218 million, includes the different congregations of the Eastern Orthodox Church, which was once centered in Constantinople.

St. Peter’s Basilica  In 1506, Donato Bramante proposed a bold design for the rebuilding of St. Peter’s Basilica. Instead of medieval spires, he revived the Roman dome, as captured in a medal issued by Pope Julius II (left). Work progressed slowly, and in 1546, 71-year-old Michelangelo took over the project. Today the inner dome, built to Michelangelo’s specifications, is considered one of the world’s great architectural feats (right). What other steps did Catholic reformers take to revive the Church’s influences?
The Jesuits used reason and good deeds to defend the Roman Catholic Church against criticisms. They also tried to bring Protestants back to the Church. Because of their work, people in eastern European countries such as Poland, Bohemia (bo̱ he̱ mə uh), and Hungary once again became loyal to the Roman Catholic Church.

During this time, the Pope also took steps to strengthen the Roman Catholic Church. He called a council of bishops to discuss reforms and to defend Catholic teachings. The council met at different times between 1545 and 1563 at Trent, Italy. The Council of Trent ended many Church practices that had been criticized for hundreds of years such as the sale of indulgences. Church leaders were ordered to follow strict rules. Each diocese was told to build a seminary (sem′ uhr e̱), or a school to train priests.

The Council of Trent also explained Catholic doctrine. It said that good works, as well as faith, helped people get to heaven. It also held that the Church alone decided how the Bible was to be interpreted and that mass would be said in Latin only. Together, the Council of Trent and the Jesuit missionaries helped the Pope reclaim Protestant areas.

**Reading Check**

What was the purpose of a seminary?
Section 3 Assessment

1. **Define:** seminary.
2. What were the leading countries involved in the Catholic reform movement?
3. What did the Council of Trent do?

Critical Thinking

4. **Evaluating Information** “The Council of Trent was important in strengthening the Roman Catholic Church.” What is your opinion of this statement? Explain.

Section 4 A Middle Way

Reformation of the Church in England was led by a monarch, not by church leaders. It started as a political quarrel between the Tudor king Henry VIII and Pope Clement VII. Religious beliefs did not play a part in the struggle until later.

**HENRY VIII AND ANNE BOLEYN** Henry’s hopes for a son made him determined to marry Anne Boleyn and led to a political break with the Pope. In this painting Henry and Anne are shown at the home of Thomas Wolsey, the king’s chief adviser. How was Henry eventually able to marry Anne Boleyn?
The Break With Rome  The trouble between Henry VIII and the Pope began in 1527. At that time, Henry was married to Catherine of Aragon, the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain and the aunt of German emperor Charles V. Henry and Catherine had only one living child, Mary. As Catherine grew older, Henry feared she could not have any more children. This was very important to Henry because he wanted a son to succeed to the throne.

At the same time, Henry had fallen in love with Anne Boleyn (bu lin’), a young woman of the court. He wanted Pope Clement to end his marriage to Catherine so that he could marry Anne, by whom he hoped to have a son. When the Pope refused, Henry declared that the Pope no longer had power over the Church in England. Henry was then excommunicated.

In 1534, the English Parliament passed a law stating that the king was head of the Church of England. Any English church leader who did not accept the law would stand trial as a heretic. Thomas Cranmer (kran’ muhr), the Archbishop of Canterbury and the most important church leader in England, supported Henry. Cranmer helped Henry end his marriage to Catherine. Henry then married Anne Boleyn, who gave him one child, a daughter named Elizabeth. A few years later, Henry had Anne executed for treason. He then married Jane Seymour (sè’ mòuhr), who died shortly after giving Henry the son he wanted.

Edward and Mary  When Henry VIII died, his nine-year-old son became King Edward VI. Since Edward was too young and sick to rule, a council of nobles governed England for him. Most of the council members were Protestants, and they brought Protestant doctrines into the English Church. Thomas Cranmer supported the council. He wanted the people to have an orderly form of Protestant worship. To help achieve this, he wrote a worship service in English called the Book of Common Prayer. It was used in all the churches in England.

When Edward died in 1553, the council of nobles tried to bring a Protestant noblewoman to the throne. Their attempt failed, however, because the people of England refused to accept any ruler who was not a Tudor. They wanted Henry’s daughter, Mary, as their monarch.

Mary was Catholic. As soon as she became queen, she accepted the Pope as head of the English Church. She then insisted that all English men and women return to the Roman Catholic Church. Many Protestants refused and were persecuted. More than 300 of them, including Cranmer, were burned at the stake for heresy. The people turned against their queen, calling her “Bloody Mary.”

Mary was married to King Philip II of Spain. The English were unhappy about the marriage because Spain was England’s
enemy and the leading Catholic power in Europe. They feared that Philip and the Pope would become the real rulers of England. The people decided that England would remain free only if it became a Protestant country. For this reason, they wanted a Protestant ruler.

Elizabeth’s Church  Mary died in 1558 without a child to succeed her. Thus, her half-sister, Elizabeth, became queen. Elizabeth I was Protestant. With the help of Parliament, she ended the Pope’s authority in the English Church.

Elizabeth was very popular with her subjects. She worked to set up the Church in a form that would appeal to as many people as possible. Elizabeth and Parliament decided that the Church should be Protestant. However, the Church would keep some Catholic features. The monarch would be head of the Church, which would use Cranmer’s prayer book and teach Protestant beliefs.
Most of the English people were pleased with the mix of Protestant belief and Catholic practice since many Catholic rituals remained. Those who were not pleased stayed outside the Church. Some Protestants also did not like Elizabeth’s Church, but they did not leave it. Because these people wanted to purify the English Church of Catholic ways, they became known as Puritans (pyur’ uh tuhnz).

**ST. TEREZA OF AVILA** Another Church reformer, St. Teresa of Avila, Spain, lived from 1515–1582. As a nun she reformed convent life and wrote about religious life.

Which British monarch tried to restore the Pope as the head of the English Church?

**Section 4 Assessment**

1. What happened when Pope Clement refused to end Henry VIII’s marriage?
2. What did Mary Tudor expect the people to do as soon as she became queen? How did the people feel about this?
3. What was the Church of England like under Elizabeth I?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Demonstrating Reasoned Judgment** How effective do you think Elizabeth I was in establishing a new national church?

**Graphic Organizer Activity**

5. Draw this diagram, and use it to compare the reigns of Mary Tudor and Elizabeth I.

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**Student Web Activity**

Visit the Human Heritage Web site at humanheritage.glencoe.com and click on Chapter 29—Student Web Activities to find out more about English monarchs of the Reformation.
By the middle 1500s, most northern Europeans were Protestants, while most southern Europeans were Catholics. European monarchs had used religion to help unite their people and to build powerful nations. The ruler and people of each country were expected to belong to the same church. Those who refused were persecuted. This led to much bitterness between people of different faiths. Differences in religion also led to wars between countries. Toward the end of the 1500s, Europe entered a period of religious wars that lasted until 1648.

The Armada Under Elizabeth I, England became the leading Protestant power in Europe. Spain, under Philip II, remained the leading Catholic power. Philip knew that if he could defeat England, Protestant Europe would be open to Catholic control. Therefore, he ordered the building of an armada (ar mah’ duh), or a large group of warships.

After two years, the Spanish Armada, with its 130 ships, was ready. Its strength lay in its galleons (gal’ ēuhns), or heavy ships with square-rigged sails and long, raised decks. In 1588, the Armada sailed toward England. Its main purpose was to help the Spanish armies on the continent cross over to the English shore.

**Reading Check** Why did Philip II order the building of an armada?

**Reading Check** What did Spanish galleons look like?

**SPANISH ARMADA** In 1588, the English fleet faced the Spanish Armada in the English Channel. Here, English fire ships move toward the Armada. This action broke the curved formation of the Spanish ships and made possible a successful English attack. **What was the main strength of the Spanish Armada?**
Elizabeth knew the Spanish forces were coming and prepared England for war. She had a naval commander, John Hawkins, reorganize the English fleet. He remodeled old ships and built new ones. He formed a new navy of 134 fighting ships and merchant vessels. Most of the ships were smaller than the Spanish ships, but they had larger guns and more ammunition. Expert sailors handled the English ships with much skill. One naval captain, Sir Francis Drake, was known for his overseas voyages and his capture of Spanish merchant ships.

The English knew they had to make the Spanish ships break their curved formation. Their chance came when the Spanish fleet anchored off the coast of Europe to wait for the Spanish armies to meet it. That night, the English set fire to eight small ships and sent them into the Spanish fleet. As the burning ships reached the Armada, the Spanish ships broke formation and began to drift. The English were then able to fight the Spanish ships one by one.

The Spanish naval command soon realized that the Armada was defeated. Short of food and water, it decided to return to Spain. A great storm came up, however, causing the voyage to be long and difficult. Only half the Armada reached home.

The English celebrated their victory with bonfires and parades. Although Spain was still a powerful enemy, England had shown it could defend itself. The English gained respect throughout Europe as champions of the Protestant cause. The defeat of the Armada allowed northern Europe to remain a Protestant stronghold.

The Huguenots Most people in France during the 1500s were Catholics. Many nobles, lawyers, doctors, and merchants, however, were Protestants. These French Protestants, who were called Huguenots (hū’ guh nots), followed Calvin’s teachings.

In 1534, King Francis I, who was Catholic, forbade the Huguenots to worship freely. He wanted all French people to support the Roman Catholic Church. Catholics began to persecute Huguenots, and by 1562 a civil war broke out. By then, Charles IX had become king. Since he was too young to rule, his mother, Catherine de Medici, ruled for him.

Catherine tried to keep peace by showing favor first to one group and then to the other. She finally decided to support the Roman Catholic Church. In 1572, she allowed Catholic nobles to kill the leading Huguenots in Paris. Catholic mobs in other parts of France began to kill Protestants and burn their homes. Many Protestants left the country. The few who remained to carry on the fight were led by Henry of Navarre (nuh var’), a Huguenot prince.

In 1589, the king of France was killed. Henry of Navarre, who was next in line for the throne, became Henry IV. He wanted to gain the loyalty of the people. Since most French people were still
Drawing Conclusions

“Elementary, my dear Watson.” Detective Sherlock Holmes often said these words to his assistant when he solved yet another mystery. Holmes would examine all the available evidence, or facts, and draw conclusions to solve the case.

**Learning the Skill** Drawing conclusions allows you to understand ideas that are not stated directly. Follow these steps in learning to draw conclusions:

- Review the facts that are stated directly.
- Use your knowledge and insight to develop some new conclusions about these facts.
- Look for information to check the accuracy of your conclusions.

**Skill Practice**

The excerpt on this page comes from a speech delivered to Parliament by Queen Elizabeth in 1601, just two years before her death. In it, she reviews her reign as queen. Read this excerpt, and then answer the questions that follow.

> To be a king and wear a crown is a thing more glorious to them that see it than it is pleasing to them that bear it. For myself, I was never so much enticed with the glorious name of a king, or royal authority of a queen, as delighted . . . to defend this kingdom (as I said) from peril, dishonour, tyranny, and oppression.

> There will never [be a] queen sit in my seat with more zeal to my country . . . and that sooner . . . will venture her life for your good and safety than myself. . . . And though you have had, and may have many princes, more mighty and wise sitting in this state; yet you never had, or shall have, any more careful and loving.

1. How does Elizabeth say she views the title of queen?
2. What aspect of being England’s ruler has “delighted” her the most?
3. What conclusion can you draw from this speech about how Elizabeth would like to be remembered?
4. What evidence from the speech supports your conclusion?
Catholic, he decided to convert. Nevertheless, Henry ended the fighting between Protestants and Catholics. Although he made Catholicism the national religion, he also made life easier for Protestants. In 1598, he signed the Edict of Nantes (nahnts), which gave Huguenots freedom of worship. France thus became the first European country to allow two Christian religions.

**The Low Countries**  The Low Countries were part of the Spanish Empire. The people of the Low Countries were divided into Protestants and Catholics. Neither group liked Philip II’s harsh rule. They did not like the heavy taxes imposed by Spain or the Spanish laws. Philip, however, made money from the wealth and trade of the Low Countries. He wanted to keep them under Spanish control.

Philip also wanted all his subjects to be Catholic. To achieve this, he set up an Inquisition in the Low Countries to stamp out Protestantism. In 1567, Protestants in the northern provinces revolted. Philip sent soldiers to restore order. They were joined by French Catholics from the southern provinces.

The fighting did not end until 1648. At that time, it was decided that the southern provinces, known today as Belgium, were to remain Catholic and continue under the rule of Spain. The northern provinces, known today as the Netherlands, were to be an independent Protestant country.

**SECTION 5 Assessment**

1. **Define:** armada, galleons.
2. How did the English defeat the Spanish Armada?
3. What led to civil war in France in 1562?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Identifying Alternatives** How do you think the religious wars in Europe in the 1500s and 1600s might have been avoided?

**Graphic Organizer Activity**

5. Draw this diagram, and use it to show the causes and effects of the Edict of Nantes.

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**SECTION 6 The Thirty Years’ War**

During the 1590s and early 1600s, the German states began to quarrel over the terms of the Peace of Augsburg. They formed alliances based on religion. The Catholic alliance was led by the German emperor Ferdinand II.
One Protestant state that resisted Ferdinand was Bohemia. In 1618, the Protestant nobles of Bohemia revolted. They chose a German Protestant prince as their new king. Ferdinand’s armies crushed the Bohemians in a fierce battle, and Ferdinand proclaimed himself king of Bohemia. He did not allow Protestant worship. He sent Jesuits throughout the country to win the people back to the Roman Catholic Church.

The revolt in Bohemia soon grew into the Thirty Years’ War. During the war, half the armies of Europe fought in Germany. First Denmark and then Sweden invaded Germany. Their kings were Protestants who wanted to stop the spread of Catholicism. They also hoped to conquer German territory. When the Swedes were finally defeated in 1634, the French became involved. Although France was a Catholic country, it entered the war on the Protestant side. This changed the nature of the war. It became...
less a war over religion and more a struggle for territory and wealth.

The German people suffered great hardships during the war. Finally, in 1643, after a serious defeat, the German emperor asked for peace. In 1648, representatives of European nations signed the Peace of Westphalia (west fäl’ yuh), which ended the war. The German emperor lost much of his power and France emerged as a strong nation. After this war, Europeans no longer fought over religion. Instead, nations tried to gain power through trade and expansion overseas.

### Section 6 Assessment

1. What led to the Thirty Years’ War?
2. What effect did the Thirty Years’ War have on Europe?

### Critical Thinking

3. **Drawing Conclusions** Based on the Thirty Years’ War, what conclusions can you draw about the reasons nations go to war?

### Graphic Organizer Activity

4. Draw this diagram, and use it to show the main events in the Thirty Years’ War. (Add answer boxes as needed.)

### Chapter Summary & Study Guide

1. Luther posted his list of 95 theses to object to the sale of indulgences and other Church practices.
2. Luther’s ideas spread, with people in northern Germany forming the Lutheran Church and people in Switzerland and elsewhere adopting what became known as Protestantism.
3. While Protestant reformers established new churches, Catholic reformers worked to improve their Church.
4. Between 1545 and 1563, the Council of Trent reformed many Catholic practices.
5. The reformation came to England when Parliament declared Henry VIII the head of the Church of England.
6. After Henry’s death, advisers to his young son Edward introduced Protestant practices to the English Church.
7. Mary Tudor tried to return England to Catholicism, but failed.
8. Elizabeth I decided the Church of England should be Protestant with some Catholic features.
9. The English defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 kept northern Europe Protestant, but it did not prevent other religious wars.

### History Online

**Self-Check Quiz**

Visit the Human Heritage Web site at humanheritage.glencoe.com and click on Chapter 29—Self-Check Quiz to assess your understanding of this chapter.
Using Key Terms

Use the following words to write a paragraph explaining the conflicts over religion among European countries during the 1500s and 1600s.

reformation indulgences theses heretic ministers seminary armada galleons

Understanding Main Ideas

1. How did Protestantism get its name, and what were some of the churches that belonged to this faith?
2. What rules of behavior did John Calvin propose for his followers?
3. What organization did Ignatius of Loyola form?
4. Why did Mary Tudor become known as “Bloody Mary”?
5. How did the defeat of the Spanish Armada help the Protestant cause?
6. What was the basis of alliances formed by German states in the 1590s and early 1600s?

Critical Thinking

1. What would you have liked about living in Geneva at the time of John Calvin? What would you have disliked? Explain your answer.
2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Elizabeth I organized the Church of England? Explain your answer.
3. Explain whether you would or would not have converted to Catholicism if you had been Henry IV.
4. If you had been a Catholic in the mid-1500s, in which European country would you have preferred to live? Why?

Graphic Organizer Activity

History Create a diagram like the one below, and use it to summarize the causes and effects of the reformation on the history of western Europe.

Geography in History

Places and Regions Refer to the location of Calvinist minorities on the map of western European religions on page 463. What connection might there be between their locations and the fact that they are minority groups (groups with fewer members than other religions)?

Using Your Journal

Review any details you may have noted about changes in religion that took place in western Europe during the 1500s and 1600s. Review the Edict of Nantes and the importance it had at the time. Write an editorial explaining why the idea in that edict continues to be important today.