

Subject : Junior Cycle History
Teacher : Niall Lenehan

LESSON 8
The Reformation

Learning Outcome 3.8: consider the historical importance of religion, with particular reference to the Reformation and the actions of one Reformer.

Learning intentions:

- The importance of religion in the Middle Ages
- The causes and consequences of the Reformation
- The actions of Martin Luther
- The reaction of the Catholic Church to the Reformation

Key words - Define these

Reformation

Reformer

Heretic

Indulgences

Tithe

Nepotism

Pluralism

Simony

Pluralism

What was the Reformation?

- It was major changes in religious ideas in 16th century Europe which led to reform in the Christian church.
- This movement was called the Reformation.
- These changes led to division among Christians led to the development of a new division of the Christian church called Protestantism- from the word 'protest'.

Abuses in the Church

1. Simony - Buying and selling church positions.
2. Nepotism - Appointing relatives to church positions even if they are unsuitable for the job.
3. Absenteeism - A priest or bishop not living in the place they're supposed to be serving.
4. Pluralism - Holding more than one church position at the same time.
5. Selling indulgences - **Sale of indulgences** - this abuse took advantage of people's belief in heaven, purgatory and hell. The church often accepted a donation for a certificate stating that people could enter heaven more quickly.
6. Questioning beliefs - The **Renaissance** encouraged people to question old beliefs and seek a better way of life.

A key reformer – Martin Luther

- Martin Luther was born in Eislebein Germany in 1483. He was caught in a storm one day and **prayed to St Anne** to save him, in return, he became a monk.
- Luther was very concerned about saving his soul and getting into heaven.
- He studied the Bible closely and eventually was convinced that only faith in God would save him. "**Justification by faith alone**:"
- In 1517 John Tetzel came to Wittenberg **selling indulgences** for the Pope and some of the money was to be used to build St. Peter's in Rome.
- This angered Luther so he decided to do something in protest.
- **He wrote the 95 theses** or arguments against the church. He nailed to the main church door in Wittenberg.
- They were translated into German and printed using the printed press.



Luther nails his 95 thesis to the castle door in Wittenberg.

- The Pope heard of Luther's protest and he sent a letter called a **Papal Bull** ordering Luther to stop but he burned the Pope's letter in public.
- Next the Emperor of Germany got involved and a special meeting took place called the **Diet of Worms**. Luther spoke at the meeting and absolutely refused to change his views.
- Then **Emperor Charles V condemned** Luther as a **heretic** which meant that his life was in danger.



Luther burns the papal bull

- **Prince Frederick of Saxony** came to the aid of Luther and he hid Luther in his castle for nearly a full year.
- During his time in the castle he translated the old Latin bible into German and he also began to form a new Christian religion.
- His new religion was called the Lutheranism

The Counter Reformation

- Counter means **oppose / resist or fight**
- The counter-reformation set out to **fix the Catholic Church** by getting rid of abuses
- The counter-reformation set out to **stop the spread of Protestantism.**
- Catholics tried to stop the spread of Protestantism.
- They also tried to **improve the Catholic Religion.**

The Council of Trent

- It was the **Council of Trent** who were responsible for improving the Catholic Church.
- The Council of Trent met **three times** between 1545 and 1563.
- It was the councils job to deal with the **weaknesses in the Catholic church.**
- They invited Protestants but **very few attended.**



The first meeting of the council of Trent

Ignatius Loyola and the Jesuits

- He set up the **society of Jesus**, or the **jesuits**.
- Their aims where:
- **To spread the faith by missionary work.**
- **To educate the young and the poor.**
- Jesuits: an army dedicated to the **service of the Pope.**
- They set up schools – (500 Jesuit colleges throughout Europe).
- They won over people for the Protestant religion in **Ireland Germany, Austria, Hungary and Poland.**
- They protected natives of South America against European exploitation.
- **St Francis Xavier** – The most famous Jesuit missionary. He preached in **India, Sri Lanka, Japan and Malaysia.**



Ignatius Loyola

The Inquisition

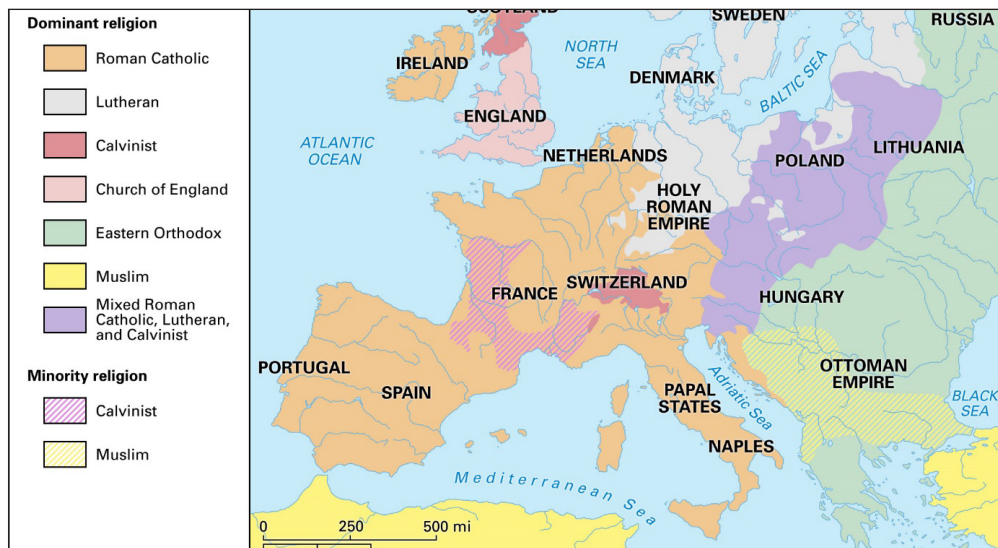
- The Inquisition was the main body responsible for the **persecution of opponents of the Catholic religion.**
- A person with a different view to church teaching was called a '**heretic**'
- The **Spanish Inquisition** was the most **brutal of inquisitions.**



Torture at the hands of the Inquisition

The Results of the Reformation

- **Protestantism** was formed.
- The Protestant Church was not one united church – it contained different Protestant churches, such as **Calvinists** and **Huguenots**.
- The Reformation caused **religious wars** in Europe.
- The Reformation encouraged the Catholic Church to reform – this was called the **Counter-Reformation**.
- Many parts of northern Europe became Protestant, whereas the Catholic Church remained strong in the southern half of Europe.



Religious divide in Europe after the Reformation

8.2 Exam focus – Try this for Homework

Read some of the extracts from Martin Luther's 95 Theses and answer the questions below.

Thesis # 86

Why does not the Pope, whose wealth is greater today than the wealth of the richest Crassus, build this one basilica of St. Peter with his own money rather than with the money of poor believers?

Q4. Explain two ways in which the Catholic church tried to stop the spread of the Protestant Religion.

8.3 - Homework Correction

a. Using evidence from the diary entries, what do we learn about the voyages which sailors undertook during the age of explorations?

From reading the diary entries, we learn that voyages of discovery were extremely dangerous and costly. The writer says how 'At least 15 people from each ship have died from sickness, or loss of food' and 'There was a storm last night and 5 soldiers fell overboard and drowned'. The writer also states that 'Another storm hit and half of our food was washed out'. This tells us about the risk and dangers faced on these voyages.

b. How do we know that the sailors were determined to find land? Use evidence to support your answer.

We know that the sailors were determined as the writer was still determined to carry out the voyage despite the challenges they faced. He states how 'Everyone is in a panic, but we have to believe when we get there everything will be okay. That all of these sacrifices were worth it.'

He also states how 'At least we still have plenty of supplies to last us.' This tells us that they plan on sailing for quite a while as they had the supplies to do so.

c. Why do you think the sailors brought children with them on their voyage to the New World?

I think the sailors brought children with them on their voyage as these children would be the future inhabitants of the newly discovered lands.

d. What were the impacts of conquest and colonization on native peoples in the New World?

Death of native peoples - About 42 million Americans died following two centuries of colonization by Europeans. Diseases such as smallpox and measles which Native Americans had no immunity to. Murder and mistreatment at the hands of colonizers resulted in millions of deaths.

The Replacement of local cultures with European ones was widespread. Indigenous (local) groups such as the Aztecs and Incas were wiped out along with their cultures, language and way of life. These were replaced with European cultures. Spanish is spoken in Peru and Mexico today.

The Rise of Christianity - The Christian religion was brought in by European settlers.

Christianity gradually replaced local Aztec and Incan religions.