

Today's Class

- The Reformation
- The Counter Reformation
- Religion in North America 1600s and 1700s

Pressures against the church 1300-1517

- Decline in respect for the Pope
 - Declining morals of priests and popes
 - Split in papacy in 1400s
 - Tight coupling of religious and political authority
- Political and social changes in Europe
 - Emergence of nationalistic feelings, desire for a stronger civil government
 - Rise of the middle class
 - Printing press, Bibles in local languages
 - Renaissance

Martin Luther and the start of the Protestant Reformation

- Martin Luther a German religious university teacher
 - Became convinced of principles of justification by faith and the sole authority of the Bible
 - Disgusted by indulgence system
- Nailed “95 Theses” to the door of the church Oct 31, 1517
- Lack of reform of the Roman church led Luther and others to break away, starting the Protestant Reformation

Two views of Martin Luther

Carins: *Christianity Through the Centuries*. 1981.
pp. 290, 291

The Counter-Reformation

- Spain was the national leader of the Counter-Reformation
- Jesuit Order established
- Inquisition
- Index
- Wars between Catholic and Protestant emerging nations
- Doctrinal Reform: The Council of Trent (1545-1563).

Declarations from the Council of Trent (1545-1563)

First session

- Scripture and tradition were to be of equal authority
- The Catholic Church was to have the sole right in interpreting the Bible and the authority of the Vulgate was asserted.
- Good works were upheld.
- The seven sacraments were "absolutely necessary channels of divine salvation. ("Baptism, Confirmation), the Eucharist, Penance, the Anointing of the Sick, Holy Orders, and Matrimony
- Communion in both kinds was forbidden except by express permission of the pope.

Second session

- pilgrimages and penances were to be upheld
- the doctrine of transubstantiation was affirmed
- communion in both kinds was condemned as were other aspects of the Protestant view of the Eucharist.

Third Session

- clerical celibacy was upheld
- communion in one kind for the laity was upheld
- the veneration of images and relics was upheld
- bishops were to ordain only suitable men to holy orders and to supervise their moral life
- clergy were to reside in their parishes and to perform regular duties.
- a seminary was to be established in every diocese

What is the Catholic Church's View of the Council of Trent

“The Ecumenical Council of Trent has proved to be of the greatest importance for the development of the inner life of the Church. No council has ever had to accomplish its task under more serious difficulties, none has had so many questions of the greatest importance to decide. The assembly proved to the world that notwithstanding repeated apostasy in church life there still existed in it an abundance of religious force and of loyal championship of the unchanging principles of Christianity. Although unfortunately the council, through no fault of the fathers assembled, was not able to heal the religious differences of western Europe, yet the infallible Divine truth was clearly proclaimed in opposition to the false doctrines of the day, and in this way a firm foundation was laid for the overthrow of heresy and the carrying out of genuine internal reform in the Church. “

--**Council of Trent, *Catholic Encyclopedia on CD-ROM***
<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/15030c.htm>



Important Results of the Reformation

- Christian world is no longer dominated by one central religious authority
- Great splintering within the Protestant movement
- Religious individualism revived
- Concept of “authority of the scriptures” reduces the authority of the church
- Second great wave of doctrinal development
- Demand for basic education (so individuals could read the Bible)
- Revival in preaching

Religion in North America

1600s-1700s

- Most European religious groups found their way to North America
 - Different groups tended to settle in different areas
- “State churches” established in MD, NY, VA, NH, CT, MA
- Freedom of religion meant a religious pluralism in one nation rarely seen in history
- America religious in colonial times?

Church Membership during the Colonial Period

Carnes and Garraty. *Mapping
America's Past—A Historical
Atlas*. 1996. pp. 50-51