Section 1: Causes of the Protestant Reformation

Causes of Reformation
- By the 10th century the Catholic Church dominated politics and religion in Northern and Western Europe
- But, the Church of the Renaissance period seemed to be inadequate for the changing times
  - Emphasis on individualism
  - New focus on nationalism- catholic means universal
  - Printing press- Bible in vernacular

Causes of Reformation (cont.)
Resistance from National Monarchies
- Monarchs resent political interference from the Church
- Demands from Rome might conflict with national interests
  - Examples: European merchants resented paying taxes to the Church of Rome

Capitalists' Concerns
- Renaissance capitalism promoted the idea that strong national governments could better protect trade and profit than a far away Church
- Business classes resent any of their wealth going as a tithe to Rome

Christian Humanism/ Northern Renaissance
- Major goal= to reform Christendom
- Ability of human beings to reason and improve themselves
- Emphasized inner piety (holiness)

Erasmus
- Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)
  - emphasized inner piety
  - Developed a “philosophy of Christ”
  - Wants less focus on sacraments
  - Most influential Christian Humanist

Church Before the Reformation
- Popes had become patrons of the arts as a result of the Renaissance-needed money to finance their collections
  - Began the practice of simony- sale of church offices to the highest bidder
  - Sale of indulgences
- Pluralism- person held several Church offices at the same time
Earlier Threats to Church Influence
- In the 14th and 15th centuries, there were several attempts at reform that, although ultimately failed, did pave the way for the Reformation
  - John Wycliffe
  - Jan Huss

John Wycliffe (1320-84)
- attacked the Church because of its wealth, its political power, and the worldliness of its clergy
- denied the basic teaching of the Church
- translated Bible into English
- followers known as Lollards - persecuted after his death

Jan Huss (1369-1415)
- Czech, priest who picked up Wycliffe's teachings in order to spread them throughout Central Europe
- Promised safety by the Church if they could question him - reneged on promise and burned him at the stake

Section 2: Martin Luther and the Reformation in Germany
Martin Luther/Lutheranism (1483-1546)
- Interpretation of Catholic Church doctrine = faith and good works were needed for salvation
- Luther reasoned that sinners couldn't earn salvation through good works
  - He argued human salvation comes from faith in Jesus as God alone = justification by faith (or justification by grace)
  - Bible as the guide to religious truth

Ninety-Five Theses
- Johann Tetzel came to Germany in 1517 to sell indulgences
  - Johann Tetzel - “As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs.”
- Luther responded by nailing his Ninety-five Theses to the door of the Wittenberg Cathedral
- These Theses challenged the sale of indulgences and criticized papal wealth.

Ninety-Five Theses (cont.)
- Began process of turning a critique of Catholicism into a new religion by saying the sole source of authority was the Bible and that indulgences were not in the Bible
- However at this time (around 1517) he wanted to reform not split with the Catholic Church
- Luther was encouraged to broaden his attack on the Church
Luther Further Attacks the Church
- Luther went on to deny the authority of the Pope; and, insisted on the final authority of the Bible which he argued individuals should be able to read for themselves.
  - In other words, Luther advocated a "priesthood of all believers."
- Luther criticized the sacraments of the Catholic Church.

Diet of Worms
- 1521 - Luther ordered to appear before the general assembly of German princes of the Holy Roman Empire (HRE), known as the Diet, in the city of Worms
  - Some princes secretly supported Luther - saw an opportunity to reduce the power of the Church
  - However, Emperor of the HRE Charles V (elected in 1519) was a devout Catholic - ordered Luther to deny his teachings
  - Luther refused - declared a heretic

Edict of Worms
- Luther’s arrest was ordered by the Edict of Worms, but his ruler Frederick of Saxony kidnapped him
  - Luther taken into hiding
- Charles V was busy fighting the Turks so some German rulers made the protection of Luther the requirement for sending men; Edict of Worms is ignored
- Gave Luther time to refine his ideas

Peasants’ Revolt
- After 1522 - Luther no longer wants to reform Catholic Church, wants division from it
- Luther founds a separate religious group= Lutherans
- Some German peasants, excited by reformers’ talk of Christian freedom, demanded an end to serfdom
  - raided/burned Catholic churches/monasteries
  - Luther refuses to support peasants- urges German princes to crush the revolt; 100,000 peasants killed

Politics of the German Reformation
- Luther’s movement was political as well as religious
- HRE was made up of hundreds of territorial states- each owed loyalty to Charles V but had relative independence
- Some HRE princes agreed to join forces against Luther’s ideas (1529)
- Northern princes support Luther to assert independence from Charles V; signed a protest against the anti-Luther forces and come to be called Protestants
- War between Protestant German princes and Catholic princes breaks out
Peace of Augsburg (1555)
- Charles negotiated a peace which brought an end to this religious warfare between Catholic and Protestant German princes=
- Peace of Augsburg
  - Recognized Lutheranism (salvation depends upon faith in God) as a legal religion in the HRE
  - Each German prince was to decide the religion of his subjects
  - All Protestant sects except Lutherans were forbidden
  - The Peace of Augsburg added to the political disintegration of Germany
- The division of Christianity was formally acknowledged with Protestantism established as an alternative to Roman Catholicism- ideal of Christian unity gone forever

Section 3: The Spread of the Protestant Reformation

Spread of the Protestant Reformation
- By the time of the Peace of Augsburg, there was another fast growing religion in Germany which the treaty did not recognize= Calvinism
- John Calvin (1509-1564)- From France, forced to flee to Switzerland after conversion to Protestantism
  - Influenced by Luther’s idea that humans cannot earn a place in Heaven
  - 1536- published *Institutes of the Christian Religion*; secured Calvin as a leader of Protestantism

Calvinism
- John Calvin believed in predestination- you were saved or damned before birth
  - Only the “elect” can be saved
  - No certainty of salvation
  - The idea of predestination rested on the sovereignty of God and the weakness of man

Calvinism (cont.)
- In 1536 Calvin began working to reform the city of Geneva
  - Calvinism became the official religion of Geneva - a council of ministers made and enforced the law
    - The Consistory- special body for enforcing moral discipline, functioned as a court to oversee the moral life/daily behavior of Genevans
      - Punishable crimes= dancing, playing cards, swearing
The Anabaptists
- Anabaptists = radical reformers of the Protestant Reformation
- Anabaptists advocated adult rather than infant baptism
- Believed all believers to be equal (democratic)
- Persecuted by both Protestants and Catholics

Life in Protestant Europe
- Protestant Reformation did not noticeably transform women’s subordinate place in society
  - Traditional role of husband as the ruler and wife as obedient servant remained
- Persecuted by both Protestants and Catholics

The English Reformation
- The English Reformation was unique in that it was clearly politically motivated
- Causes of the English Reformation
  - Henry wanted a divorce from Catherine of Aragon who had not produced a male heir
    - Their daughter Mary would become Queen, and England had never been ruled by a queen before
  - Henry VIII was aware of the possibility of civil war, as England had already experienced in the War of the Roses

The English Reformation (cont.)
- Henry wanted to divorce Catherine to marry another woman, Anne Boleyn, and hopefully produce a male heir to avoid a disputed succession
  - The pope (a relative of Catherine's), however, would not grant a divorce because he was surrounded by the troops of Charles V, Catherine's nephew; also the Catholic Church does not believe in divorce
- Henry turned to England's own church courts
  - As Archbishop of Canterbury and the head of the highest church court in England, Thomas Cranmer ruled in May 1533 that the King’s marriage to Catherine was “absolutely void”

The English Reformation (cont.)
- Anne Boleyn also could not produce a male heir and instead gave birth to a daughter (the future Queen Elizabeth I)
- Act of Supremacy 1534
  - Declared that the king was “the only supreme head on earth of the Church of England”
Edward VI
- Henry was succeeded by his son Edward VI (Jane Seymour = Edward’s mother)
  - Edward was underage and very sickly
  - Became king at the age of nine; died at the age of 15 of t.b.
  - During his reign Archbishop Cranmer inclined the Church of England towards Protestant doctrines

Queen Mary
- After Edward’s death, Mary, the daughter of Catherine of Aragon, became queen according to Henry VIII’s will
- She tried to bring Catholicism back and her efforts have earned her the name of "bloody Mary"
- Mary executed some 300 Protestants, including former Archbishop Cranmer who had helped Henry divorce her mother

Elizabeth I
- Elizabeth I (Tudor) takes the throne in 1558
  - Daughter of Anne Boleyn and Henry VIII
  - Was protestant
- During her reign England becomes leader of the Protestant nations
- Religious policy based on moderation and compromise
- Repealed the Catholic laws
- England under her 44 year reign was mostly Protestant but moderately so

Section 4: The Catholic/Counter Reformation
The Catholic/Counter Reformation
- The Catholic Church undertook a reform in the sixteenth century after it lost parts of Europe to Protestants=
  Catholic/Counter Reformation
- Three chief pillars of the Catholic/Counter Reformation (called “counter” b/c the Church did not reform itself until Protestantism had taken a hold in Europe)=
  1. Jesuits
  2. Reformed papacy
  3. Council of Trent

The Jesuits
- The Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, founded by a Spanish nobleman named Ignatius of Loyola
- Jesuits founded upon:
  1. Absolute obedience to the papacy
  2. The use of education to restore Catholicism in Europe
  3. Religious and moral self-discipline and submission to the Catholic Church
The Jesuits (cont.)
- Jesuits created schools and engaged in missionary work as far away as Ceylon, Japan and India
- They were responsible for bringing much of Germany and eastern Europe back to Catholicism

Reforming the Church
- Popes had feared calling a council to deal with the abuses of the Church
- Afraid papal power could be limited
- However, the Protestant Reformation made it obvious serious reform was needed

Pope Paul III
- Pope Paul III gathered a commission and had them investigate the abuses of the Church
  - 1537 - commission’s report blamed the Church’s problems on the corrupt policies of popes and cardinals
- Paul III formally recognized the Jesuits in 1540, and began the Council of Trent in 1545 to address the commission’s findings

Council of Trent
- The Council of Trent met from 1545 to 1563
- Instead of compromising with the Protestants, the Council restated basic Catholic doctrine
  - salvation was due to both faith and good works
  - the Bible was not the sole source of authority

Baroque Artistic Period
- c. 1600-1750
- Used as Counter Reformation art
- Paintings & sculptures in church contexts should speak to the illiterate rather than to the well informed
- Emotional and dramatic

Impact the Reformations (Protestant and Catholic)
- An era of religious struggle and warfare followed the Reformations
- The Christian Church of the Middle Ages was divided
- Interest in education was renewed and new universities appeared
- The papacy declined in political power

Section 5: Wars for Religion

Wars of Religion
- One of the major results of the Reformation was the end of religious unity in Europe.
- An immediate result of this division was the growth of religious intolerance during the 16th and 17th centuries. A series of religious wars was the result.
**French Wars of Religion (1562-1598)**
- The growth of Calvinism in France led to persecution by the French kings
- Huguenots = French Calvinists
- 40-50% of the French nobility were Huguenots
  - Still Catholicism was the majority religion in France
- Extreme Catholic party known as the ultra-Catholics were staunchly opposed to the Huguenots

**French Wars**
- The religious issue was not the only issue to contribute to civil war
  - Towns and provinces resented the growing power of the monarchy
- A total of 9 civil wars broke out between 1562 and 1589
- St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre =
  - Royal Council, perhaps pushed by the Queen Mother, ordered the militia to mobilize and to detain or kill Protestant leadership in Paris
  - Actions of the Royal Council inspired Catholic mobs to form and murder Protestants
  - Over the course of several weeks, approximately 20,000 Huguenots were slaughtered at the order of the Queen Mother (mother of Charles IX) = St. Bartholomew’s Day Massacre

**Edict of Nantes**
- In 1598 Henry of Navarre succeeded to the throne of France
  - Was a Huguenot but knew he would not be accepted by the strongly Catholic French people so converted to Catholicism
  - However, he also issued the Edict of Nantes - recognized Catholicism as the official religion of France but also granted Huguenots/Calvinists the right of worship and to have all of the political/civil rights of Catholics

**Spain**
- Philip II (heir of Charles V) inherited Spain, the Netherlands, and holdings in Italy
- Sought to re-impose Catholicism in Europe
  - Known as the “most Catholic King”
- Under Philip, Spain became the dominant country in Europe = “Golden Age” of Spain
Elizabeth I vs. Philip
- Philip II of Spain was convinced by his advisors that the Spanish could invade and defeat the English.
- In July 1588, the Spanish Armada set sail across the English Channel from the Netherlands.

Elizabeth vs. Philip (cont.)
- The Spanish attempt was badly defeated by the English fleet under Charles Howard, 2nd Baron Howard of Effingham and Drake, aided by bad weather.
- The victory tremendously increased Elizabeth's popularity and guaranteed for the time being that England would remain a Protestant country.

Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648)
- The Thirty Years’ War was fought between 1618 and 1648, mainly on the territory of today’s Germany, and involved most of the major European continental powers.
  - Spain, France, Germanic states, Sweden, and Denmark were all involved.

Peace of Westphalia
- War was officially ended in 1648 with the Peace of Westphalia.
- All German states were free to choose their own religion.
  - 300 states of the HRE recognized as independent with the power to conduct its own foreign policy= German disunity for 200 years.