

# Humanities 3

## III. The Reformation



# Lecture 11

## Wars of Religion

# Outline

- Recapping from last time
- Reformations
- Germany
- Hans Holbein, the Younger
- England under Henry VIII

# Luther's Theology

- *sola fide* (by faith alone)
- *sola scriptura* (by scripture alone)
- *sola gratia* (by grace alone)

Following St. Augustine, Luther stresses the fallenness (= corruption, sinfulness) of human nature and the infinite distance between human beings and God.

# Because of Original Sin

- A human life should be one of constant penitence.
- Outside of the revelation of scripture, human beings lack any knowledge of God's providential will.
- No action that follows from human nature alone is justified (worthy of reward) in the eyes of God.

# Grace and Salvation

- Human beings are incapable of saving themselves. They can be saved only through the “grace” of God, granted through the intercession of Jesus Christ.
- Luther argues that one can have a “comfortable certainty” that one will be saved.
- This certainty, which is the mark of the person who has true faith and a perfect love of God, is the *effect* of divine grace. It is nothing we can bring about through acts of “free will.”

# Divine Justice

- For Luther, God is not answerable to human standards of justice or morality.
- God's command (or will) *makes* an action right or wrong.
- The actions forbidden by the Decalogue (e.g. murder, theft, adultery) are wrong *because* God forbids them; we cannot *justify* God's commands on the basis of the intrinsic wrongness of the actions themselves.

# Multiple Meanings of 'Freedom'

- Luther argues for the freedom of human beings to worship according to the dictates of their faith/conscience. This is a kind of *political freedom*.
- Luther argues against the existence of *freedom of the will*: a power of choice that makes us accountable for our actions, and renders them subject to reward or punishment by God.



# Reformations

- The Reformation is no one event, no single break with Rome
- There are a variety of Reformations, in Germany, Switzerland, The Netherlands, England, Scotland, and France
- Some are motivated by theology; some by politics
- All have political repercussions

# Germany

- 1517 Martin Luther nails his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenberg's All Saints' Church.
- 1520 The Anabaptists, a Protestant sect that rejected infant baptism, claimed direct inspiration by the Holy Spirit, and sought political rule by a spiritual elect (a theocracy), grow as a movement in Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands. In 1521 they arrive in Wittenberg and attempt to govern the city.
- 1522 When he returns from Wartburg, Luther forces them from the city and surrounding towns.

- 1524-5 Peasants' War: uprisings prompted by economic discontent and the climate of religious and political instability leave as many as 100,000 dead.
- 1534-5 Anabaptists seize control of the city of Münster, which they rule as a theocracy ("New Jerusalem") for 18 months. The city is besieged, and ultimately recaptured by its Catholic bishop. The leaders of the Anabaptists are tortured and executed, and their bodies left in cages suspended from the cathedral.

Münster

Cathedral



- 1530 Augsburg Confession
- 1536 Publication of John Calvin's *Institutes of the Christian Religion* in Geneva
- 1543 Inquisition of Paul III begins in Rome; Protestant heretics burned at the stake
- 1545 Council of Trent: beginning of the Roman Catholic Counter-Reformation
- 1555 Lutheranism acknowledged by the Holy Roman Empire in the Peace of Augsburg, the first permanent legal basis for the existence of two religions in Germany

# Europe, c. 1560



# Hans Holbein, the Younger (1497-1543)

- Born in Augsburg, Germany
- Fleeing religious turmoil, he moves to Basel, where he meets Erasmus
- In 1526 he leaves Basel for England, with a letter of introduction to Thomas More
- Through More, he enters court circles and is eventually appointed Court Painter by Henry VIII

Erasmus and Sir Thomas More  
Hans Holbein the Younger (1523, 1527)





*Jean de  
Dinteville and  
Georges de  
Selve, 1533*

(example of  
anamorphosis)



*King  
Henry  
VIII,  
c. 1536*



# England: Unholy Alliances

- 1509 Henry Tudor crowned King Henry VIII, following the death of his father. He marries Catherine of Aragon, his brother Arthur's widow and the aunt of Charles V, and fathers Mary, future queen of England.
- 1510 Henry VIII and Castile's Ferdinand II join Pope Julius II's Holy League to drive the French from Italy, which they do in 1513.
- 1514 England and France declare a truce. Mary Tudor, Henry's sister, marries Louis XII.

# The English Reformation

- 1521 At Henry's request, Thomas More writes *Defence of the Seven Sacraments*, a refutation of Luther's *Babylonian Captivity of the Church*.
- 1526 Henry VIII leaves Catherine of Aragon for her lady-in-waiting, Anne Boleyn
- 1533 Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cromwell annuls Henry's marriage to Catherine and he marries Anne Boleyn, who is already pregnant with the future Elizabeth I

# The Church of England (1534)

- Act of Succession: declares Henry's marriage to Catherine null and void from the beginning and declares Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn lawful
- Act of Supremacy: confirms Henry as "Supreme Head of the Church in England," nullifying the pope's authority in England and giving the king the right to reform the church and judge heresies
- Act of Treason: declares that anyone saying that the king is "a heretic, schismatic, tyrant, infidel, or usurper of the crown" is guilty of high treason

# Sir Thomas More (1478-1535)



- Friend of Erasmus
- Author of *Utopia*
- Lord Chancellor until 1532
- Refuses to sign an oath supporting the acts
- Tried for treason and beheaded on July 6, 1535

- 1536 Anne Boleyn executed on trumped-up charges after failing to produce a son. Within 24 hours, Henry marries Jane Seymour, Anne's lady-in-waiting
- 1537 Jane gives birth to a son, Edward, and dies two weeks later
- 1540 Henry marries Anne of Cleves; the marriage is annulled the same year. Henry marries Kathryn Howard, Anne's lady-in-waiting

# Jane Seymour    Anne of Cleves





# Prince Edward, c. 1538, c. 1545



- 1542 Kathryn Howard executed for adultery
- 1543 Henry marries Catherine Parr
- 1547 Henry dies; succeeded by Edward VI (10 years old)
- 1553 Edward succeeded by his cousin, Lady Jane Grey, who reigns for nine days
- Henry's daughter Mary is recognized as the rightful heir. She restores Roman Catholicism and Lady Jane Grey is executed the following year

- 1555 Mary weds Philip II of Spain; over 300 Protestants are burned at the stake, including Thomas Cranmer, former archbishop of Canterbury
- 1558 Elizabeth I succeeds to the throne. The Church of England reestablished
- 1560 Presbyterianism established by the Scottish Calvinist John Knox; the beginnings of English Puritanism
- 1564 Shakespeare born

# The Six Wives of Henry VIII

- **Catherine of Aragon** m. 1509 - 1533 Divorced  
[Mary]
- **Anne Boleyn** m. 1533 - 1536 Executed  
[Elizabeth]
- **Jane Seymour** m. 1536 - 1537 Died  
[Edward]
- **Anne of Cleves** m. 1540 Jan. - July Divorced
- **Kathryn Howard** m. 1540 - 1542 Executed
- **Catherine Parr** m. 1543 - 1547 Widowed