

Part III – Rebirth and Reform
Unit VIII – The Northern Renaissance and Reformation

When French armies invaded Italy in the 1500s, the peace and prosperity that enabled the Italian Renaissance disappeared. Scholars and artists fled north and helped to bring Renaissance ideals to Germany, the Netherlands, France, and England. Around the same time, scholars found great success in challenging what they saw as corruption and impurity in the Catholic Church. A German priest named Martin Luther helped to spark the Protestant Reformation with his 95 Theses, giving birth to Protestant Christianity. Together, the Northern Renaissance and Reformation brought great change to Europe as well as new opportunities and new dangers.

Essential Questions

1. Why did the Reformation occur in the 16th century, and not earlier?
2. Why did the Reformation play out differently in Germany, England, France, and Switzerland, and why did it not take hold in Italy?

Topics of Study

I. The Renaissance Moves North

Causes of the Northern Renaissance	Writers, Artists (Erasmus and More)
Distinction from Italian Renaissance	Technology of the Northern Renaissance
The Printing Press's Impact	

II. The Reformation

Causes of the Reformation	
Origins and Early Contributors (Wycliffe and Hus)	
Germany	
Johann Tetzel	The Edict of Worms and the Diet of Worms
Martin Luther and the 95 Theses	Wars and Peace of Augsburg
England	
Henry VIII and His Six Sorry Wives	Mary I Elizabeth I
Act of Supremacy and the Reformation Parliament	

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France and Switzerland

John Calvin

The Institutes of the Christian Religion

Impacts of the Reformation

Counter-Reformation

Pope Paul III and the Council
of Trent

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Artists: Caravaggio and Rubens

Below is a [tentatively incomplete] list of ideas, concepts, and general terms helpful to understand.

The Northern Renaissance

Causes of the Northern Renaissance
Northern Renaissance Cities (Flan-
ders, Antwerp, Bruges)

Writers, Artists of the Northern Re-
naissance (Erasmus, More)
Technology of the Northern Renais-
sance (Printing Press)

The Reformation

Causes, effects of the Reformation
Henry VIII
Catharine of Aragon
Elizabeth I
Mary I
Johann Tetzel
John Calvin
Calvinism's Sects (Huguenots, Presby-
terians, Puritans)

Institutes of the Christian Religion
Predestination
Martin Luther
The Diet of Worms (and Edict)
Peace of Augsburg
Edict of Nantes
The Act of Supremacy
Christianity and its Sects
Edward VI

The Counter Reformation

Ignatius of Loyola and the Jesuit Or-
der
The Council of Trent

The Index
The Inquisition
Artwork of the Counter Reformation

Further Reading

Patterns, Chapter 17, "European Renaissance and Reformation, 1300-1600" pages 426-436.