

World History
Era 6: The Great Global Convergence
about 1400-1770

con-verge [kuh n-vurj] v.

To tend to a common result or conclusion; to come together

Change accelerated when people, resources, and ideas from the whole world came together.

Education cultivated intellectual activity.

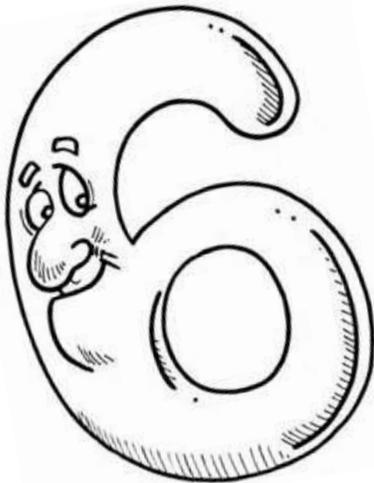
The Renaissance
The Reformation
The Scientific Revolution
The Enlightenment

Europe rose to world dominance

A shift in the economic center of gravity
A revolution in military power and innovation

Exploration and discovery increased global connectivity.

The Columbian Exchange
The Great Dying
The African Slave Trade



Three Peeeaks for the Eeera



The Renaissance

A period of European history from the 14th to the 16th centuries in which scholars rediscovered and revived classical learning.

A. Characteristics of the Renaissance

1. The Renaissance broke from the Middle Ages: from rural to urban; from enslaved to free; from ignorance to intellect; from somber to zestful; from the group to the individual.
2. The Renaissance elevated humanism—a philosophical emphasis on man’s intellect and “human-ness”.
3. The Renaissance satisfied the need for well-educated, well-rounded layman with professional skills.

B. Characters of the Renaissance

1. The Renaissance began in Italy: the center of the classical world; the center of Medieval commerce; the home of the patrons (financial sponsors of the arts and artists)
2. The Written Arts
 - a. Petrarch: the “father of humanism” who began the search and study of ancient Latin writings
 - b. Dante: wrote in the vernacular—the spoken language of a local region (*Divine Comedy*)
 - c. Machiavelli: wrote influential works on politics which promoted the idea of a secular state free from religious principles (*The Prince*)
 - d. Johann Gutenberg: inventor of the moveable type printing press (1440)
 - e. Erasmus: Dutch priest who advocated church reform by raising the standards of the clergy and by personal devotion to God, not the church
 - f. Sir Thomas More: English author of *Utopia* in which he presented his ideal state based on Christian principles and Greek philosophy
 - g. Shakespeare
 - h. Christopher Marlowe: summed up the spirit of the Renaissance

3. The Visual Arts

- a. Giotto: revived the belief in observation as the basis for art
- b. Masaccio: introduced frescoes—painting done on fresh, wet plaster with water-based paints
- c. Leonardo da Vinci: represented the ideal Renaissance man—a painter, a sculptor, an engineer, an architect
- d. Raphael: used the technique of perspective to give the illusion of scale, distance, and three dimensions on a two-dimensional surface
- e. Michelangelo: reflected divine beauty through human beauty
- f. Albrecht Durer: German “Leonardo of the North” known for his engravings and wood carvings

C. Consequences of the Renaissance

1. It provoked a general spirit of inquiry throughout all of society.
2. It raised the general level of education.
3. It spread the production of printed books.
4. It further challenged the church: present rather than eternal; reason rather than faith; man rather than God.
5. It “raised the level of sophistication and refinement of European elite culture to that of urban societies in the rest of Afroeurasia.” (whfua)



The Reformation

The 16th century movement in Europe to protest the false doctrines of the church and to reform the corrupt practices of the church. – The Protestant Reformation.

What made reform necessary?

A. Problems within the church

1. Corruption [*kuh*-ruhp-shun n]: dishonesty; lack of integrity (e.g. clergy with mistresses, illegitimate children, simony, charging fees for church services)
2. Popes focused more on politics than religion.
3. Clergy used their church offices to advance their careers and wealth.

B. Increased personal inquiry into religion

1. The Renaissance influenced Christian humanists to believe in the ability of man to reason to improve himself.
2. People desired spiritual answers. A great debate began on the way of salvation (forgiveness of sin and acceptance into heaven): the church taught a combination of faith and works; the reformers taught faith alone. The church sold “certificates of forgiveness” as a means of penance for the living and shortened time in purgatory for the dead—**indulgences**. The church offered relics as a means of focus spiritual worship.

C. Strong monarchs saw church reform as a means of challenging, and weakening, the power of the church

Who tried to reform the church?

A. John Wycliffe (1330-1384 – England) rejected papal authority; translated the Bible into English

B. John Huss (1369-1415 - Bohemia) taught the “priesthood of believers” who did not need professional clergy and the supremacy of the state over the church. Result:

- C. Martin Luther (1483-1545 – Germany) posted the 95 Theses arguing against the sale of indulgences, desiring to reform the church. The pope excommunicated him as a heretic; his patron protected him from the both the church and the emperor. His writings and teachings began the actual “reformation”.
- D. Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531 – Switzerland) rejected papal authority; accept only the Bible, not tradition, as the source of truth
- E. John Calvin (1509-1564 – France & Switzerland) promoted the idea of predestination—the belief that God had determined before the beginning of time who would gain salvation. He and his followers governed Geneva as a Christian city with laws reflecting their strict interpretation of the Bible.
- F. Henry VIII (1491-1547 - England) broke with the church over the pope’s refusal to grant a divorce; started his own church—the Anglican Church. This “reformation” was political and personal, not religious. Puritans wished to purify the errors of the church; Separatists saw no hope for reform, and left the church.

What did the reforms accomplish?

- A. Beginnings of Protestantism – clear break from the Catholic church
- B. The Counter Reformation
 1. The Council of Trent condemned the principles of Protestantism and reformed some of the abuses.
 2. Establishing new religious orders to spread the faith. The Jesuits, founded by Ignatius Loyola, emphasized spiritual and moral discipline as well as strict obedience to Catholic authority.
 3. Strengthening of the Inquisition to identify and punish heretics who refused to recant.
- C. Wars of Religion
 1. The Peasant Revolt in Germany. In 1524 peasants, who followed Luther’s teachings, revolted against their lords. Luther sided with the lords—he believed they ruled with God’s authority.
 2. Struggle between the English Queens. Mary Tudor (ruled 1553-1558) tried to restore the power of the Catholic faith by marrying Philip II of Spain and persecuting Protestants (this earned her the nickname of “Bloody Mary”). Elizabeth I (ruled 1558-1603) ensured the dominance of Protestantism; she faced opposition but limited punishment based on political actions, not religious beliefs. The sanctuary she offered her cousin, Mary Stuart Queen of Scots, was met with repeated plots to remove Elizabeth, requiring Mary’s eventual execution.

3. The Peace of Augsburg (1555) brought a temporary truce between the Catholic emperor and Protestant princes in the German states, with each prince determining the religion of his territory.
 4. King Philip II of Spain, with the blessing of the pope, sent an armada to attack England hoping to remove Elizabeth I and reclaim the land for Catholicism. In 1588 the “Invincible Armada”, pestered by the smaller more maneuverable English ships and scattered by winds, returned to Spain defeated.
 5. Civil wars in France as the Catholic leadership tried to expel French Protestants (Huguenots). The Edict of Nantes allowed the Huguenots to retain control of the cities they occupied at the time.
 6. The Thirty Years’ War began as a civil war within the Holy Roman Empire, but spread to all of Europe as the combatants appealed to religious allies for help. The Peace of Westphalia re-established the pre-war right of local rulers to choose the religion of their territories.
- D. Migrations and Emigrations. Both Protestants and Catholics persecuted the Jews. Many dissenters fled their native countries to lands more open to their beliefs.