The Reformation of Christianity

1. By this point, Christianity had been a major religion for about 1500 years, spreading far beyond its starting point on the Eastern coast of the Mediterranean
   1. Distance and isolation created alterations to the official Christianity - Greek Orthodox, Ethiopian and other popular heresies (Waldensians, Cathars, etc)
   2. However, as Europeans become more educated (h/t to the Renaissance, Humanism and the Printing Press - Johannes Gutenberg 1455) they began to see irregularities within official Christianity.
      1. Printing press allowed for a quick distribution of knowledge through books and pamphlets
      2. Prior to the PP, knowledge spread slowly and crimes and corruption w/i the Church could easily be swept under the rug
         1. PP also began to standardize languages (spellings and meanings of words) and the see the growth of vernacular languages, rather than Latin.
2. Martin Luther and the Reformation
   1. As we’ve discussed, after the fall of Rome, the Church was the only stabilizing force in Europe and got itself involved in a lot of political affairs (destabilizing empires, fragmenting Italy)
   2. However, no one outside of the Church is aware of what the Church is doing because no one can read - they have to believe what the priests are telling them (and why would they lie?)
   3. Now, people begin to question some of this corruption - the most important figure was Martin Luther
   4. Luther was a monk and then a professor of theology in Germany - probably the most knowledgeable person about Christianity in Europe - including the Pope
      1. Spoke out against buying indulgences (a lessening of time in purgatory) and general corruption of the Church - not indulgences themselves, but buying them - they used to be handed out for good deeds.
         1. The Church used this money to build St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome
      2. Also argued that salvation came through faith alone - the Church said faith and good works were necessary for salvation
         1. Luther’s argument was if it’s not in the Bible, it’s not Christian and a lot of Catholic stuff is not in the Bible, including the office of the Pope
   5. Wrote up his problems with the Church in his 95 Theses and (legend has it) nailed them to the door of his local church 1519
      1. The Pope excommunicated Luther in 1521 and the HRE puts Luther on Trial at the Diet of Worms later that year.
         1. Issued Edict of Worms that outlawed Luther’s works and teachings
      2. Luther does not recognize the authority of either leader and refuses to recant - goes into hiding in his hometown (Wittenberg) and begins his church - the Lutheran Church
         1. No hierarchy, priests can get married, services in the vernacular, more involvement of the laity
         2. A lot of people flock to Luther because he’s an alternative to the Catholic Church
            1. Lords and local leaders adopt his religion because it offers them more authority - they don’t have to listen to the Pope any more
            2. Peasants like him because they think Luther will support them as they seek more autonomy from their lords in the form of rebellions
            3. Luther supported the lords and left the peasants to have their rebellions violently put down - he needed the support of the lords to keep the Pope off his back
   6. Other Protestant Churches
      1. Luther’s revolutionary idea - that the Church could be challenged - causes other Europeans to set up their own churches
      2. Anglican Church - founded by English king Henry VIII
         1. Afraid that his wife couldn’t produce a male heir, he asks the Pope to grant him a divorce so he could marry a younger woman
         2. While a douchey move, without a male heir, England could fall into civil war after Henry’s death - this was a political move
         3. The Pope refuses, mostly because he was being threatened by the HRE, who happened to be the cousin of Henry’s queen - no need to give the HRE more reason to attack
         4. Henry decides to break with the Catholic Church and create his own Church
            1. Almost identical to the Catholic Church, but the King of England is the leader (not the pope) and you can get divorced.
         5. Side note, the other 4 wives Henry takes were all douchey moves
      3. Calvinist Church - founded by John Calvin
         1. Calvin, a theologian, wrote the first book of unified Protestant thought, *the Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1559)
         2. Very strict, moral and disciplined - no fun allowed
         3. Also believed in the concept of predestination - God had decided who would go to Heaven before anyone was born
         4. Set up missionary communities in Geneva, Switzerland, the Netherlands and in Scotland (Presbyterian Church)
   7. Catholic Responses
      1. Council of Trent (1545-1563) - acknowledged abuses, decided to focus on education and morality of priests; rejected other reforms from protestants
      2. St. Ignatius of Loyola created the Order of the Jesuits (Society of Jesus)
         1. Focus on education, philosophy and debate
         2. Great missionaries because they were so well-educated and dedicated to the Church; almost the complete opposite approach of the Muslim Sufis
      3. Inquisition - attempt to root out corruption in the Church
         1. It became twisted and started to arrest and torture Jews, Muslims and Protestants - occurred many places in Europe, but Spain was the most zealous
         2. Witch-hunts also become common as people become afraid of all the change going on in society, which leads Europeans to look for scapegoats
            1. Old women, usually widows, were on the fringes of society so they became easy targets because they didn’t have the resources to fight back.
3. Political Consequences of the Reformation
   1. The Habsburg Family was the dominant ruling family in Central Europe - through a series of marriages, this family controlled Austria, the HRE, Spain and large portions of northern Italy
      1. The Protestant Reformation was a disruptive force for the Habsburgs, because some of the local leaders within Habsburg territory sided with Luther and others sided with the Church
      2. Additionally, the French and the Ottomans wanted to disrupt the Habsburgs because neither wanted such a powerful force in the middle of Europe
   2. These disruptions led to a series of wars in Europe over religion - basically, will Catholicism take back over or will there be some level of choice.
      1. These conflicts eventually became too much for Charles, who was in ill-health due to generations of in-breeding, and he abdicated all of his thrones
         1. The HRE and Austria went to his younger brother, Ferdinand
         2. Spain went to his son, Philip
   3. These wars of religion ended with the 30 Years War (1618-1648)
      1. This war starts, ironically, with the Peace of Augsburg (1555)
         1. This said that princes within the HRE could choose the religion for their territory - Catholic or Lutheran
         2. The HRE at the time wanted to force his subjects back into Catholicism in 1618 and those that chose Lutheranism fought back.
         3. The war ends with the Peace of Westphalia (1648) - it reaffirms the Peace of Augsburg - local leaders choose their religion - Catholic, Lutheran or Calvinist
            1. Makes an individual’s faith a personal matter, no one can dictate what you do in private
            2. All leaders are now sovereign, making them all independent and separate - the Pope now has almost no control over European leaders
            3. Balance of Power will keep the peace - the Pope can’t stop wars
         4. Wars after this might have a religious component, but religion won’t be the reason why countries go to war.

Absolute and Constitutional Monarchies

1. Absolute Monarchies
   1. These kinds of monarchies try to increase state power for kings instead of sharing it with any other institution
   2. Based on the idea of the Divine Right of Kings - king’s power is granted by God and God is the only being above kings
      1. Kings are God’s lieutenants on Earth, carrying out his will
   3. Kings needed to rule with the same authority as the Church did - unquestioningly - with punishment for dissent
      1. Treason (actively working against the government) is the same as heresy.
   4. Important Absolute Monarchs
      1. Louis XIV (and Cardinal Richelieu) (1643-1715)
         1. CR undermined the nobility (it was the only group that could challenge the king) and created a civil bureaucracy (made up of commoners) that would be completely loyal to the king (they owed him their jobs)
            1. Also attacked French Calvinists (called Huguenots) because they were associated with the nobility (also a very highly educated class)
         2. Louis built his palace at Versailles as a conspicuous sign of his power
            1. Invited the nobility to move in there with him in order to keep an eye on them and further humiliate them

This was the only way to gain the king’s favor

25,000 trees transplanted

* + - 1. Large standing army in order to maintain order
      2. Economic system - Mercantilism - Horde precious metals, promote new industries to make domestic products, look for new resources through exploration, limit imports and promote exports, low wages and high taxes
    1. Peter the Great (1682-1725)
       1. Wanted to turn Russia into a military power - did this by touring western europe incognito
       2. Modernized Russia - made nobles shave their beards, extensive military training, higher wages, a strong bureaucracy to collect taxes
       3. Built a new capital at St. Petersburg (not named after him), like Louis’ Versailles

1. Constitutional Monarchies
   1. Monarchs are limited and share power with parliaments; merchants also often play a large role in politics, too
      1. Merchants and government often form alliances - merchants support the government with money and the government supports merchants with friendly laws
   2. Principal example is England, where kings had been limited since 1215 and the Magna Carta - it said that the king had to follow the law
      1. Became formalized with the English Civil War (1642-1651)
         1. The new king was thought to favor Catholics, while the Parliament was full of Calvinists and thus were unable to cooperate
         2. The war was between those that supported the king (Cavaliers) and those that supported Parliament (Roundheads)
      2. Parliament wins and their leader Oliver Cromwell institutes Calvinist reforms, that no one really likes (he outlawed Christmas!)
         1. He also executed Charles I
      3. When Cromwell dies, Parliament asks Charles’ brother James to come to the throne, but he’s Catholic, but old - no threat of starting a new Catholic dynasty
         1. Despite this, James manages to get his wife pregnant, which would lead to a Catholic dynasty
            1. In a bloodless coup, James is deposed and replaced by his daughter and her husband William and Mary - from the Netherlands
      4. Glorious Revolution - agree to rule with Parliament and convert to Anglican Church

Capitalism

* 1. What is it?
     1. An economic system in which trade, industry and the means of production (the stuff that makes other stuff) are controlled by private owners with the goal of making profits
     2. The parties involved in a transaction determine the price of something
        1. Supply and demand - the more common a commodity is, the cheaper it is; the more something is demanded, the more it costs and vice versa
  2. Why is it?
     1. Rapid population growth, caused by new food crops brought by the Columbian Exchange
     2. Caused subsequent growth in the population of cities - similar to what was seen when cities were first founded
        1. More specialization of labor and increased economic output - businessmen sought the most efficient methods of making money, because there are a lot of people out there trying to do the same thing
        2. Best businessmen try to find inefficiencies in the market
           1. For example, buy grain when it is less expensive and sell it when grain is in demand (like a food shortage or a famine) to make a profit.
           2. This brings up ethical questions we’re still dealing with today - is this right? Are these people feeding the hungry or profiting from a disaster?

The Church argues that capitalism is immoral because it focuses on the individual over the welfare of the community. It also argues that earning interest on money is unethical - which is why moneylending became an almost exclusively Jewish occupation

* + 1. Capitalism was also self-perpetuating, in that successful business created new businesses to support them - banks, insurance companies, newspapers, stock exchanges all formed to support newly successful businesses (like Joint-Stock Companies)
  1. Politics and Capitalism
     1. Merchants influenced politics and the writing of laws very heavily in Constitutional Monarchies
        1. Laws for: protecting property rights, enforcing contracts, settling disputes in business dealings
     2. Governments (especially in Constitutional Monarchies) organized JSC that had almost unlimited control to make business deals
     3. Guilds sought to preserve markets for their members and maintain their member’s standing in society
        1. To do this, they tried to restrict profits for owners (and give some to the workers) and resisted competition and technological innovation (resistant to change)
        2. In response to this, manufacturers avoided guilds in the cities by moving a lot of production to the countryside - called the putting-out system
           1. Deliver raw materials and pick up finished goods
           2. Small wages because of plentiful labor, which lead to high profits for capitalists - but good for workers, too because these low wages were still important for the family’s survival
     4. In Eastern Europe, there were fewer cities, fewer guilds and fewer economic opportutnities
        1. Most people endured harsh conditions to survive - serfs in Russia were treated like slaves in the 17th century - which is something most Western European countries didn’t to.
        2. Tolerated in Western Europe because they produced a lot of the cheap food that made the capitalist system work there

1. Other Capitalist Effects
   1. Growth of Ethics - especially Christian ethics
   2. Economics as an academic field - Adam Smith typically seen as one of the first economists - *Wealth of Nations (1776)* - argues that societies grow economically because individuals work for their own self interest
      1. In this system, no one tries to make society better, it just happens - The Invisible Hand of the Market
   3. Nuclear Family - family becomes more economically independent from landlords
      1. There’s less need to have children to have them work, more now for love and companionship

1. The Scientific Revolution
   1. As Europeans began rediscovering Greek and Roman science, they also started to be more aware of the world around them
      1. Scientists began to question the previous method of describing the world around them - Aristotelian logic (we can use our logic and reason to discover things about the world) by using observation
   2. This was most evident in the field of astronomy
      1. The previous way of thinking about the universe was the Ptolemaic Conception
         1. Ptolemy was the most important Greek astronomy and conceived of the universe using Aristotelian logic
         2. A motionless Earth surrounded by 9 rotating spheres (moon, planets and stars) - a geocentric universe
            1. These spheres were perfectly round and made of heavenly matter, not found on earth
            2. This makes logical sense, if you want to believe that the Earth is in the center of the universe, but it does not mesh with observational data
      2. As more astronomers during this period began collecting data, they determined that a heliocentric model of the universe was more accurate
         1. Nicholaus Copernicus - a Polish astronomer is typically thought of the father of this theory
            1. Came up with this determination after years of observation
         2. Johannes Kepler determined that the orbits of planets are elliptical, not circular
         3. Galileo Galilei used the telescope to determine that heavenly bodies are not perfectly round, have blemishes and are made of earth like materials
         4. These astronomers and others systematically destroyed the geocentric model
      3. The Church did not agree with these findings - the geocentric model fit nicely into the Christian conception of the universe
         1. Copernicus did not publish his findings and they only came out after his death.
         2. Galileo was forced to recant his findings and put under house arrest for the last ten years of his life (in which he figured out the laws of inertia)
            1. The Church finally apologized to Galileo in 1992
   3. The Scientific Revolution culminated with the work of Isaac Newton
      1. On a break from university, he invented the Calculus to figure out some math problems
      2. Started with the work from the astronomers and expanded upon them to develop three laws of motion - everything movement in the universe can be explained using these three laws
         1. Newton’s work accelerated work in many other scientific fields
2. The Enlightenment
   * 1. Social philosophers (philosophes in France) fell in love with Newton’s work and believed that if Newton could explain all the motion in the universe with 3 laws, they should be able to do something similar to explain society and human interaction
     2. This was mostly centered in France, although some of these philosophers were English, German and Italian
        1. French philosophes were writing in opposition to absolute monarchy and took great risk in attacking the government the way they did - Voltaire in particular
           1. Wanted something like what the English had
        2. English were very heavily influenced by English Civil War and Glorious Revolution, in addition to the Industrial Revolution, coming soon.
     3. The Enlightenment attempted to explain society with the same scientific reasoning scientists used
     4. John Locke - social contract - people give up some of their rights in order to get protection of our natural rights - life, liberty, property.
        1. We form governments to protect these rights
     5. Adam Smith - economist - individuals, by pursuing their own ends, actually benefit all of society - the Invisible Hand of the Market
        1. We don’t actually aim to fix society, it just happens because we’re all looking out for ourselves
     6. Montesquieu - argued that we should have separation of powers, checks and balances, separation of church and states
     7. Voltaire - individual freedom, religious tolerance, freedom of speech
   1. Other general Enlightenment ideas
      1. Deism - absent watchmaker - conception of the role of God - set the universe in motion but does not get involved in a personal way
         1. Orderly world, no supernatural stuff from Christianity, just rules and morality
      2. Belief in progress - expected society would progress the same way science did
         1. Lead to more control of the natural world and a more equitable society
         2. Less of a reliance on church and a more secular world