

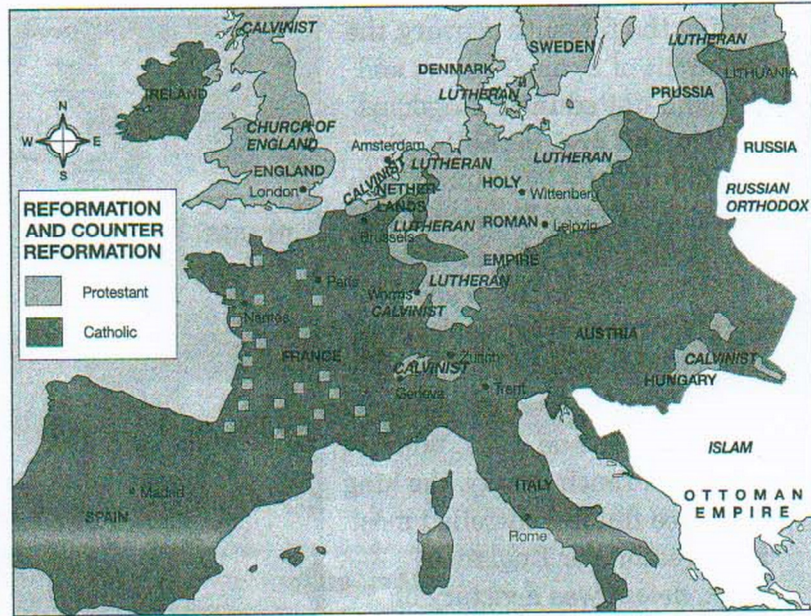
## Reformation and Counter Reformation

During the later Middle Ages, the reputation of the Church declined. Many of its leaders were worldly or corrupt, and many parish priests were as uneducated as their parishioners.

The Protestant Reformation began in 1517 when a monk named **Martin Luther** nailed **95 theses** to a church door in the German city of Wittenberg. Luther opposed the sale of **indulgences**—documents that supposedly allowed people to avoid punishment for their sins—and other church practices. Luther was swiftly condemned by the Pope, but the people cheered his stand, and his prince, Frederick of Saxony, protected him from punishment. Luther's ideas spread through northern Europe. He downgraded the importance of the church, the clergy, and ritual. Instead, he emphasized that salvation was based on faith alone and that everyone could find religious truth in the Bible. Since Luther had translated the Bible into German, it was now available to all who could read. Luther also preached passionately against the Jews. He had hoped to convert them to Christianity with his teachings but had failed.

**John Calvin**, another Protestant reformer, argued that God decides the fate of each one of us, a doctrine known as **predestination**. Calvin tried to make the Swiss city of Geneva a model religious community; all aspects of its citizens' lives were controlled by a church council of elders. Calvinism took deep root in the Netherlands and Scotland. It would also influence the Reformation that **Henry VIII** began in England. Henry wanted a divorce; the Pope refused to grant him one. So Henry removed England from the Catholic Church.

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The Catholic Church fought back. At the **Council of Trent** in 1563, the church ended many abuses including the sale of indulgences. The Inquisition was given new power to stamp out heresy. **Ignatius of Loyola** founded the Jesuit order. Its missionaries, along with Catholic soldiers, won back large areas of southern and eastern Europe for Catholicism. The map shows those areas that remained Protestant after this **Counter Reformation**.

6. The Pope has no power to pardon any guilt.  
37. Every Christian...has a share of all the benefits of Christ and of the Church, given by God.  
—Martin Luther, The Ninety Five Theses

8 Use this quotation to help you explain why Luther's attack was so serious for the Roman Catholic Church.

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