

CHAPTER 10

THE CHURCH IN THE LATE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Germany and the Lutherans after Luther's death

Political situation

Other nations solidifying:

- England
- Spain
- France (language developing)

Germany, Italy, Switzerland still in Holy Roman Empire, emperor crowned by pope

Free cities generally independent

Switzerland generally independent

Only legal religions in Germany:

- Roman Catholicism
- Lutheranism

Religious situation in general

Reformation ideas widespread

- Spain: good start
- Poland: 1/3 converted
- Italy: many clergymen
- Austria: great bulk of people
- Switzerland: progress
- Especially widespread throughout Germany

Variety of views

Diversity after Roman Catholic conformity

Controversies in German Lutheran churches

Reformed churches on borders

Melanchthon's controversies

Situation in Saxony: Melanchthon the strongest influence there

Opposed Calvinistic predestination (and strong statements of Luther)

But influenced by Calvin and others on communion

His school: "Philippists" or "Crypto-Calvinists"

Prevailed for a time in Saxony

Opposition to Melanchthon

Lutherans generally accepted his milder view of predestination

But bitter attacks against him and his views on Lord's Supper

Intolerant attitude of "real" Lutherans, called "Gnesio Lutherans"; they wanted state suppression of Philippists, consulted rulers

Melanchthon's death (1560)

Attacks against him bitter and persistent

1560, about to die, "free from the bitterness of theologians"

Spread of Reformed churches in Germany

Reformed churches especially strong in southwest Germany, near Switzerland and France

Heidelberg (1562), duke had two theologians write a new confession, not contradicting Augsburg Confession, Heidelberg Confession

Turnover in Saxony

1574, duke of electoral Saxony (Augustus I) became Gnesio Lutheran, executed Philippist church leader, later called on theologians to write new Luther confession: Formula of Concord (1577)

Strict Lutheran confessions

Formula of Concord (1577)

Particularly Lutheran
Clarified grace & works
Christ's body everywhere
Signed by many

Book of Concord (1580)

Also called "the Concordia"

50 years after Augsburg Confession

A collection of earlier creeds:

Apostles' Creed
Nicene Creed
Athanasian Creed
Augsburg Confession (1530)
Apology for the Augsburg Confession (1531)
Schmakald Articles
Luther's Small and Large Catechisms
Formula of Concord

Result: Lutherans limited the Peace of Augsburg to themselves

Later developments for Lutherans

Protestant losses to the Counter-Reformation

Poland
France
Austria
Southern Germany

Continuing influence of Lutheran churches

Most of Germany (especially northern)

Scandinavia—Denmark, Norway, Sweden, also Finland
Spread during German colonialism
Many came to the USA

France and the Calvinists

Effects in France of Calvin's work

Return of missionaries

Calvin interested in missions in France

Welcomed refugees, trained them for return to France

Perhaps 1/3 seal their faith with their lives

Spread of the gospel

Continued in France in spite of persecutions and wars

10% of French population (mainly in the South); 40% - 50% of nobility

The kings of France and the Huguenot wars

Francis I (1515-1547)

Would have been happy with Erasmian reform—early on protected some Protestants (Margaret connection)

Calvin kept in touch, exhorting the French preachers

37 printing offices cranked out small, concealable French Bible and Marot's Psalmody

1534, open persecution when he is persuaded that the Placard Affair was part of a large-scale Anabaptist plot

Periods of violent persecution, many converted

Ca. 1/3 missionaries burned, 2/3 continued

By time of his death, sizeable group of Protestants

Henry II (1547-1559)

Married Pope Clement's niece, Catharine de Medici (1519-1589)—she later acted as regent for the next kings, her 3 sons

Afraid of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, made secret alliances with German Protestants of the Schmalkalden League

Progress of Protestant doctrine in his reign

Later violent outbreak vs. “heretics” in year of his untimely death

Many persecutions

Henry was killed in a knight tournament—jousting with head guard, the spear went through a hole in his helmet

3 sons (each king in turn), one daughter; and his widow Catherine, who became regent

Francis II (1559-1560)

Became king when 16 years old

Married young bride, Mary of Guise, from family of duke of Guise (who was also Cardinal of Lorraine); she later would become, at the age of 17, Mary, Queen of Scots; the duke hanged 30 Protestants in celebration of the wedding

Guise family were fanatical Catholics who sought the throne for Mary's uncle Francis (Guise) and the papacy for her uncle Charles

Henpecked: dominated by megalomaniac mother and aggressive wife, Mary of Guise (Queen of Scots)

Protestant opponents to the Guise:

Bourbons: 3 royal sons of Margaret of Navarre

Chatillons: Most notable was Admiral Coligny, an intimate of the Guise family as a child—became Protestant while held prisoner in Holland for 2 years

Edict of Romorantin (1560), forbade Protestant assemblies but stopped proceedings against individuals

Reigned 17 months; an ear infection caused his death

Charles IX (1560-1574)

Younger brother of Francis II, only 9 years old

Dominated by mother, Catherine de Medici, who wanted power more than Catholic victory

Intervals of persecutions and favors

Great numbers of Protestants, called “Huguenots”

Suggested definitions:

- “Army of Hugh Capet” + “Eidgenots” (freedom party of Geneva)
- German word for “Confederates.”

Church organization more Calvinistic than the Lutherans’

Catholic League organized at the instigation of the Jesuits, with the Guise family at the head

Catharine, seeking balance of power between the two major factions, suggested a political marriage

Catherine arranged marriage between her daughter and a Huguenot leader of the Bourbon family, Henry of Navarre (to become Henry IV of Navarre)

1561, French Council in Paris calls for colloquy, Council of Poissy, to work out a compromise Catholic and Reformed confession

Theodore Beza (1519-1605), the Protestant representative at Poissy

- Paris lawyer of 9 years with humanist training, impressed Catharine
- Calvin’s successor in Geneva
- Translated NT into Latin using Codex Beza (D)

Edict of St. Germain, January 1562

Limited toleration of Protestants: able to assemble in daylight outside of city limits

The Huguenot Wars

Precipitated by massacre at Vassy, March 1, 1562

Duke of Guise came into town where there was a Protestant meeting of 300, meeting in a barn outside the city (as Edict had required); singing hymns; he sent

troops to quiet them down; they killed them all; this massacre began the Huguenot Wars

Series of eight civil wars, spread out over 36 years; some periods of calm in between

Leaders:

- Roman Catholics: house of Guise
- Huguenots: house of Bourbon, and Admiral Gaspard de Coligny
- In between: house of Valois (royal family), usually supported Catholic side occasionally supported Huguenot side

Catherine jealous over influence of Huguenot leader Admiral Coligny, persuaded her son Charles IX to have him and others murdered at the wedding of her daughter and Henry of Navarre

August 24, 1572, *St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre; 2,000 Huguenots murdered when they gathered for the wedding in Paris; many more killed in other cities, total of 20,000 murders in one day; terrible slaughter of men, women, children; even Charles shot them from his window; Coligny killed; Henry Navarre was spared

- Philip II of Spain laughed in public
- Pope Gregory XIII, ordered thanksgivings, and commissioned a painting of the slaughter

Terrible blow to Protestantism; finest leaders killed; but 3 years later, seemed to be more Protestants than ever

Charles IX struck a medal, but died 2 years after massacre, in a delirium

Henry III (1574-1589)

Last of the 3 brothers, already king of Poland

Weak as Charles IX, more debauched; incompetent king; had to borrow money from the Guise family

Found France in civil war, "War of the Three Henrys"

- King Henry III, "moderate" Catholic party
- Henry of Guise, reactionary Catholic party
- Henry of Navarre, Huguenot party

Henry of Guise became stronger, seized and held Paris out of distrust of compromising monarchy; had alliance with Spain (Philip II)

King Henry assassinated Henry of Guise and his Cardinal brother and fled to protection of Henry of Navarre to help resist powerful Catholic League

King Henry assassinated in the Protestant camp by a Dominican assassin

Henry IV, of Navarre (1589-1610)

Navarre on Pyrennees, border of Spain and France

Margaret's grandson (Margaret, sister of Francis I), thus next legitimate successor to the throne and natural head of Huguenots

War for France

Henry III and mother Catherine had fled to him when Henry of Guise appeared winning

Henry of Navarre brilliant soldier and statesman, conquered all France except Paris, but Spanish army coming

Dominican friar assassinated Henry III with dagger (1589); Henry declared himself Henry IV

Long siege of Paris

Henry convinced France would never accept Protestant as king

Became Roman Catholic

“Paris is worth a mass”

Expedient compromise had tragic results later

Concession to the Huguenots: he refused to sign specific articles of faith

Yet his example blunted the ardor of many other Huguenot nobles

Concessions to the Catholics:

He vowed to defend the Roman Catholic faith and die in it

Jesuits would train the royal children (!) and would be involved in picking the royal bureaucrats

1589, entered Paris, acclaimed king, ruled 12 more years

Considered a good king generally

The *Edict of Nantes (1598)

“Permanent and perpetual”

Huguenots at liberty to hold services, etc. (except in Paris or any other capital of the king)

Guarantees to the Huguenots to protect their civil liberties and religious freedoms in Southern France

Huguenots still had to pay the Catholic tithe, and not operate in Catholic areas

Edict revoked by Louis XIV in 1685 after 87 years of erosion of liberty

1610, Henry of Navarre later was assassinated by Jesuits

Fifty years of decreasing toleration

Cardinals Richieu and Mazarin controlled Henry’s sons, oversaw decay of Protestant gains under the Edict of Nantes

After the first 20 years, no new Huguenot churches were to be built

Protestant garrisons outlawed, one city’s garrison destroyed; resisting cities were sacked as examples

Protestants allowed some high paying government positions, but not much power

Huguenots developed their own schools, many most talented; strong middle class

But church did not grow much

9. Louis XIV (1643-1715)

Began when 5 years old

Great glamour, pride, show: “The Sun King”

Proud: “L’État est moi” [“I am the state”]

By this time the Jesuit order was very powerful, used its leverage in France

Louis XIV licentious; Catholic leaders said he could win forgiveness by eliminating Protestantism from France

Led final demise of Protestant strength in France

Tightened restriction; soldiers molested Protestants

*1685, revoked Edict of Nantes

Terrible persecutions; many hanged, sent to galleys, imprisoned

Huguenot marriages declared illegal

All children to be trained in Roman Catholic schools

400,000 fled France to England, Holland, Germany, America

Huge detriment to France

For 100 years, Protestants illegal in France (1685-1787)

The Anabaptists and their followers

Anabaptists

Distinctives:

Ana + baptize = “baptize again”

Rejected infant baptism

Water poured over head

Rejected state church (persecuted by all other groups)

“Radical reformation”—truth unknown before, complete break with former churches

Appealed more to the “common people”

Many poor people

Mostly in Switzerland, Holland, Germany

Many suffered violent persecutions

Great variety of groups

Some prominent and eloquent leaders, e.g., Balthasar Hubmaier in southern Germany (a non-immersionist)

Many groups chiliastic, biblical

Other groups went on tangents; mystical, anti-trinitarian

Today about 50,000 Anabaptists in Holland

Munster episode

Anabaptist leader John Matthys claimed he was Enoch, coming to prepare kingdom of Christ

Seized city of Munster in Germany, drove out other church leaders; established communist system, killed opponents and those who refused rebaptism; called it the New Jerusalem

Thousands came, many seized on the way

City besieged by bishop and surrounding nobles

Matthys killed; new leader, John of Leyden; appointed 12 elders, approved polygamy, called John the King

City captured after a year by Catholics and Protestants (1536); leaders tortured and killed

Result: bad name for Anabaptists

Menno Simons (1496-1561)

Catholic priest in Holland

Read Luther, etc.; converted

Became Anabaptist, but opposed John of Leyden and violence at Munster; became pacifist

Traveled, preached, organized non-resistance groups

Not well trained (“Christ’s human nature a direct creation”)

Most of his followers (“Mennonites”) in Holland; many in southern Russia

Later persecutions (e.g., by Bolsheviks in 1920s) led many to move to USA (e.g., in North Dakota, “German Russians”)

Now ca. 1/4 million in USA

Groups: Amish (non-paid ministers), Quakers, in addition to Mennonites

Socinianism

Italian lawyer Lelio Socinius (1525-1562, the uncle) and Fausto Socinius (1539-1604, the nephew)

Forerunners of modern Unitarianism; denied Trinity

Great influence in Poland; Catholics found Poland divided; Jesuits stimulated fighting, and got persecution going

Intolerance by Socinians and by Lutherans contributed to downfall of Protestantism in Poland

Beginnings of the Counter-Reformation

Attitude of contemporary popes

Leo X (1513-1521), worldly pleasures and advancement; Luther a minor problem

Adrian VI (1522-1523), need reform; frustrated

Clement VII (1523-1534), Medici family; followed cousin Leo X, less ability

Paul III (1534-1549), more energetic against Protestants:

1540, Jesuits recognized by pope

1542, Roman Inquisition started

1545, Council of Trent begun (after Peace of Crepy in 1544)

Julius III (1550-1555), continued and encouraged the Jesuits and the council of Trent

Marcellus II (1555), (not much)

Paul IV (1555-1559), Caraffa family, vigorous against Protestants; stern (property sacked at his death); started change in general attitude

Thus, popes not the main strength of the Counter-Reformation

Reforms in the Roman Catholic Church

Structural reforms successful

1415, council of Constance

16th century, more success:

Adrian VI commission said reform was needed after publication of Luther's works in 1521

Confessional booth introduced

Absenteeism and pluralism much reduced

Nepotism eliminated in higher circles when Paul IV's successor (Pius IV) killed all Paul's relatives in office and outlawed papal nepotism

Doctrinal reforms crushed

Some leading Catholics had become Protestants:

Bishop Virgerial, who visited Luther from north Italy; fled to Geneva

Ochino, head of Italian Capuchins, converted, refugee in Geneva

Many influenced about justification by faith, including prominent cardinals

But many more defenders of medieval system; this side won in Roman Catholic church

Case of Professor Carranza (1503-1576):

Of noble Spanish family; became Dominican; famous teacher

Influenced by justification ideas; charges in 1530 before the Inquisition; failed

More fame; became Mary Tudor's confessor in England; became Archbishop of Toledo

At deathbed of Charles V: administered extreme unction; asked if he trusted in Christ; another monk pushed him aside

Arrested, in prison 8 years, books burned

1566, appealed to Rome, imprisoned 10 more years, no proof of heresy

Given 16 erroneous statements to recant, then to be suspended 5 years; recanted, but died 7 days later

Later lauded by the church

Roman Inquisition started (1542)

Spanish Inquisition was old:

20,000 burned by 1540, mostly Jews and Moors

24 Protestants burned in 1559, and more afterward (Moody Press: *The Spanish Brothers*)

Papal Inquisition was old:

Mainly used against Albigenses, Waldenses, Hussites

Now new Roman Inquisition, directed against Protestants and witches

The Index

1485, Archbishop of Mainz started idea of official approval of all printed matter

1559, Pope Paul IV approved first list titled "Index" from the Inquisition

Different bad categories of material:

1. Intentionally bad
2. Occasionally bad
3. Anonymous (all bad)

100 pages to list passages of Erasmus

Many works censored or changed (e.g., Broccocio's Decameron)

Case of Alfonso Valdes:

Spaniard, moved to Italy; great scholar

Accepted justification by faith, but stayed in Catholic Church

Wrote 15 books in Italy; most famous, On the Benefits of Christ's Death; sold 40,000 copies in Italy

Book condemned; almost all copies destroyed

Result of Index: in A.D. 1500, southern Europe (Italy, Spain) most advanced part of Western world; by 1600, shift to northern Europe

1966, Vatican II ruled there to be no new editions of the Index; but Imprimatur ("printable") still used

Council of Trent, 1545-1563

Memory help: Luther died 1546; Calvin died 1564; Council of Trent 1 year earlier—1545-1563

Background of the council

Council of Constance had required councils every 10 years

Luther had called for a council

Popes excommunicated anyone who appealed over them to a council

Charles V wanted a council, tried 20 years; popes put him off; Charles wanted it held in Germany; Pope Paul III finally called it to meet in Trent, a German city in Italy

Protestants were invited, but they boycotted:

- War going on
- No agreement to authority of Scripture

Council had 44 voting members; pope in great pomp and prominence; French disgusted

Met in three main sessions: 1545-1547, 1551-1552, and 1562-1563

Position of the council

Protestants did send a statement

Struggle over basis of teaching:

Some wanted Bible
Others wanted Catholic tradition
Both sides loyal to the Roman church

Sometimes heated arguments, fist fights

Eventually confirmed traditions of Roman Catholic Church, no compromise with Protestants

Crystallized views of the church:

- Faith and works necessary for salvation; anathematized doctrine of salvation by faith alone
- Bible and tradition sources of doctrine
- Apocrypha included in the canon of Scripture

Used as a “proof” for Purgatory

Jerome had been against including it in Bible

Not included in Ximenes’s Complutensian Polyglot of 1522

- The Latin Vulgate was the authoritative biblical text for all doctrines and controversies

The Society of Jesus

“Jesuits,” the “army” of Jesus, S.J. after name

Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)

Spaniard, soldier, 5'2"; read romances, typical active secular life

1520 (30 years old), wounded in leg defending a fortress against the French; leg healed crooked, re-broken, reset, stretched—result: cripple for life; had to give up being a soldier

Read lives of Christ and the saints; vowed to become a “soldier for Christ”; entered a monastery; saw many “visions”; kept records of hundreds of them

Wrote Spiritual Exercises; great influence; organized into 4 weeks of meditations:

1st Sin, hell

- 2nd Christ's life
- 3rd Christ's passion
- 4th Christ's resurrection and ascension

Goal of meditations: complete submission to Christ and the monastic order

Very zealous for church; moved to Paris for education; whipped once for fanaticism

Formed "society" of 7 men, selected and able (one was Francis Xavier), loyal to him; military organization; he the "general"; called "Company of Jesus"

His men found the church dull, in a low condition; long struggle for papal recognition

1540, Pope Paul III recognized the order; had a dream: edifice falling, a short scarred man holding it up; order at first limited to 60 people

1551, Loyola founded Roman College for education of Jesuits

Died 1556, beatified 1609, canonized 1622

Objectives of the society

Military purpose

Early group had vow: "poverty, chastity, and a career of service in the Holy Land or, failing that, of unreserved service to the pope" (*NIDCC*, p. 499)

Military organization; emphasis on obedience; great mobility and dedication; often used "warfare" tactics

Emphasis on education

Very thorough, lengthy preparation

Best schools in Europe

Thus influenced royal families

Good in debates

War against Protestantism

Very successful in Poland and in Austria

The Netherlands:

First martyrs in Brussels; thousands of Calvinist martyrs

Charles V died; son Philip II tried to wipe out Protestants

Rebellion, 50 years of war, including the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)

Freedom won in the north (Holland)

But Jesuits won populace in the south (Belgium), which became anti-Protestant

France:

Jesuits helped suppress Reformation

Debates and discussions

Leading mobs against Protestants

Framing anti-Huguenot laws

Foreign missions

Order active to spread Catholicism

Francis Xavier (1506-1552):

Supported from Portugal

Trip to Far East—East Indies and Japan

Baptized thousands

Employed questionable means: Inquisition, concessions to pagan practices (later criticized for this)

Then Jesuit missionaries went to New World

Paraguay and Baja California under absolute Jesuit control

Characteristics of the order

Emphasis on obedience

Regular 3 vows for monastics: poverty, chastity, obedience

Special 4th vow for Jesuits: special obedience to the pope; the “professed” take this vow after 20 years of service in the order

Only in the last few decades has this vow of special obedience been lightened (now Jesuits divided on various issues)

Careful selection and long training

2 years a novice before entering order

Mostly concerned with education

Constant spying

Ultimate objective

Advance the ecclesiastical organization

Work over the long haul

Very concerned with overall strategy

Jesuit ethics

Often bent morality and ethics, both to accommodate the church to others, and to justify dishonest or cruel measures they themselves used

E.g., secret Jesuit activity, esp. in England

E.g., “casuistry” and “probabilism”

History of the Jesuits to 1814

1556, Loyola died, ca. 1,000 Jesuits

1578, Jesuits arrived openly in England, greatly feared

Evil tactics made them odious: power, casuistry, moral problems, assassination plots

1759, expelled from Portugal (one burned, 1761)

1764, expelled from France

1767, expelled from Spain

1769, expelled from Paraguay and Baja California

1773, Pope Clement XIV signed order abolishing the society forever; struck a papal coin; died 6 months later

Order continued secretly, esp. in Prussia (for a time) and in Russia

1814, Pope Pius VII restored the society

Reformation Struggles in the Netherlands

Charles V's Placards posted in Holland, part of his domain

Diet of Worms edicts to eradicate Lutheran heresy

Enforcement led to early Dutch martyrdoms, especially in the face of Anabaptistic fanatics' excesses lead to official repression

Philip II of Spain

Political and religious absolutism

Inquisition outlawed "printing, copying, keeping, hiding, buying, or selling" any Reformer's work, forbade laymen reading Scripture or disputing doctrine, forbade any Reformation congregations, and forbade any injury to images

Guilty until proven innocent

Violators beheaded if male who recants; burned alive if female or unrepentant

1566, Dutch Calvinist iconoclasm provoked heavier persecution

Duke of Alva and 10,000 Spanish troops to eliminate rebels in Lowlands

Pope Pius V requested detour by Geneva to exterminate that “nest of devils and apostates”

“The Council of Blood,” a wicked tribunal

Death and loss of property were decreed against any that had done the following:

- Petitioned against the new bishops
- Favored softening persecution edicts
- Under pressure had permitted Reformed sermons
- Had not hindered destruction of images, etc.
- Had sung protestant songs or attend a Calvinist funeral
- Had said, “we must obey God rather than men”

Feb. 16, 1568, EVERY CITIZEN OF THE NETHERLANDS with a few specifically named exceptions was condemned to death as a heretic!

Alva himself estimated 19,000 judicial homicides

Dutch economy and society were paralyzed

William, Prince of Orange

At first he was motivated by Inquisition atrocities; later he embraced the Protestant faith

Union of Utrecht (1579)

Holland, Zeeland (province of Holland, reclaimed from sea), and 5 other northern provinces form mutual defense pact

Spaniards stalemated

“Sea Beggars” harassed Spanish shipping

Catholics assassinated William after 6 attempts; Philip grudgingly paid bounty to assassin’s heirs

Peace of Westphalia, 1648

Ended the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648)

Independent Republic of Holland finally recognized