

The Reformation

Context, Characters

Controversies, Consequences

Class 9: The Reformation in
England and Scotland

Class 8 Goals

- Learn about the beginnings of the Reformation in England.
- Study the royal intrigues that advanced and reversed the Reformation.
- Explore the path toward the Reformation in Scotland.

Opening Question

- Based on what we have learned thus far in the course, what would you expect to learn about the English Reformation?
- Compared to the Reformation in Continental Europe, is the English Reformation even that important?



Precursors

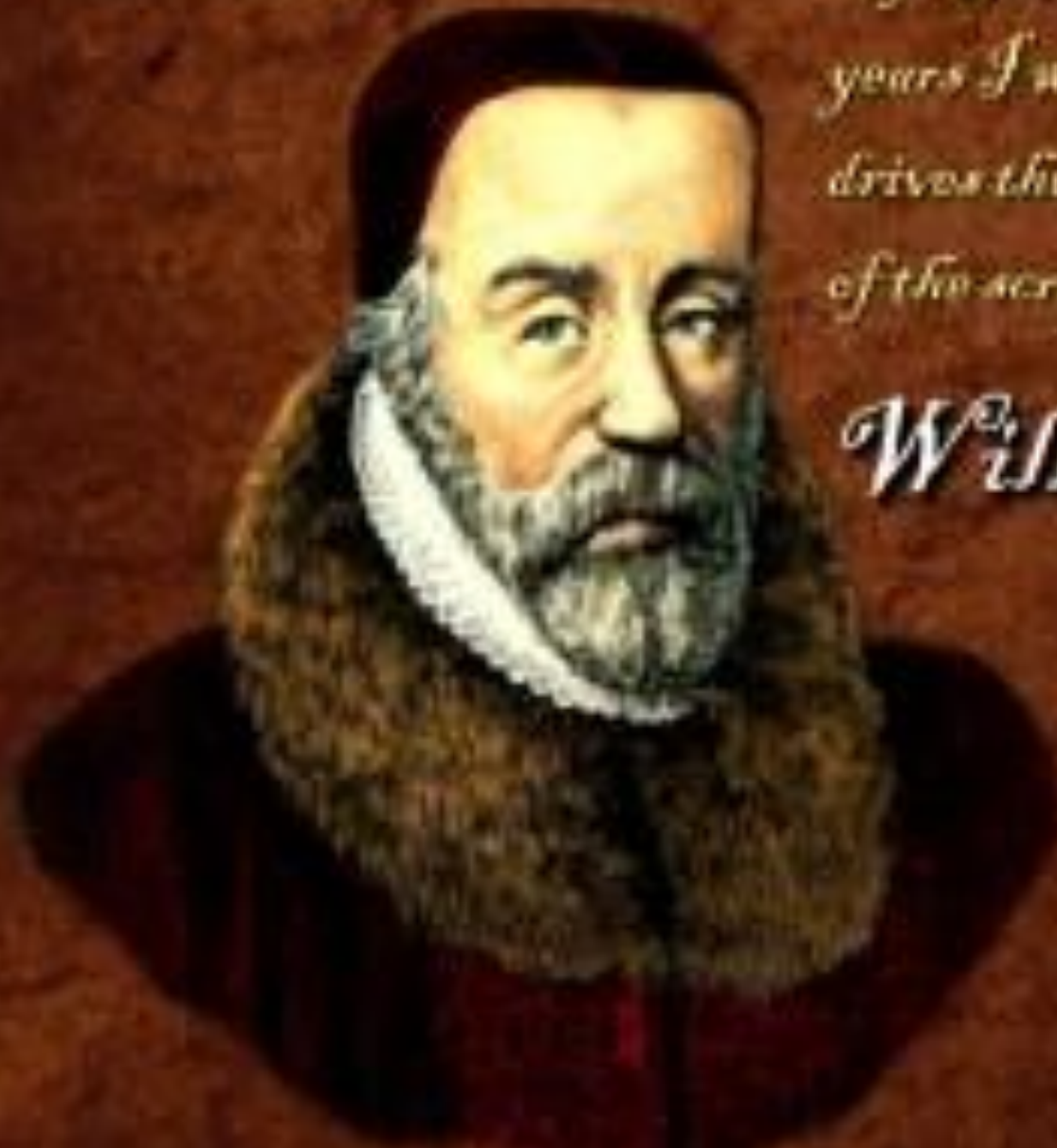
- John Wyclif and the Lollard Tradition
 - Stressed individual and group Bible reading in English.
 - Punished by burning at the stake.
- Hatred of Thomas Wolsey (Cardinal, bishop of London, archbishop of York, papal legate, lord chancellor of England)
 - Greedy and monopolized wealth and power of the Church
 - Accused of sexual immorality
- The sham of purgatory
 - Allowed the clergy to line their pockets while distracting people from spiritual useful pursuits.

Stirrings

- Lutheran ideas reached England by 1520
 - Wolsey anathematized Luther, burned his books, and excommunicated him
- By 1521 a committed group of Lutherans met at the White Horse Inn in Cambridge.
- In 1525 Robert Barnes criticized Wolsey in a Christmas Eve sermon.
 - He was placed under house arrest for 3 years, escaped by faking his drowning, and reached Wittenburg by 1530.
 - Returned and told Henry VIII that Luther would not support his divorce and left soon thereafter – but Henry VIII needed him later to build alliances with German Princes.
 - Ultimately executed by Henry VIII.

Spreading

- The English Reformation spread from Cambridge to Oxford
- William Tyndale began translating the Bible into English in 1522 – burned at the stake in Antwerp in 1535
 - Helped standardize the English Language – influenced Shakespeare and the later King James translation.
 - His translation undermined Catholic doctrines of purgatory, penance, priests, etc.
 - Translated Luther's works without attribution – then included in Catholic Bibles.
- Publication of William Tracy's will
 - "I commit myself to God and his mercy, believing . . . that by his grace and the merits of Jesus Christ . . . I have and shall have remission of all my sins and resurrection of my body and soul."

A portrait of William Tyndale, a man with a full grey beard and a dark cap, wearing a dark robe with a white ruffled collar. The portrait is set against a dark, textured background.

*"If God spare my life, ere many
years I will cause a boy who
drives the plough to know more
of the scriptures than you do."*

William Tyndale
(1494-1536)

Enter Catherine, or Anne Boleyn . . .

- Henry VII arranged a marriage between Catherine of Aragon and his son Arthur
 - Following Arthur's death Henry VII got a special dispensation from Julius II to allow Henry to marry Catherine
 - Only child was Mary Tudor (No Male Heir)
- Henry VIII requested an annulment from Clement VII — claiming the previous dispensation was wrongly given.
 - Clement VII under house arrest of Charles V (Catherine's nephew) refused
 - Wolsey was fired for not persuading the Pope and then replaced with Thomas More

English Act of Supremacy

- Thomas Cromwell appealed to the Universities of England and Europe on the annulment.
- The English Court then granted the annulment
 - The Pope annulled the annulment and excommunicated Henry
- Henry VIII then issued the Act of Supremacy – the king and his successors “The only Supreme Head on earth of the Church of England” with full “power and authority . . . to visit, repress, redress, reform, order, correct, restrain, and amend all . . . heresies.”
- Not just the divorce but Erastianism – the desire to place state authority over church authority.

Saint Thomas More

- "no temporal man may be the head of the spirituality".



Results

- Thomas More refused to sign the required loyalty oath to the king and was decapitated. (Author of *Utopia*)
- Henry VIII maintained key Catholic doctrines including only serving the host, transubstantiation, celibacy, confession, etc.
- Dissolved monasteries, confiscating their land and destroying art.
- Henry married Anne Boleyn 1533 (she may have supported Protestant views) but no male heir and soon she was beheaded.
- Then Jane Seymour (died in child birth), Anne of Cleves (soon divorced), Catherine Howard (beheaded for an affair), Catherine Parr (Outlived Henry)

Reformation Martyrs

- Read the account of the Martyrdom of Lady Jane Gray from Foxe's Book of Martyrs.
- How does it compare with the execution of Thomas More?
- Are they both equally religious martyrs, is only one a martyr, or did they both die for political not religious reasons?

Cuius Regio, Eius Religio

- Edward VII (1547-1553) – Sickly child with Protestant advisors ended persecution of Protestants, invited leading Protestant scholars, and oversaw a gradual move from Lutheran to Zwinglian views.
 - Thomas Cranmer pushed toward more Protestantism, wrote the Book of Common Prayer, and installed Protestant bishops.
- Mary Tudor (1553-1558) – Married Philip II of Spain – sought to return England to Catholicism, restored monastery lands, attack Protestant leaders. (Over 300 martyrs)
- Elizabeth Tudor (1558-1603) Pursued a *via media* between religious extremes. She pushed outward conformity to Anglican doctrine and discipline.

The Elizabethan Settlement

- “A dialectic process of blending and accommodating”
- “A syncretic process designed to preserve unity while making way for difference.” Carlson
 - Catholic vestments and liturgy
 - Services in English with Protestant theology and prayers
 - The Eucharist “The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body unto everlasting life”
 - “Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith with thanksgiving.”
- 1559 – Act of Supremacy – supremacy of Crown over church
- 1563 Act of Uniformity with 39 Articles – allowed for multiple interpretations.
- Growth of Puritans – Vestments Controversy

New Models of Church Leadership

- Episcopal – Central authority under archbishops and bishops
- Congregational – Each congregation maintains autonomy over its practices
- Presbyterian – All churches are equal but meet in a representative Presbytery to decide church wide issues.

Reformation in Scotland

- Patrick Hamilton – early convert, taught in St. Andrews, fled to Marburg, returned and was executed.
- 1540s – George Wishart started spreading Zwinglian ideas also tried and executed – but his followers attacked the castle and killed Cardinal Beaton who ordered the execution.
- John Knox – Chaplain to the attackers – heavily influenced by Calvin and French Huguenots.
- In 1559 the “Reformation Parliament” expelled the French – outlawed papal authority and embraced a Reformed Confession of faith
 - Insisted on Church Discipline like Belgic Confession



Knox vs. Mary Queen of Scots

- Mary Stuart – daughter of Mary Guise (conservative Catholic) was supposed to marry the Dauphin Francis, but he died. She returned to Scotland to take up the throne in 1561
- John Knox regularly insulted her and her family and claimed her private mass would destroy the country. A female ruler was also ungodly – and it was the duty of reformed believers to resist.
- Mary married Henry Stuart, grew to despise him. After Henry stabbed her lover, she had him killed, then married the Protestant James Bothell.
- She was deposed in favor of her son, and fled to England seeking protection from Elizabeth who kept her under house arrest before executing her.

Legacies

- Both Anglican and Puritan forms of Protestantism spread to different colonies in the New World.
- The Church became an arm of the state, and was ultimately weakened for that reason.
- Tensions between Puritans and Anglicans contributed to the English Civil War, Commonwealth and rule of Oliver Cromwell
- Continued fear of Catholicism led to the Glorious Revolution and rule of William and Mary – with Catholics as second class citizens
- 1829 – Catholic Emancipation Act restores civil equality to Catholics in Great Britain.

Next Week

- The Catholic Reformation and the Council of Trent