The Protestant Reformation
The Protestant Reformation

- Started in 1517 by a German priest named Martin Luther
- Issued a document called the 95 Theses
  - Nailed it to a church door in Wittenberg, Germany
  - Outlined his issues with the Catholic Church
The Protestant Reformation

- Martin Luther was critical of the following abuses conducted by the Catholic Church:
  - Selling church positions
  - Selling indulgences = certificates issued by the church that reduced or canceled punishment for a person’s sins → people would buy them to ensure going to Heaven
  - Luxurious life of the popes
  - Corruption and immorality of some clergy

Pope Leo X (above) sold church positions and indulgences to raise money to rebuild St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome
Martin Luther’s Beliefs

- Salvation = came through faith alone; God’s grace is freely and directly granted to believers
- Source of religious authority = the Bible (as interpreted by the individual), not the Pope or church leaders
- These ideas = created a massive rift between Catholic and Protestant Christianity
Spread of Protestantism

- Reformation thinking spread quickly within and beyond Germany thanks to the invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg
- Luther’s 95 Theses, many pamphlets, and his German translation of the New Testament were soon widely available
- As the movement spread to the rest of Europe, it splintered, creating a variety of different Protestant churches
  - Ex: Lutheran, Calvinist, Anglican, Quaker, Anabaptist, Puritan, etc.
Spread of Protestantism

Map 16.1 Reformation Europe in the Sixteenth Century
Chapter 16, Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources, First Edition
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Calvinism

- Established by John Calvin in Switzerland
- Preached predestination = God determines the fate of every person
The Anabaptists

- Denied the authority of local governments
  - Refused to hold office, bear arms, or swear oaths
- Many lived separate from society → viewed it as sinful
- Baptized adult members only

An Anabaptist Immersion
The Church of England

- King Henry VIII (ruled from 1509-1547) wanted a divorce from his first wife (Catherine of Aragon)
  - She had 6 children -- only 1 survived (a girl named Mary)
  - King wanted a male heir to the throne
  - King thought Catherine of Aragon was too old and he wanted to marry the young, beautiful Anne Boleyn instead
  - Problem = the Pope refused to grant the King a divorce
The Church of England

- Result = Henry VIII separated England from the Pope and the Catholic Church
  - Made himself head of the new “Church of England”
  - Kept Catholic practices & traditions, but denied authority of the Pope
  - Had supporters of the old religion killed
The Church of England

- King Henry VIII had the Church of England end his marriage with Catherine & he married Anne Boleyn
  - Anne bore him a daughter = Elizabeth I
  - Henry VIII married 4 more times after this & only got 1 son = Edward VI (got the throne, but died in his teens)
The Church of England

- Henry’s daughter Mary tried to restore Catholicism when she became Queen
  - Burned hundreds of Protestants at the stake
  - Nicknamed “Bloody Mary”
Anglicanism

- Mary’s sister Elizabeth I became Queen when Mary died → blended features of the Church of England and Catholicism
  - Religion called Anglicanism
  - Pleased most people
  - Radical Protestants called “Puritans” wanted to purify the English Church of all its Catholic elements → ended up leaving for North America where they could have more religious freedom
Religious Conflicts

- 1562 – 1598 = violent conflict between Catholics and Protestants in France
  - French Protestants = called Huguenots = the minority
    - In one day (in 1572) = about 3,000 Huguenots were massacred by Catholic mobs
- 1598 = King Henry IV issued the Edict of Nantes
  - Granted religious toleration to French Protestants
    - Idea = soon they’d return to the Catholic Church
Religious Conflicts

- Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648) = war between Catholics and Protestants
  - Started in Holy Roman Empire; soon took over most of Europe
  - Destructive war
  - 15-30% of German population died from violence, famine, or disease
- 1648 = Peace of Westphalia signed
  - Redrew some European political boundaries
  - Said each state was independent and could control its own religious affairs
Catholic Counter-Reformation

- Pope Paul III wanted to reform the Catholic Church to win back followers and stop the growth of Protestant faiths
- Council of Trent (1545-1563)
  1) Reaffirmed Catholic teachings and practices
  2) Put an end to Church abuses, such as the selling of indulgences and church positions
  3) Put emphasis on creating a better-educated clergy
European explorers, traders, and colonial settlers brought their faith with them and wanted to replicate it in their new homelands.

Ex: New England Puritans brought Protestant version of Christianity with them to North America.

- Emphasis on: education, moral purity, personal conversion, civic responsibility, and little tolerance for other faiths.
Christianity Outward Bound

- Most successful group at spreading Christianity = missionaries (mostly Catholic)
- Organized in missionary orders, such as the Dominicans, Franciscans, and Jesuits
- Portuguese missionaries = spread Christianity to Africa and Asia
- Spanish and French missionaries = spread Christianity to the Americas
- Russian missionaries = spread Eastern Orthodox Christianity throughout Russian Empire
Christianity Outward Bound

Catholic missionaries = most successful in Spanish America and the Philippines

Why? → Both of these areas were:
  - Fully colonized by Spain
  - Taken over by an overwhelming European presence → through military conquest, colonial settlement, missionary activity, forced labor, social disruption, and disease
  - Lacking a literate world religion (like Islam or Buddhism)

Roman Catholic Missionary Priest
Conversion and Adaptation in Spanish America

- Europeans saw their political and military success in Spanish America as proof of the power of their Christian God
  - Many Native Americans agreed and accepted baptism and other Christian practices
  - But Native Americans wanted to keep their traditional local gods as well
European frustration with the persistence of old, local traditions sometimes led to violence:
- Destruction of pagan shrines and idols
- Destruction of religious images and ritual objects
- Public urination on native idols
- Desecrating the remains of ancestors
- Flogging those that worshipped idols
- Religious trials and processions of shame to humiliate offenders
Conversion and Adaptation in Spanish America

- Result = Native Americans attempted to create an “Andean” or “Mexican” Christianity
  - Not just a copy of the Spanish version of Christianity
  - Blended Christian elements with traditional religious elements
  - Example: Catholic saints became important in Mexican Christianity → paralleled the functions of pre-colonial gods
  - Many Mexican Christians also continued to take part in rituals from the past
    - Didn’t think they contradicted Christianity
    - Examples: use of hallucinogenic drugs; blood-letting; etc.
An Asian Comparison: China and the Jesuits

Missionary efforts to spread Christianity in China = less successful than in Spanish America because:

- China was never conquered by the Spanish
- China was a strong, powerful, independent nation
- China was never threatened by Spain militarily

In fact → Europeans needed the permission of Chinese authorities to operate in the country

Most famous missionary to China
An Asian Comparison: China and the Jesuits

- Missionary strategy by the Jesuits in China:
  - Targets = official Chinese elites
  - Downplayed their mission to convert → emphasized their interest in exchanging ideas and learning
  - Took an interest in Chinese culture → became familiar with Confucian texts, learned Chinese, dressed like Chinese scholars, etc.
  - Defined Chinese rituals (like honoring ancestors) as non-religious
  - Pointed out parallels between Confucianism and Christianity

Jesuit astronomers working with the Chinese
An Asian Comparison: China and the Jesuits

- Outcome = minimal conversion in China
- Confucianism, Buddhism, and/or Daoism = already gave the Chinese spiritual fulfillment
- Many Chinese = didn’t like that Christianity was an “all-or-nothing” faith
Early 18th century = Pope and other Catholic officials = came to oppose the Jesuit policy of accommodation

- Pope claimed authority over all Chinese Christians
- Declared sacrifices to Confucius and worship of ancestors to be idol worship = forbidden to Christians

Emperor Kangxi forbade Europeans to spread Christianity in China in 1715. Many missionaries were subsequently expelled.
Other issues the Chinese had with Christian missionaries:

- They worked under the Manchu dynasty = worked with “uncivilized foreigners”
- Holy Communion seen as a form of cannibalism
- Claims of miracles damaged their image as men of science
- Didn’t like the fact that Christian groups met in secret
- Concerned with the fact that Europeans had just conquered the nearby Philippines
Africanized Christianity

- African ideas and practices accompanied slaves to the Americas
- African forms of revelation became a part of Africanized versions of Christianity
  - Dream interpretation, visions, spirit possession, etc.
- Examples of syncretic (blended) religions = Vodou in Haiti and Santeria in Cuba
Expansion and Renewal in the Islamic World

- Islam continued to spread during this time period
  - Spread by: wandering Muslim holy men, Islamic scholars, and Muslim traders
  - **Not** spread by conquering armies or expanding empires
- As Islam spread, it often blended with local religious traditions
  - Strict Muslims did not like this blend → believed that it strayed too far from Muhammad’s original beliefs and the authority of the Quran
  - Caused movements of religious renewal and reform in Islam

Guru Nanak
Founder of Sikhism, which blended Islam and Hinduism
Wahhabi Islam

- Most well-known Islam renewal movement
- Took place in the mid-18th century in Arabia
- Started with teachings of Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab = an Islamic scholar
- Argued that the difficulties of the Islamic world (like the weakening of the Ottoman Empire) = due to deviations from the pure faith of early Islam
During the Ming and Qing dynasties = China operated within a Confucian framework, enriched now by the insights of Buddhism and Daoism

- Called Neo-Confucianism
- However, some new thinking emerged during this era as well
China: New Directions in an Old Tradition

- Wang Yangming = scholar who argued that truth and moral knowledge are innate in humans
- Said that a virtuous life could by achieved by introspection and contemplation
  - Did not need: extended education, study of the classical texts, and constant striving for improvement
- Challenged traditional Confucianism
- Critics said these ideas promoted excessive individualism
Some Buddhist monks wanted to make their religion more accessible to regular people.
- Said withdrawal from society was not necessary for enlightenment.
- Said people could do same practices at home that monks performed in monasteries.
- More moral and religious individualism.
Kaozheng Movement

- *Kaozheng* = “research based on evidence”
- Critical of the unfounded speculation of traditional Confucianism
- Intended to seek truth from facts
- Emphasized importance of verification, precision, accuracy, and analysis
- Genuinely scientific approach to knowledge

Song Yingxing (1587-1666)
Chinese scientist and encyclopedist
India: Bridging the Hindu/Muslim Divide

- When Hindu India was ruled by the Muslim Mughal Empire, there were several cultural departures that brought Hindus and Muslims together.
Bhakti Movement

- Devotional form of Hinduism
- Goal = to achieve union with one of the Hindu deities through songs, prayers, dances, poetry, and rituals
- Practitioners = often set aside caste distinctions and disregarded rituals of the Brahmin priests
- Wanted direct contact with the divine
- Had much in common with the mystical Sufi form of Islam
Sikhism

- Founded by Guru Nanak
- Blended Hindu and Muslim elements
- Ignored caste distinctions
- Ended seclusion of women → promoted equality of men and women