RS Notes: The Spread of Protestantism

**Zwinglian Reformation and Calvinism**

* With the Peace of Augsburg, Christian unity was lost.
* Ulrich Zwingli began a new Christian group in Switzerland
  + Relics and images were forbidden
  + New service of scripture reading , prayer, and sermons
* Zwingli died in 1531, so **John Calvin** assumed leadership.
  + **Predestination**: God had determined in advance who would be saved (the elect) and who would be damned (the reprobate).
  + Created a church gov’t
    - Consistory- enforced moral discipline
    - Court oversaw moral life- dancing and gambling were crimes
  + Missionaries were sent throughout Europe.
    - By mid 16th century- Calvinism became most important form of Protestantism.

**Reformation in England**

* King **Henry VIII** wanted a divorce from his wife, Catherine of Aragon
  + He thought she couldn’t give him a male heir.
* The Pope wouldn’t annul the marriage.
  + Henry asked the Archbishop of Canterbury to declare it null and void.
* Henry married Anne Boleyn (Elizabeth I’s mom)
* Act of Supremacy of 1534- King is head of new church
  + Controlled religious doctrines, clerical appointments, and discipline.
* Henry dissolved the monasteries and sold their land to the wealthy.
  + Gave him more $ and supporters.
* Edward VI (Henry’s son) was very young and sickly
  + Church officials moved the Church of England into a Protestant direction
    - Clergy could marry
    - New service created
* Mary I (“Bloody Mary”) was a devout Catholic
  + She turned England back to Catholic
  + Burned 300 Protestants as heretics
  + England became more Protestant because of her… and her sister ☺

**The Anabaptists and Role of Women**

* Anabaptists rejected the involvement of state in church affairs
  + Gov’t has no political authority over real Christians
  + Would not take office or bear arms
* Any member of the community could be a minister
  + All Christians were considered to be priests
* Baptized adults
* **Their ideas were considered dangerous and radical**
  + Protestants and Catholics agreed on the need to persecute them.
* Protestants did little to change women’s roles
  + Role was to bear children
* Family was placed at the center of human life
  + No special holiness from celibacy

**The Catholic Reformation**

* **Three things led to reform of Catholicism**
  + **The Jesuits**
    - Ignatius of Loyola founded the Jesuits (aka Society of Jesus)
    - They used education to spread their message
    - Restored Catholicism to parts of Germany and eastern Europe
  + **Reform of the Papacy**
    - Pope Paul III appointed a Reform Commission in 1537
    - It blamed corrupt policies of the popes for the church’s ills
  + **Council of Trent**
    - A group of cardinals, archbishops, abbots, and theologians
    - Final decrees:
      * Both faith and good works were needed for salvation
      * 7 sacraments and clerical celibacy upheld
      * Belief in purgatory and use of indulgences were strengthened
      * Indulgences could no longer be sold.
* After these reforms, Catholicism had a renewed spirit of confidence and unified under the pope.