

EUROPE YESTERDAY: RECOVERING THE PAST

III. **THE SECOND MILLENNIUM:**

**regression, reform, revolution and revival!**

**B. 1500-1600 Reform at last! *what did it mean for Europe?***

**1. Reformation in Germany (Luther), Switzerland (Zwingli, Calvin)**

a) 1517- 95 theses hammered on the Wittenberg door

*Sola scriptura! Sola fide! Sola gratia!*

b) Zurich, Ulrich Zwingli, Grossmunster

c) In Geneva, Calvin developed social model based on separated powers.

d) In Britain, Henry VIII split from Rome to marry Anne Boleyn to give him a (male) heir. (1534 Parliament's Act of Supremacy)

e) In Holland, William of Orange led a revolt against the Spaniards.

f) In France, Poland, protestant reformers eventually silenced

g) In Scandinavia, Lutheranism prevails

h) Religious landscape drawn up that last for centuries...

**2. Europe further fragmented - *Norman Davies*:** From Scotland to Finland, produced a range of churches and denominations - not always compatible - whose lowest common denominator was their rejection of the authority of the Roman pope.

Europe now splintered further.

Many of the new Protestant Churches established a monopoly in the states where they were established.

*"Cuius regio, eius religio"* (as the prince, so the religion)

Idea of national churches - no room for pluralism. Laid foundation for rise of nationalism later. Switzerland - cantons chose religion - still dominant today.

Religious wars especially in France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Moravia/Bohemia. Thirty Years war - Peace of Westphalia.

England: Church of England - excluded Catholics - gunpowder plot 1605; excluded Calvinist Puritans, nonconformists (some came to Amsterdam - e.g. John Smith and the Baptist movement) and led to Civil war of 1642-6.

Protestant politics key factor in British politics. Anti-Catholicism a foundation stone of English, Scottish and British identity. Britain shunned close connections with Catholic Europe for centuries, while recognising communion with most other Protestant faiths and even Orthodoxy.

Determined the marriage market for royalty; Prussia, Russia, Denmark, Greece, Holland (William and Mary), German states like Hanover,...

(George V had a German mother, German queen and was cousin to the

German Kaiser. Queen Victoria and Prince Albert spoke German to each other. The name Windsor was adopted in WWI from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha.

Prince Philip's surname was really Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-

Glücksburg, and his mother's name was von Battenberg. Quietly changed his name to Mountbatten.

### 3. Impact on society

- a) churches- protestantisms, fragmentation, denominationalism
- b) family - new model of married spiritual leadership -
- c) education - first negative effect; new universities (e.g. Leiden)
- d) arts and music - Bach, Rembrandt, Calvin vs Michelangelo, church architecture...
- e) language and literature - Bible translations
- f) government and politics - grounds for democracy (conscience, priesthood of all believers, balance of powers, independent nation states,
- g) science - exploring God's book of works
- h) de-sanctification of cosmos - implications

see [www.frontline.org.za/articles/howreformation\\_changedworld.htm](http://www.frontline.org.za/articles/howreformation_changedworld.htm)

### 4. Why strangely silent about missions?

- a) Geographical limitations - Spain and Portugal controlled seas
- b) Psychological limitations -  
"Cuius regio, eius religio" (as the prince, so the religion)  
Idea of national churches - no room for pluralism
- c) Theological limitations -  
Luther - Great Commission only for apostles  
Calvin - concept of election dampened mission zeal
- d) Structural limitations -  
no mission structures - arms and legs lost! Threw out baby with bath water:

***Three centuries pass before mainline Protestant churches seriously embark on missions!! When they finally do, the impulse comes through streams affected by the Radical Reformation***

**5. The Counter Reformation: Loyola** (b.1491) organised the Company of Jesus in Paris 1534, with six others, including Francis **Xavier**. Took vows of poverty, chastity and of missionary activity.  
1540, papal recognition. Called Jesuits by Calvin & others. Stormy history; force to check the Reformation. Xavier given 24 hours notice to sail to India on first missionary trip; later to Formosa and Japan. Wrote back to Paris: "*tell the students to give up their small ambitions, come east and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ*".  
(Film: *The Mission*)

### III. THE SECOND MILLENNIUM: regression, reform and revival!

#### **B. 1500-1600 Reform at last! but is it radical enough?**

#### **4. The Radical Reformation**

Radical - "*radix*" (lat. = 'root')

##### **i. Brief history of early period 1525-35**

Zurich: Zwingli, Grebel, Manz, Blaurock

Key issue was definition of "Christian" and of "Church"

Baptism only the outside sign of the voluntary decision.

"Ana-baptists" - re-baptizers

Missionary zeal - divided European map

##### **ii. Beliefs and practices: 1527 - Martyr's synod in Augsburg:**

agreed on principles:

###### **1. Christian lifestyle one of discipleship**

"only he who obeys truly believes

only he who believes truly obeys"

###### **2. The principle of love was to govern one's lifestyle**

What Jesus said and did was to be supreme model

###### **3. The Church is a fellowship, a brotherhood of the reborn**

through the Holy Spirit

"Koinonia" key concept in church's lifestyle

###### **4. Church and state must be separated**

Cannot legislate people to become Christians. Christians are a free, uncompelled people, a pilgrim people citizens of another kingdom.

###### **5. The New Testament completes the Old Testament**

The norm for ethics and government is to be taken from the NT, not the OT.

##### **iii. Characteristics of Anabaptist community life:**

1. Brotherhood

2. Submission

3. Community of goods - stewardship

4. Discipline (the ban)

##### **iv. Opposition:**

The "third baptism"

Munster

Menno Simons

##### **v. Suffering, grace and glory**

I Peter 4:12-5:10

##### **vi. The Anabaptist heritage:**

surviving groups - Mennonites, Swiss Brethren, Hutterite  
influence on others - e.g. Pietists

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#### C. 1600-1900 On with the Reformation - and Revival!

##### a. Pietists & Moravians

#### 1. Pietism: second phase of the Reformation

- a) Europe convulsed with conflict after Reformation; Vital insights of reformers became rigid formulas
- b) New life breathed into Lutheran Church by Pietism; 1670 - **Philip Jacob Spener**, Frankfurt - "little churches within the church" - (*ecclesiolae in ecclesia*) - personal application of Reformation principles
- c) Bible-centred, practical, lay involvement, lifestyle matching one's faith, love ethic (koinonia)
- d) Spener's successor: **August Francke**, university of **Halle**; Pietist centre - faith institutions: poor schools, orphanages, printing house, dispensary, hospital, booksellers...
- e) Scorned by church leaders/theologians: "priests of Baal", "heretics", "false brethren", "dangerous people"
- f) **Danish-Halle Mission**: two students from Halle sent to India with support of King of Denmark (pietist chaplain) - 1705: **Ziegenbalg and Plutschau**
- g) Influenced young student at Halle, 1710, 10-yr-old **Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf**; as 15 year-old formed "the Order of the Grain of Mustard Seed" pledged to love the whole human family & spread the gospel
- h) 19-yr-old Zinzendorf, Dusseldorf art gallery: *Ecco Homo* "All this I did for you; what will you do for me?"

#### 2. Refugees in Herrnhut, 1722: who were they?

**Unitas Fratrum**: 30 Years War, Protestants lost Battle of White Mountain in 1620, forced to flee, Bohemia now Catholic; many fled to Prussia, Poland, or went underground.

**Jan Amos Comenius** (1592-1670) "father of modern education", published world's first picture book for children; lost mss in 30 Years War; wife & children died in epidemic; left for Poland in 1628, led other refugees in prayer as crossing border for "hidden seed" to be preserved there and that the Unitas Fratrum would be restored. Invited to Sweden, Hungary, England to reform education, and offered first presidency of Harvard - declined all except Cromwell's invitation to England; shortlived, returned to Poland; wars with Sweden cost him his library and more mss; left for Amsterdam where he died in 1670 (buried in Naarden). Wrote many books, including *Order of Discipline* of Unitas Fratrum.

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**3. Refugees establish community - Herrnhut;** joined by others from other backgrounds; doctrinal tensions; Zinzendorf patron, but not community leader - usually in Dresden on civil duty; still unaware of roots of Moravian refugees.

1726: Kruger turns community against Zinzendorf [the beast, Rothe- false prophet], only three remain loyal; Kruger loses mind;

Zinzendorf decides to move to Herrnhut, rebuilds unity; visits each family, establishes Brotherly Agreement (May '27)

- Herrnhut to be a Christian community
- ruled by the spirit of love
- Christian: one who lived in obedience to his Lord
- flexibility towards forms of worship:

- *In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity*

Night watches (nights of prayer) begin; fellowship bands start.

Zinzendorf on trip in Silesia, discovers Comenius' "Order of Discipline", (*Historia Fratrum Bohemia*); now realised who these refugees were, saw their principles were almost identical to those of Brotherly Agreement; saw his role in reviving the Ancient Moravian Church. Great anticipation and increased prayer.

**4. August 13, 1727: revival!** At a mid-week communion service in the nearby Lutheran church, led by Rothe, the entire congregation experienced an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. "From that time on, Herrnhut became a living congregation of Jesus Christ" - the spiritual rebirth of the Moravian Church. Led to community lifestyle of:

- love feasts
- servanthood: footwashing
- worship: adoration of the Lamb
- fellowship: "bands"

**5. Prayer chain:** Started with 24 brothers, 24 sisters, praying for churches and nations; for over 100 years, the Moravians maintained their covenant of hourly intercession.

**6. First missionaries; first fruits:**

Aug 21, 1732, Dober and Nitschmann set off for St Thomas in West Indies: "*Your lives must make others ask: What sort of God makes people like you?*" - Zinzendorf.

Began remarkable decade of mission activity - 1732-42; 1732 - St Thomas/'33- Greenland/'34- Lapland, St Croix/'34-38 - Georgia/'35- Surinam/'36- Gold Coast/'37- Sth Africa/'38- Amsterdam (Jews)/'39- Algeria (black slaves)/'40 - east & mid-west America; Ceylon; Constantinople...

**7. Inspired others:** By 1760, after 226 missionaries sent out, the Moravians had done more for the unreached than all other Protestant churches combined. Inspired William Carey; led to conversion of young English clergyman following Atlantic storm...