



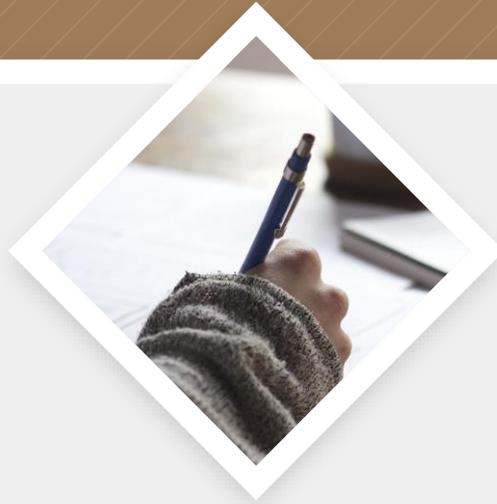
EUROPEAN
REFORMATION
IN 16th
CENTURY

INTRODUCTION

Reformation was against the medieval religious set up in Europe. First set in Germany under the able leadership of Martin Luther who vehemently opposed the old practices and corruption of the Church and the Pope. Division of the Christianity was the important output of the Reformation.

The Reformation means religious reform movement. It was a great religious revolution of 16th century A.D. which culminated in the separation of many nations of Europe from Church of Rome. Launched by sincere and devoted Christians of northern Europe. It was against the abusive attitude and principles of Roman church and corrupt practices and immoral ways of life of the members of clergy. An unrest against the power and authority of the pope.

It had dual objectives i.e. renovation of the moral life of the Christendom and the repudiation of the papal claims to ecclesiastical supremacy. Thus Reformation was both a religious as well as a political movement. It was religious as it aimed at the moral rebirth of the people and political because it was a rebellion against the papacy though the movement was organized by different sections under different names. It is collectively known as reformation as it aimed at reforming the existing church. However, the church failed to be reformed. So the reformers setup their own church i.e. Protestant church bitterly opposed Roman Catholic Church. The reformation movement is also described as protestant movement.



FACTORS/CAUSES OF REFORMATION

- ❖ RELIGIOUS CAUSES : DECAY OF CHURCH – church more worldly- Popes lost prestige –moral looseness, financial corruption, worldliness, superstitions- “unholy men in holy orders”
- ❖ ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CAUSES : Middle class and nation states-papal interference resented by rulers on political ground
- ❖ RENAISSANCE – Changes in attitude – to doubt, experiment and explore
- ❖ PRINTING & THE STUDY OF BIBLE : Johann Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1440- this greatly aided the spread of Martin Luther’s ideas and helped to make the Reformation successful. Books are now available to the masses not just the rich! (Faster production=cheaper books) People have access to books whenever they want them.
- ❖ SALE OF INDULGENCES : Pope Leo X needs money to build St. Peter’s Basilica, so he sells indulgences! Indulgences- were pardons issued by the pope that people could buy forgiveness - remission of sins in return for certain sum of money
- ❖ INFLUENCE OF EARLY REFORMERS

Causes of the Reformation

Social

- The Renaissance values of humanism and secularism led people to question the Church.
- The printing press helped to spread ideas critical of the Church.

Political

- Powerful monarchs challenged the Church as the supreme power in Europe.
- Many leaders viewed the pope as a foreign ruler and challenged his authority.

Economic

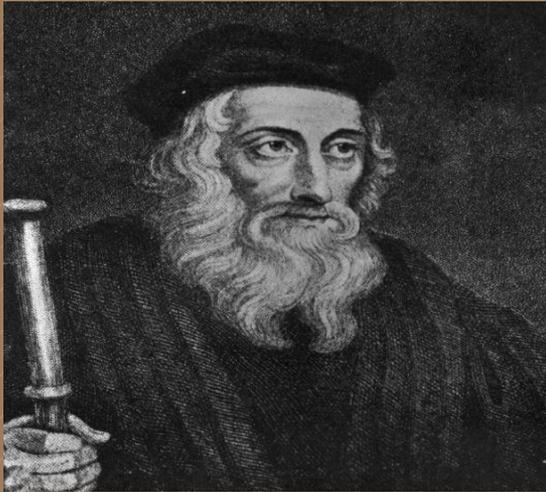
- European princes and kings were jealous of the Church's wealth.
- Merchants and others resented having to pay taxes to the Church.

Religious

- Some Church leaders had become worldly and corrupt.
- Many people found Church practices such as the sale of indulgences unacceptable.

Early Reformers

John Wycliffe (1324-1384)

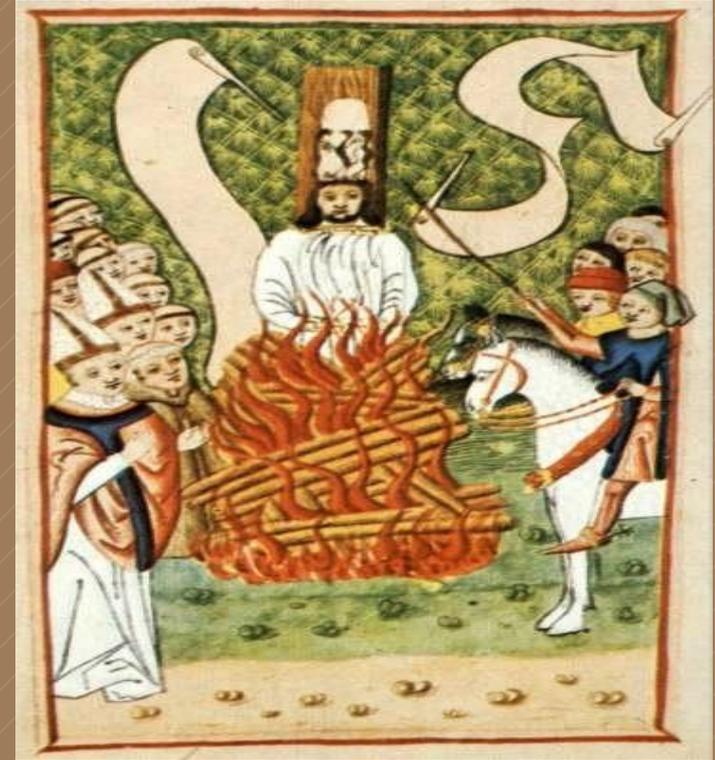


- ◇ Initiator of reform movement.
- ◇ Preacher and theologian at Oxford university
- ◇ Interested in authority of clergy.
- ◇ People should be able to interpret and read the Bible on their own.
- ◇ He taught man owes his duty directly to God and not to a priest and that the ultimate truth was to be found in the bible and not in what church and pope had wanted it to be.
- ◇ This caused questioning about Papal Authority.

Early Reformers Cont...

John Huss (1369-1415)

- ◇ He wanted Bishops elected and not appointed by Pope.
- ◇ At the Council of Constance, he made his case but he was burned at the stake for his beliefs.
- ◇ Lived in Bohemia (Modern Day Czech Republic)
- ◇ The last words of John Hus were that, *“in 100 years, God will raise up a man whose calls for reform cannot be suppressed.”* Almost exactly 100 years later, in 1517, Martin Luther nailed his famous 95 Theses.



Early Reformers Cont...

Erasmus (1466-1536)

- ◇ “Erasmus laid the egg that Luther hatched.”
- ◇ Erasmus remained committed to reforming the Church from within.
- ◇ Edited new testament in original Greek to enable people to read it
- ◇ Disappointed with the church for its unnecessary emphasis on ritual and ceremonies
- ◇ Praise of Folly- criticized church and society



Beginning of Reformation



- ◆ Closely corrected with the revival of learning. Inspired by the spirit of enquiry scholars discovered that the doctrine of Roman church did not find any mention in the Bible. The roman church had greatly departed from the Bible, original word of Jesus. They found that the Roman church had lost its originality and purity. So the Roman church lost the respect of earnest men. Especially people protested the practice of indulgence i.e. pardon certificate. This changed the morality of the people.

“

◆ Reformation in Germany



Martin Luther, a teacher in the Wittenberg University of Germany challenged authority of the church. Pointed out the controversy by pasting on the church door at Wittenberg **95 thesis**. In his thesis he opposed the prevailing practice and customs. He wanted a discussion on the pros and cons of various practices of the church. He vehemently opposed the selling of indulgences. Martin challenged the claim of the pope and other church officials that God would pardon the purchaser of an indulgence. He said, “Salvation was a matter between man and God, it could come from God only, through the faith of each human being.” Gradually, the 95 theses or statement of Martin Luther became the subject of discussion inside and outside Germany. Initially the **pope Leo** did not pay any heed to the controversy raised by Luther. Later on, he sent a celebrated theologian **Eck** to hold a debate with Luther. As a result of the discussion Eck asked Luther to be loyal to the teachings of the church, but the later refused to recant. So the pope Leo issued a **bull of ex-communication** against Luther who retaliated by burning the papal ball in public. This greatly annoyed the pope. He ordered Luther to appear before an **assembly of worms (1521)** Luther refused to recant. He was declared “an outlaw before the God and man”. Luther was protected by the Duke of Saxony. He translated the Bible into German. As a result, he won the administration of a large number of Germans who respected him as a hero. They renounced with the Roman church. The monasteries were suppressed and the practice of sending “annets” (annual payment) to Rome was stopped.

Martin Luther's views



- Salvation can be gained through faith alone.
- All Church teachings must be based on the Bible.
- The pope and Church traditions are false authorities.
- All people in faith are equal, and can interpret the Bible for themselves.
- (on the Eucharist) - consubstantiation - bread/wine are not literally the body and blood of Christ, but are symbolic

The Catholic Church's views



- Both faith and good works are needed for salvation.
- Scripture is the basis, but Church tradition is also important
- The pope and other Catholic Church clergy are authorities on religious matters and can interpret the Bible since they are most qualified to do so.
- (on the Eucharist) transubstantiation - bread/wine are literally the body and blood of Christ.

Immediate Causes of the Reformation: 1517

- MARTIN LUTHER's actions started the Reformation - German monk who studied the Bible closely
- He became outwardly critical of many of the Catholic Church's practices, especially the selling of indulgences
- Oct. 31, 1517: He nailed his 95 theses (criticisms of the Catholic Church) to the Church door in Wittenberg, Germany, officially beginning the Protestant Reformation - In 1517, the 95 Theses were nailed to a church door. They were written in Latin. Luther's intention: NOT TO BREAK WITH CHURCH, BUT REFORM IT!

Criticized: Indulgences, Power of Pope, Wealth of Church. God's Grace won by FAITH ALONE! Catholic View: Good Works

1517-1521: The Reformation Begins

The Catholic Church eventually came to see Luther as a serious threat and excommunicated him

- Charles V (the Catholic Holy Roman Emperor) summoned Luther to the German city of Worms in 1521 to stand trial at a gathering called the Diet of Worms
- Luther was ordered to recant (take back) his words- he said he could not.
- Charles V declared Luther a heretic and an outlaw
- German princes protected Luther in hiding

1521-1618: Effects of the Reformation

Luther's influence spread, especially in northern Europe

- Catholic Church further weakened but was still influential
- branch of Christianity created- Protestantism- within it, several new denominations were created
- Bible was translated into the vernacular (common languages)
- Many German princes & other northern European political figures became Protestant seized Church property
- Tension between Catholics and Protestants
 - France: fighting broke out between Catholics and French Protestants (Huguenots)
 - Germany (HRE): ■ Inspired by Luther's message of equality, German peasants rebelled- demanded an end to serfdom- Luther urged German princes to suppress it- thousands killed ■ Charles V led Catholic German princes against Protestant German princes- ended in the Peace of Augsburg (1555)- each prince would decide his state's religion. ■ Tension between Catholic & Protestant princes in the Holy Roman Empire would resume during the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648)- Catholic Hapsburg armies were eventually defeated- ended religious wars in Europe.

Reformation in Switzerland



- ❑ There was also Reformation movement against the authority of the pope in other parts of Europe, especially in Switzerland, France and Holland.
- ❑ Ulrich Zwingli revolted against the authority of pope in Switzerland. He preached Lutheran doctrine of “justification by faith” and challenged the authority of the old church.
- ❑ A son of magistrate and came from a well to do family - a Christian Humanist and was well educated. He joined the priesthood at 22 and soon came under the influence of Reformation. Luther's influence led to his sudden conversion. Became a powerful preacher and demanded for a purer religion. He adopted all the main teachings of Luther except in the matter of Eucharist. Zwingli believed that this sacrament was only a symbolic memorial for what Christ had done and therefore there was no mystic memorial and not a mystic element in it. By 1528, most of northern Switzerland had become Protestant. When he made efforts to convert the people of the neighboring Catholic cantons, a civil war broke out in 1529 which lasted for two years in which Zwingli's forces were defeated and Zwingli, himself was killed.

Reformation in France

French scholar John Calvin developed protestant movements in France - challenged the authority of church in France. He earned the wrath of church which declared him a heretic. He was obliged to leave France and moved to Switzerland. He continued the work of Zwingli. In 1536, Calvin wrote the most influential book named "*The institute of the Christian religion*"- a systematic treatise on religion & politics, based on the doctrine of justification by faith. He opposed all luxury, dancing and feasting on lavish scale. He wanted the churches to be very plain, he gave importance on simple worship.

The preaching of Calvin came to be known as **Calvinism**. It spread to France, the Netherlands and different countries of Europe. The followers of Calvin were designated differently. Huguenots of France, Presbyterians of Scotland, Puritans of England, Reformed Church members of Holland were all Calvinists. It became essentially a religion of the bourgeoisie and entrepreneurs Some Germany princes and most of the northern German princes deeply believed in his ideas. They pulled down a large number of monasteries. Some of the priests even abjured their allegiance to the pope. Gradually, the church in Germany divided into Roman Catholics and protestant Christians. The two were involved in prolonged religious war.

In 1526 A.D. emperor Charles V convened the German Diet to settle the religious disputes. But the Diet did not succeed. Subsequently in 1529 emperor asked the Diet to uproot heresy. It was not accepted by Lutherans and they protested against his order. Thereafter, the Lutherans designated as Protestants. The protracted religious war between the two groups continued till 1555 A.D. Finally the German Diet signed the religious **peace of Augsburg**. Under this peace treaty Lutheranism was accepted as another legal form of Christianity. The German rules were given option to decide the religion of their subjects. The northern German states opted for Protestantism or Lutheranism, while the southern German states continued with Catholicism. Protestantism spread to Denmark, Norway and Sweden from the northern German states.

Reformation in England



John Wycliffe started protestant revolt in England. He is described as the Morning star of Reformation. He openly revolted against the pope and the church. He asserted that the pope was not the representative of Christ on this earth. He is anti- Christ. He denounced pilgrimages to holy places. He assured the people to accept Bible as the sole guide. Wycliffe translated Bible into English. His Reformation movement suffered a setback after his ex-communication and death. The English princes like Henry IV and Henry V suppressed his followers. However, under Henry VIII that Reformation movement revived. He defied the authority of pope. He convened a Reformation Parliament and the Act of Supremacy was passed. The Act declared the king of England as the supreme head of the Church of England. It ended all connection.

While Reformation movement in Germany, Switzerland and in France came from below, i.e., from the common people Reformation in England came from above, i.e., from the King. Reformation here were mostly political and personal and not religious. Protestant Reformation spread to England during the reign of Henry VIII (1509-1547).

The English King was without a male heir though married to Catherine of Aragon for 18 years and had only a sick daughter. He fell in love with Anne Boleyn, a court lady, whom he wanted to marry. In 1527 he asked the Pope to sanction the divorce. The Church, being afraid of unwelcome consequences inordinately delayed its decision. The Pope was under the influence of his closest ally, the all powerful Charles V, who was a relative of the Queen Catherine of Aragon. Indignant and disappointed at the Pope's refusal, King Henry wore the mantle of leadership of the Reformation movement in England. He decided to act and called the Parliament and asked it to pass the Act of supremacy in 1534 by which the English King became the supreme head of the Church in England. He got the marriage with Catherine annulled by Thomas Cranmer and married Anne. In 1533-34, the Parliament passed a number of laws stopping all payments of revenues to Pope, proclaiming the Anglican Church as an independent national Church with the King as its head. The properties of monasteries and Churches were confiscated. By 1535, all relations with Rome were completely cut off. Henry VIII virtually became the head of the Church of England. An English translation of the Bible found its place in every Church. However, almost all customs, rituals and worship of the Anglican Church were the same as the old Church. Though there were problems initially after the Glorious Revolution of 1688, the English rulers as well as people have remained Protestant.

Henry VIII Causes Religious Turmoil

Henry's many marriages led to conflict with the Catholic Church and the founding of the Church of England.



1509
Henry VIII becomes king; marries Catherine of Aragon.

1516
Daughter Mary is born.

1529
Henry summons the Reformation Parliament; dismantling of pope's power in England begins.

1527
Henry asks the pope to end his first marriage; the pope refuses.

1534
Act of Supremacy names Henry and his successors supreme head of the English Church.

1531
Parliament recognizes Henry as head of the Church.

1533
Parliament places clergy under Henry's control; Henry divorces Catherine, marries Anne Boleyn (at left); daughter Elizabeth born.



1536

Anne Boleyn is beheaded.

1537

Henry's third wife, Jane Seymour, has son, Edward. She dies from complications.



1547

Henry dies; Catherine Parr, his sixth wife, outlives him; Edward VI begins six-year rule; Protestants are strong.

1558

Elizabeth I (at right) begins rule; she restores the Protestant Church.



1540

1540-1542
Henry divorces Anne of Cleves, his fourth wife, and executes Catherine Howard (above), his fifth wife.



1550

1553
Mary I (at left) begins rule and restores the Catholic Church.

1560

In England, the Reformation began with the King!

King Henry VIII : The king who had six wives...He wants a SON!

King Henry's older brother Arthur (named after the famous tale King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table) dies... Arthur was married to Catherine of Aragon (from Spain) before she married Henry. This becomes the grounds for his annulment (because Catherine can't produce a son). She does however give birth to a daughter named Mary. She later becomes a queen of England and restores the Catholic Church! History knows her as Bloody Mary.

Catherine of Aragon, Henry's first wife. Catherine, a Princess of Spain, was married to Henry for many years. Her determination to stay married to Henry, in the face of his desire for Anne Boleyn, would change the course of history forever.

Anne Boleyn, Henry's second wife, and the mother of Queen Elizabeth I. Henry fell passionately in love with Anne while married to Catherine of Aragon. He waited several years to marry Anne, but, ironically, lost his desire for her once she became his Queen.

Jane Seymour, Henry's beloved third Queen. Gentle, capable Jane gave Henry his long-awaited male heir after one year of marriage. Sadly, she gave her life to do so.

Anne of Cleves, Henry's fourth wife. This German princess served as Queen for only a few months before she and Henry agreed to divorce by mutual consent.

Katherine Howard, Henry's fifth wife. Henry's marriage to this sensuous teenager brought him brief happiness, but ended in tragedy.

Katherine Parr, Henry's sixth Queen. This intelligent, loyal, forward-thinking Renaissance woman outlived three husbands, including Henry, and went on to finally marry the man of her choice.



**Catherine of Aragon
Divorced**



**Anne Boleyn
Beheaded**



**Jane Seymour
Died**



**Anne of Cleves
Divorced**



**Catherine Howard
Beheaded**



**Catherine Parr
Survived**

REFORMATION PARLIAMENT : Was a gathering that led to the decision that England was no longer under the authority of the pope.

Act of Supremacy :Subjects were required to take an oath declaring Henry VIII to be "Supreme Head of the Church of England"

Longstanding Effects of Henry VIII

His legitimate children: Mary, Elizabeth, and Edward (dies).

Queen Mary I or "Bloody Mary" : Raised Catholic like her mother Catherine of Aragon; she reestablished the Catholic Church in England. She killed many protestants and had approximately 300 heretics burned at the stake.

Queen Elizabeth I (Ends the House of Tudor) :Raised Protestant and ruled England for 44 years. Ruled during the Spanish Armada, and never married...known as the Virgin Queen.

Impact of reformation

A Permanent schism in church

Religious persecution.

Development of education

Growth of individualism

Nationalist and monarchical forces

Rise of National state

Growth of Vernacular language





COUNTER REFORMATION



INTRODUCTION

Age of Reformation had 2 movements- the Protestant Reformation & the Catholic Reformation. Breaking away of a large section of northern Europe from Latin Christendom is Reformation. But the shock and stress of these losses produced profound changes in the Roman church itself. The Church was reorganized & a new spirit came into its life - **Counter Reformation** - a movement to cleanse the Church from its abuses and to win back the Protestants to the Catholic fold.

Movement was set on foot in the 16th century to reform & revitalize the Church of Rome so as to meet the challenge of the Protestant revolution. Frightened by the rapid spread of Luther's teachings, the Catholic Church undertook series of reformatory measures in order to remove the gross abuses which had largely contributed to undermine its authority. Hence the movement was really reformation applied to the Catholic Church. As Germany & Martin Luther took lead in organizing Protestant Reformation, **Spain & Ignatius Loyola** & his Jesuit order took lead in organizing CR.

Both movements had common roots, have common source of inspiration. The leaders of both were trying to find a new relationship with God & the world- together marked the beginning of the modern age in the history of Christianity. In the medieval era the concept of spirituality was associated with asceticism and withdrawal from the world. In the new age the spirituality/service of God meant the service of fellow man. The leaders of the Counter Reformation demonstrated through their own lives that doing God's will meant to "love thy neighbour as thyself". To serve the society became the main mission of the Church.

The Reform of the Catholic Church became the main task of the 5 Popes- Clement VII, Paul III, Paul IV, Pius V & Sixtus V from 1523 to 1590. They reestablished the credibility of the Church by reorganizing the finances, emphasizing austerity and obedience, humility and moral life among priests. During these 70 years Catholic Church underwent such reforms that it could be strengthened and united.



Circumstances favoring Catholic Revival



- (a) Division among Protestants - differences and uncompromising attitude of 3 mutually hostile sects, viz., the Lutherans, Zwinglians & Calvinists.
- (b) Changed character of the Papacy- Better class of Popes. Unlike their predecessor the Popes of the middle of the 16th century were reforming Popes- free from the taint of vice and worldliness which had disgraced the lives of their predecessors. Eg; Paul III - did much to effect an improvement in the life of the whole body of clergymen.

The agencies which brought about this Counter-Reformation were:



1) The Council of Trent (2) the Society of the Jesuits (3) the Inquisition.

The Council of Trent (1545-63)

Convened in 1545 by Pope Paul III which met several times between 1545 and 1563.

Defined the doctrines of the Roman church. Clarified the articles of the Roman Catholic Church, improved its discipline and organization and removed many of its abuses.

Restored the veneration for the old Church & smoothed the way for the Church, return of many who were deserting to Protestantism. It reaffirmed all the dogmas which Protestant Reformers had attacked.

It upheld that good works are as much necessary for salvation as faith and not faith alone, and that sacrament is a vital means of grace. took positive steps to refurbish the image of the Catholic Church and also reiterate its authority.

1. Pope is the head of the Church & the ultimate interpreter of the Bible & the church doctrines, 2. the traditional Latin translation of the Holy Bible should be treated as the authoritative version, 3. Only the Church has the right to interpret the scriptures 4. introduced following reforms: a) condemned & prohibited the sale of indulgences, b. decided to ensure that Church officials were properly educated, trained and disciplined, c. that sermon be preached in the language of the people, d. revived the Holy Inquisition to root out heresy. introduced the Papal Index, i.e., press censorship, to prevent publication of any book which go contrary to the teachings of Catholic faith.

Helped in strengthening the unity & structure of the Catholic Church under the absolute authority of the Pope, as its head.

Society of Jesus (S.J.)

A young Spanish soldier, Inigo Lopez de Recalde **Ignatius Loyola**(1491-1556), **the founder of the Jesuit Order** - played a key role as the world's largest body of educators. Also played a key role in the Council of Trent to reestablish the unity of the Church & the authority of the Pope & also regain south Germany and Poland.

Son of a Spanish nobleman while fighting in the Spanish war against France at Pamplona in 1521 was severely wounded and crippled. During the long period, he happened to read the life of Christ and about the Saints. Being convinced that he should now onwards live his life as a soldier for Christ: he underwent a spiritual conversion & began to devote his time to the study of scriptures & lead a spiritual life. In order to educate himself to be a priest he went to study at the University of Paris. There he gathered around half a dozen like minded scholars like St.Francis Xavier, committed to missionary and Christian zeal.

In 1534,Loyola founded SJ, in Paris with only 6 followers to begin with who came to be called as **Jesuits**.

Swore to lead a life of poverty, chastity and service to God and Christianity. Pope accorded his recognition to the Society by a Papal Bull in 1540, the main objective - the propagation of faith. They assumed the role of defenders of faith and built up such a well organized and disciplined order that the Church came to depend upon their expertise, support and implicit loyalty.

Served the Church in various capacities in & outside Europe as missionaries, as educators, as priests & as agents of inquisition. They heard confessions & gave absolution, they waged war against heresy, they founded Christian communities in distant lands of Asia and Africa, established schools, Colleges and Universities.

Became one of the greatest teaching and missionary societies the world has ever seen. It carried Christianity to India, China and America. It arrested the rapid disintegration of the Roman Church. It raised the standard of education throughout the whole Catholic world; it raised the level of Catholic intelligence and quickened the Catholic conscience everywhere; it stimulated Protestant Europe to competitive educational efforts.

SJ gave new dynamism and direction to the Catholic Church thus arresting the progress of Protestant Reformation in Europe.

The Inquisition



- ◆ The Inquisition (the Church Court), which had been forgotten during the Renaissance was revived. It began its work of punishing the clergy who were found guilty of corruption, laxity and moral turpitude.
- ◆ An ecclesiastical court established for the purpose of tracing and punishing heresy. It exercised tremendous powers. It existed before in a mild form; but now it was spurred to increased activity and it punished heresy with merciless rigour - Spain, Italy and the Netherlands.