

H102 Unit 1 Study Guide

Lecture 1 – Europe in 1500

This first lecture is meant to give the student a thumbnail sketch of Europe at the very beginning of the course, in the period that we might view as the very tail end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of a new period called the Early Modern. It is divided up to cover demographics (population and geography), the society, and the state system. So, let's look at some terms first and then some questions:

Terms:

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| demographics | Nobility | Portugal |
| Naples | Peasantry | Holy Roman Empire |
| Venice | Bourgeoisie | Habsburg family |
| Milan | Columbus | Austria |
| London | Vasco da Gama | Ottoman Empire |
| Paris | nation states | Turks |
| Amsterdam | England | Poland |
| Berlin | France | Russia |
| Three Estates | Spain | Pope Alexander VI Borgia |
| Clergy | | |

Some Questions for Study:

1. What did the demographics of Western Europe look like in 1500? Modern Europe can be described as primarily an urban environment, with a large chunk of the population living in cities and towns. How then does Europe in 1500 compare to Europe in 2017?
2. What were the most important cities in Western Europe in 1500? What do you think contributed to their growth and importance?
3. In the United States, we generally define class in terms of wealth, and, generally speaking, we take for granted that outside of differences of wealth, we receive the same treatment under the law. In Europe in the Middle Ages, and indeed down to the end of the 18th century, the concept of class was very different. What were the “estates” of European society in 1500? What rights and privileges did each have?
4. Define and describe the “Bourgeoisie.” How did this sub class come about? Why was it important?
5. How did the Age of Exploration cause changes in Europe? Who benefitted most? Who least?
6. What are nation states? which European states had become nation states by 1500?
7. Dr. Price notes that Germany and Italy were nations, but were not specific states? We tend to use the terms “nation” and “state” fairly interchangeably when we talk about modern countries, but this was not always the case. Why can we describe Germany and Italy as nations, but not nation states?
8. Describe the Holy Roman Empire as a political entity.
9. Who were the Habsburgs? Where did the family hold sway? In Dr. Price’s lectures, he notes that Austria underwent a state-building process without undergoing nation building. What does this mean?
10. Discuss the Ottoman Empire. Where was it? How was it different from the rest of Europe? Why was it a source of fear for Europeans?
11. Briefly describe Poland and Russia in 1500.

12. Take a look at the map below. Identify the nation states in the West, the Holy Roman Empire, the Habsburg lands and those areas on the map dominated by the Turks.



Lecture 2 – Background of the Reformation

This on-line lecture, which will not be covered in class, is meant to give you some kind of idea of the state of religion in Western Europe in 1500, just before the launch of the Protestant Reformation. Today, we live in a largely secular society, and the number of profoundly religious Christians or Jews in the West is pretty small indeed. Some of us may argue about religion or theology, but rarely do those arguments cause widespread struggle, and there are no Western states in which the question of one's religious practice and belief are cause for persecution. In order for this unit to make sense to some students, they need to understand that none of these modern concepts of religion, and the relationship between religion and the state, apply to Europe in the 16th century. The other important concept that we have some difficulty with is the notion that, in the West, until 1517, there existed only one flavor of Christianity—the Roman Catholic Church—and the Reformation, or Reformations, of the 1500s, caused the breakdown of that “universal” western Christianity to splinter into a growing number of Protestant denominations. This lecture sets the stage for that series of breakups.

Terms:

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Aristotle | John Wyclif |
| faith | Lollards |
| reason | John Hus |
| St. Thomas Aquinas | Bohemia |
| <i>Summa Theologiae</i> | Thomas á Kempis |
| Nominalists | <i>Imitation of Christ</i> |
| tithe | church councils |
| pluralism | royal councils |
| Alexander VI Borgia | Emperor Constantine |
| “popular religion” | Christian Humanism |
| relics | Erasmus of Rotterdam |
| indulgences | |
| Pope Sixtus IV | |

Some Questions for Study:

1. Discuss the state of the Roman Catholic Church in 1500. Why was it desperately in need of reform?
2. While Christian intellectuals vigorously debated theology and reforming ideas, what was religion like for the ordinary folks by the end of the Middle Ages? How had “popular religion” come to reflect all sorts of superstition and what was the reaction of church leaders to popular superstition?
3. What were plenary indulgences? How did they come into existence? How was the idea of indulgences corrupted by the Church and why?
4. Discuss the ideas of early church reformers like John Wyclif, John Hus?
5. Discuss the various reform recommendations that were bandied about by reformers by 1500, including return to spirituality, various council ideas and the Christian Humanist movement.

Lecture 3 – Martin Luther’s Reformation

The Protestant Reformation was begun by a German monk named Martin Luther. This lecture focuses on the life and work of Luther and discusses the theological idea that prompted the Reformation and promoted the break between the Roman Catholic Church and the new religious movement that we call Protestantism. Again, it is worth noting that religion was very important to Europeans of the Early Modern Period, and these differences were of extraordinary significance to the people living at that time, and indeed would be significant elements of life and thought down to the early 20th century.

Terms:

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Saxony | predestination |
| Holy Roman Empire | the Indulgence Controversy |
| University of Erfurt | Treasury of Merit |
| salvation | Albert of Hohenzollern |
| works | Pope Leo X |
| Frederick the Wise | John Tetzel |
| University of Wittenberg | the Ninety-Five Theses |
| the Tower Experience | Cardinal Cajetan |
| Romans 1:17 | “spoken word of God” |
| justification by faith alone | community of believers |

Some Questions for Study:

1. Who was Martin Luther? Familiarize yourself with his early history.
2. What is the goal of every Christian? What activities did the Catholic Church require for salvation? How did Luther differ from the Catholic Church?
3. Discuss and contrast the ideas of “works” vs. the idea of “justification by faith alone.”
4. Discuss the nature of sin in Christian thought. How did the notion affect Luther himself and his theology?
5. Familiarize yourself with the Indulgence Controversy. Who were the major players? How did it begin and why was the sale of indulgences in Germany in 1516-17 particularly lurid?
6. How and why did the Ninety-Five Theses have such a profound effect that the beginning of the Reformation is dated to the date (Oct. 31, 1517) that Luther nailed the document to the Wittenberg church door?
7. In terms of Western history, why was Luther’s act of profound significance?
8. In my lecture, I note that there are three important questions about the salvation of Christians, the source of church authority and the question of what is the actual church. The Roman Catholic Church had one set of answers and Luther offered another set. Compare and contrast the two sets of explanations.
9. What is predestination? We’ll ask this question again when we get to John Calvin. Why do you think that Martin Luther refused to deal with the problem of predestination?

Lecture 4 –Social and Political Impact of the Reformation

Up to now we have talked a lot about theology (and we will do so in one more lecture), but in this lecture we are going to take a look at some of the political and social aspects of the Reformation. It shouldn't be much of an intellectual stretch to realize that, in a world in which religion is so important, a breakup like the Reformation would have a great deal of influence on not only the religion, but on the society and politics as well. When you study this lecture, you should pay special attention to the changes wrought on the Holy Roman Empire by Luther's Reformation.

Terms:

Holy Roman Empire

principalities

Holy Roman Emperor

Charles V Habsburg

Wartburg Castle

Frances I of France

Suleiman the Magnificent

The German Peasant Revolt (1524)

Against the Hordes of Murdering Peasants

Religious Peace of Augsburg (1555)

cujus regio, ejus religio

Some Questions for Study:

1. How did the Holy Roman Empire work as a political entity? what kind of power did the Holy Roman Emperor have?
2. Study Charles V Habsburg. He was the most politically-powerful man in Europe. Why? What lands did he control?
3. Charles V was not happy with the Reformation. Why? What kinds of policy did he try to bring the Protestant princes back into the Catholic fold and what factors, external and internal, led to his ultimate failure to reunite the Empire under Catholicism?
4. Who were Frances I and Suleiman the Magnificent, and how did they play into the problems of Charles V and his lands, and his attempt to eradicate Protestantism?
5. When German peasants were exposed to Luther's ideas, especially the notion that Christians should be "free," how did they interpret his words and what was the terrible consequence of their interpretation?
6. Why were some German princes drawn to Protestantism? There were several reasons. enumerate and discuss them.
7. Discuss the Religious Peace of Augsburg. How did the Peace provide a short term solution to the problem of Protestant schism? In my lecture, I note that the "true winners in the religious struggle" in Germany were the German princes, especially the Protestant ones. Explain why this was so.

Lecture 5 – The Spread of Protestantism

In this lecture we will examine the spread of Protestantism in the period after Luther launched the Reformation. We will look at the attraction of Protestantism, and also at the changes in Protestant theology that followed after Luther founded the movement. It is important to note that Protestant faith changed pretty rapidly, and different Protestant denominations were spawned early, and have continued to do so even up to today. The reason for the theological and doctrinal fracturing of Protestants is because each Protestant can read and study Scripture, and determine for him or herself what the Scriptures mean. As more and more dedicated Protestants read the Bible, more and more decided that the denomination to which they belonged “was doing it wrong,” which led to new denominations coming into existence. We’ll look at some of those early splinter groups in this lecture.

Terms:

“The Freedom of a Christian”

“John 6 will break your neck!”

“A Letter to the German Nobility”

infant baptism

Ulrich Zwingli

Anabaptists

Zurich

Amish

predestination

Some Questions for Study:

What were some of the elements of Lutheranism that attracted many German princes to that faith and away from Rome?

What elements of Protestantism prompted religious splits among Protestants nearly from the beginning of the movement?

How were Zwingli’s and Luther’s theology and doctrines different? Why was compromise between the two leaders on theology and doctrine impossible?

Why is there no Zwinglian Church today?

Describe the meeting between Luther and Zwingli that took place in Marburg, in the principality of Hesse in 1529. What happened? Was any reconciliation possible between Luther and Zwingli after the debate?

Who were the Anabaptists? How did their views differ from those of both Zwingli and Luther? Anabaptists became outcasts among both Catholics AND other Protestants. Why?

Lecture 6 – John Calvin’s Reformation

This lecture covers another of the important Protestant movements, this one being Calvinism, which provides the foundation for the Presbyterian and other Protestant churches. The founder of Calvinism was a French lawyer named John Calvin (in French Jean Chauvin), who was the most influential Protestant religious leader of what we might call the second generation of the Protestant movement. As you all should know, Martin Luther began the Protestant Reformation, but despite his famous three books that I have told you about, Luther was not a systematic thinker. He never sat down and really thought through what the logical consequences of his ideas might be. The person who did that for Protestantism was John Calvin. Calvin was a lawyer by training, and he not only provided a systematic explanation of Protestant thought but also a systematic outline of what a Protestant church should be. In other words, if people wished to establish a Protestant Church where there was none—say in Eastern Europe or in the New World—Calvin’s books provided the theology and church organization that one needed.

Terms:

| | |
|---|------------|
| University of Paris | pastors |
| <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> | teachers |
| <i>Majesty and Sovereignty of God</i> | elders |
| predestination | deacons |
| the Elect | Geneva |
| Calvin’s three-way test | Consistory |
| <i>Ecclesiastical Ordinances</i> | |

Some Questions for Study:

1. How did Calvin’s theology differ from Luther’s? Than Zwingli’s? Why, especially in the case of predestination, can we say that Calvin’s arguments more logically and consistently thought out than Luther’s?
2. Describe Calvin’s notion of predestination. Why did he call it “God’s terrible decree”?
3. According to the Ecclesiastical Ordinances, how were pastors chosen, and, how might we conclude that this process made the Calvinists more democratically inclined than other sects?
4. Why did John Calvin go to Geneva in 1541 and what did he create there? Describe Geneva under Calvin.
5. The Consistory became the religious police and enforcers of behavior in Geneva. Was the Consistory in complete control of the city and if not, what evidence exists that it could not completely control the behavior and culture of Genevans?

Lecture 7 – The English Reformation

The first blow against the Roman Catholic Church in England was struck by King Henry VIII (1509-1547). The Catholic Church had detractors like John Wyclif in the past, but Henry separated his realm as a matter of politics and statecraft, and to obtain a divorce from his wife. The church that he created was still Catholic in doctrine, but after his death, a series of reformations would leave England firmly in the Protestant fold by 1603.

Terms:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lollards | Dissolution of the Monasteries |
| Henry VIII | Edward VI (1547-1553) |
| Catherine of Aragon | <i>Book of Common Prayer</i> |
| annulment | Mary (1553-1558) |
| Anne Boleyn | “English Counter Reformation” |
| Pope Clement VII | Philip II of Spain |
| Emperor Charles V | Elizabeth I (1558-1603) |
| “Supreme Head” | “Elizabethan Compromise” |
| Parliament | Act of Supremacy of 1559 |
| Act of Supremacy of 1534 | “Supreme Governor” |
| episcopalianism | Puritans |

Some Questions for Study:

1. Although historians may argue that not all Englishmen and women favored a split with Rome, Henry had some support for his actions. Discuss the reasons why Henry had support.
2. Be able to describe Henry’s marital difficulties with Catherine and his interest in Anne Boleyn. What arguments did he use (a) to marry Catherine in the first place, and (b) to try to get his annulment from Pope Clement VII. While we’re at it, why didn’t Pope Clement just give Henry what he wanted?
3. What reforms were enacted by Parliament during the reign of Henry’s son, Edward VI, that brought the Church of England more in line with European Protestantism?
4. Mary Tudor, or “Bloody Mary” as she was called by her Protestant subjects, was very unpopular. Review the policies that doomed her to failure and left the English with anger at her actions.
5. Describe the “Elizabethan Compromise.” How was Elizabeth I able to maintain a path for the Anglican Church that appealed to moderate English men and women? Was everyone happy with her compromise? Identify the extremists who were not happy.

Lecture 8 – The Catholic Reformation

The Protestant Reformation had a profound impact on the Roman Catholic Church, not only because it broke up that church, but also because it finally compelled the Roman Church to undertake serious and wide-ranging reform. By the mid-sixteenth century, Lutheranism had become established in parts of Germany and Scandinavia, and Calvinism in parts of Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, and Eastern Europe. In England, the split from Rome had resulted in the creation of an English national church. The situation in Europe did not look particularly favorable for the Roman Catholic Church. But even at the beginning of the sixteenth century, constructive, positive forces were at work for reform within the Catholic Church. By the mid-sixteenth century the papacy began to direct reforms that would strengthen European Catholicism. By the end of the sixteenth century, Catholicism had regained at least some of what it had lost, especially in Germany and Eastern Europe, and was able to make new conversions as well, particularly in the New World. We call the story of the revival of Roman Catholicism the Catholic Reformation, or the Counter-Reformation. The Counter-Reformation was given its name by Protestant historians who assumed that the movement began specifically in opposition to the Protestant Reformation. Catholic historians see it as an overdue movement for Church reform. I must stress, however, that the Counter-Reformation did not operate in isolation. Like the Renaissance and the Reformation, it interacted with all the other great events and ideas of the age.

Terms:

Ignatius Loyola

Society of Jesus (Jesuits)

free will

Spiritual Exercises

heretics

heathens

Pope Paul III

house of probation

the Black Pope

Holy Office of the Inquisition

Pope Paul IV

Index of Forbidden Books

The Council of Trent

Some Questions for Study:

1. Who was Ignatius Loyola?
2. Discuss the methods and goals of the Society of Jesus.
3. Loyola disagreed that humans are saved by faith alone. What did he believe instead? How does free will figure into his beliefs?
4. Why are the Jesuits often referred to as the “shock troops of the pope”?
5. Discuss the reaction to the Protestant Reformation during the papacies of Paul III and Paul IV.
6. What reforms of the Catholic Church took place as a result of the Council of Trent? Did the popes involved in the Council try to heal the split between Catholics and Protestants, or make them worse?

Lecture 9 – The Age of Discovery and Exploration

Nowhere has the dynamic and energy of Western Civilization been more apparent than in its expansion into the rest of the world. By the 16th century, the Atlantic seaboard had become the center of commercial activity that raised Portugal and Spain, and later, the Dutch Republic, England and France to prominence. The Age of Exploration was a crucial factor in the European transition from an agrarian economy of the Middle Ages to a commercial economy.

Terms:

the Polos

John of Portugal

Ferdinand and Isabella

crusading impulse

Henry the Navigator

slavery

Bartholomew Diaz

Cape of Good Hope

Vasco da Gama

Christopher Columbus

Hernan Cortes

Aztecs

Moctezuma

Pizarro

Incas

encomienda

Some Questions for Study:

1. What conditions in Europe by the late 1400s prompted Western exploration by Portugal and Spain? By sailing due West, what did Christopher Columbus and other early explorers expect to find?
2. How did the Portuguese come to develop the first 15th century European maritime Empire? Where did they go?
3. European explorers found flourishing civilizations already present in the New World. Identify them and explain Spanish reaction to these native civilizations.
4. What was the *encomienda* system? How did it work?
5. The Roman Catholic Church saw the opening of the New World as a opportunity to save souls and expand Catholicism. Describe the Church's efforts in Spanish colonies in the New World.
6. Discuss the effects that Spanish and Portuguese exploration had on the European economy.