



# **FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE REFORMATION**

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- **IDEOLOGICAL, TECHNOLOGICAL, & CULTURAL FACTORS CONTRIBUTED TO THE BEGINNINGS OF REFORM:**
- **HUMANISM:**
  - “WORKED TOWARD TRANSITION FROM THE MIDIAEVAL TO THE MODERN WORLD”
  - EMPHASIZED VALUE OF CLASSIC CIVILIZATIONS, ARTS, LANGUAGE, & CULTURE
  - REJECTED “DRY & PONDEROUS ELABORATIONS” OF SCHOLASTICISM
  - GENERAL DISGUST FOR ECCLESIASTICAL STRUCTURE & ABUSES OF MIDIAEVAL CHURCH
  - HUMANISTS HAD EXTENSIVE IMPACT ON REFORM LEADERS

# FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE REFORMATION

## □ NOTABLE HUMANISTS:

- COLET, MORE - ENGLISH HUMANISTS
  - MORE'S UTOPIA OPPOSES RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION, VENERATION OF IMAGES, WORSHIP OF SAINTS, CONFESSION TO PRIESTS, & CELIBACY
- JOHN REUCHLIN - GERMAN HUMANIST:
  - “RUDIMENTA HEBRAICA” HEBREW GRAMMAR AND DICTIONARY SET STANDARD AMONGST CHRISTIAN SCHOLARSHIP
  - INVOLVED IN “PFEFFERKORN DISPUTE” (1510); RESISTS BURNING OF JEWISH BOOKS
    - INDIRECT BENEFIT TO LUTHER'S CAUSE
  - MELANCTON, OECOLAMPADIUS (NOTED REFORMERS) STUDIED UNDER REUCHLIN

# FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE REFORMATION

## □ NOTABLE HUMANISTS (CONT):

- ULRICH VON HUTTEN - GERMAN HUMANIST:
  - “MAVERICK” ADVENTURER & SUPPORTER OF REFORMED CAUSES
  - UTILIZED SARDONIC WIT TO BATTLE “MONKISH SUPERSTITIONS” & “PAPAL TYRANNY”
    - “REUCHLIN’S TRIUMPH” & “VADISCUS (ROMAN TRINITY)”
- ERASMUS - DUTCH HUMANIST:
  - MOST FAMOUS HUMANIST; “MASTER OF LITERARY TASTE; MONARCH OF CLASSIC LEARNING”
    - GREEK NEW TESTAMENT (1516) -- FIRST OF ITS DAY
    - SUPERIOR WIT & LITERARY SKILLS

# FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE REFORMATION

## □ NOTABLE HUMANISTS (CONT):

### • ERASMUS (CONT):

- HIGHLY CRITICAL OF “ROMISH ABUSES”
- ADVOCATE OF OPENING SCRIPTURE TO ALL PEOPLES
- “FENCE-SITTER” TURNED ANTAGONIST TOWARD LUTHERAN REFORMATION:
  - PERSONAL PRESTIGE & DISLIKE OF THEOLOGY
  - LUTHER - “PROBABLY, LIKE MOSES, [ERASMUS] WILL DIE IN THE LAND OF MOAB”

## □ TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS:

- MOVABLE TYPE (GUTENBERG) - GERMANY
  - EARLIEST KNOWN PRINTED BOOK - 1457
  - ENABLED RAPID REPRODUCTION OF RELIGIOUS & OTHER WORKS

# FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE REFORMATION

## □ **CONDITION OF THE STATE:**

- **HOLY ROMAN EMPEROR - MAXIMILIAN (1493-1519)**
  - **ATTEMPTS TO BROADEN THE EMPIRE:**
    - **AUSTRIA (HAPSBURGS) & BURGUNDY**
    - **SPAIN, SICILY, NAPLES (THROUGH SON PHILIP'S MARRIAGE)**
  - **IN 1519, EMPIRE TRANSFERS TO CHARLES V**
- **DESPITE CHARLES' TERRITORIAL DOMAIN, CONCILIATION WAS THE "RULE"**
  - **DOMINIONS WERE SCATTERED & DIVERSE**
  - **LITTLE TIME FOR GERMAN AFFAIRS**
  - **FEARED POWER OF FRANCE**

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- **CONDITION OF THE STATE (CONT):**
  - **GERMAN NOBLE & PEASANT UNREST:**
    - **NOBLES DISSATISFIED WITH MAXIMILIAN'S "DIET"**
      - **EMPHASIS ON SEVEN "ELECTOR PRINCES"**
      - **MOVEMENT AWAY FROM FEUDALISM**
    - **PEASANTS DISSATISFIED WITH POOR TREATMENT**
      - **FEW RIGHTS & LARGE FINANCIAL PRESSURES**
      - **FINANCIAL PRESSURES INCREASED UNDER MAXIMILIAN**
  - **GENERAL GERMAN RESENTMENT OF ROME:**
    - **MAXIMILIAN RESENTED "DRAINING OF GOLD FROM HIS REALM"**
    - **MASSES DISLIKED ROMAN PATRONAGE & ECCLESIASTICAL ABUSES**

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- SENTIMENT, TECHNOLOGY, POLITICS,  
& ZEAL FOR RELIGIOUS REFORM  
PAVED THE WAY FOR OCT 31, 1517**