

## Lesson 2: How did Protestantism and the Church of England come about?

Until the 1530s Britain was a Catholic country and the Church of England did not exist.

This map shows Europe in 1054 as it was divided between the Roman Catholic areas in the west and the Eastern Orthodox areas in the East



A religious movement known as the **Reformation** swept through Europe in the 1500s.

Its leaders disagreed with the **Catholic Church** on certain religious issues and criticised the church's great power and wealth.

They broke away from the Catholic church and founded various **Protestant** churches.



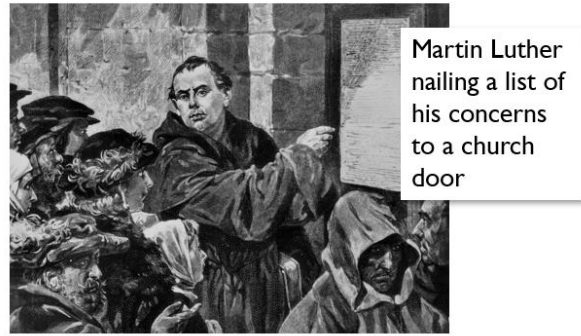
Many Catholics and Protestants were killed in the course of the Reformation



A defaced monument in a Catholic church

In the early 1500s almost everyone in western and central Europe was Roman Catholic, and the church was very powerful.

The Reformation began in 1517. In that year a German priest named **Martin Luther** circulated a list of doubts he had about certain Catholic beliefs and practices. Soon after, Luther came to reject the authority of the church and its leader, the pope. He thought that people could learn all religious truths directly from the Bible. He called for the end of most of the **sacraments**, or rituals, of Catholicism.



Martin Luther nailing a list of his concerns to a church door

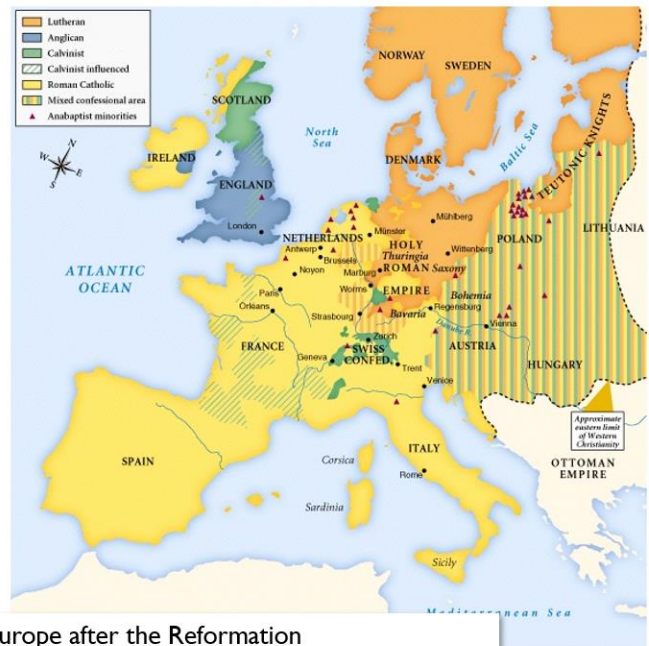


Martin Luther burning a letter from the Pope

The Pope condemned Luther's teachings. But Luther's message spread quickly.

In 1534 King **Henry VIII** established the **Church of England**, with himself as leader. This came about as the Pope refused to allow him a divorce from his wife and he wanted the power to allow this himself.

By the mid-1600s Europe was mostly divided into Protestant and Catholic regions. Most of these divisions have remained in place. In the 1600s the settlers of the **British colonies** brought Protestantism to North America.



Europe after the Reformation (Protestant areas in blue, green and orange)

**Based on what you've read above and in class, answer the following questions**

**What was the state of Christianity in Europe before the 1500s?**

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**What did the leaders of the reformation disagree with the Catholic church about?**

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**Who was Martin Luther and what change did he want to see from the Catholic church?**

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**How did the Church of England become established as a Protestant church?**

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**What was the state of Christianity in Europe by the mid-1600s?**

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