The Protestant Reformation – An Intellectual Revolution
Background Causes of the Protestant Reformation

- Renaissance ideals of secularism & humanism spread by the newly invented printing press encourage challenges to Catholic Church authority.

- Many average people were losing spiritual connection with church because services were in Latin (not the “vernacular” language people spoke), many priests were poorly trained and often acted immorally.

- Also, many Northern Europeans (farther away from Rome) start to resent lavish spending of many Popes on patronage of arts and pursuit of personal (secular) pleasure.

- By the 1500s, many “Christian humanists” in Northern Europe were calling for reforms in the Catholic Church.
After a visit to Rome in 1512, little known German monk named **Martin Luther** is angered by lack of faith he sees there and the later church’s sale of **Indulgences** (payments to gain entrance to heaven more quickly) in Germany. In 1517, he posts **95 Theses** (criticisms of Catholic policies) on door of his local church sparking the **Protestant Reformation**.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ4URCVook4
Indulgences Clip from *Luther* Movie (6 minutes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijjbtcAEOnY
95 Theses Clip from *Luther* Movie (4 ½ minutes)
Martin Luther Believed:

• People gained salvation (going to heaven) only through individual faith and prayer
  – *Not by sacraments of the Church that priests oversaw*

• Holy Scripture was more important than orders of Church leadership
  – *The Bible was the final word on all Christian ideas - NOT the Pope and church authorities.*

• All people with faith were equal before God
  – *Priests were not superior or necessary to earn salvation. People could interpret the Bible themselves.*
NB #4: Martin Luther Video Notes

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ni1gupkGAW0

Watch first 28 minutes of PBS documentary Luther: Reluctant Revolutionary (link above)

Use “Cornell Notes” format for notes

SUMMARIZE significant details/facts on right and ANALYZE the connection between the facts to question below on the left side

How and why did Martin Luther spark an “intellectual revolution”? 
#4: Martin Luther Video Notes

“Big Picture” Question:

How and why did Martin Luther spark an “intellectual revolution”?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Commentary on how details relate to “Big Picture” Question</th>
<th>Facts/Details From Video</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• 95 Theses not intended to be “revolutionary”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Luther attacked as a “heretic”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Heresy punishable by death (burning/drowning)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Luther single minded/stubborn/unafraid</td>
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<td>• New printing press helps spread ideas to regular people</td>
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<td>• Luther with “democratization” of religion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Prince Frederick the Wise of Saxony protects Luther</td>
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<td>• Catholic Holy Roman Emperor Charles V against Luther</td>
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<td>• Luther to be put on trial at “Diet of Worms”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Pope orders Luther excommunicated from church</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Luther has many supporters who mock Pope and throw excommunication order into river</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Witty/blunt writing style and cartoons make Luther’s criticisms of church popular with regular people of Germany</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Luther claims most holy sacraments are inventions of church</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Luther rejects that only church controls who goes to heaven</td>
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<td>• Luther burns excommunication order</td>
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Luther & Pope Clash

- Threatened Luther with *excommunication* (1520)
- Luther *refused* to take back his statements and burns papal decree
Edict of Worms

- In 1521 – Catholic Emperor Charles the V of the *Holy Roman Empire* who rules what is now Germany puts Luther on trial in German city of Worms where he declares Luther an *outlaw* and *heretic* and orders that no one should provide food/shelter to Luther and that all his books should be burned.
Reformation Unintentionally Leads to Violence in Germany

- Prince “Frederick the Wise” and many other northern German princes convert to Lutheranism and shelter Luther

- Peasant Revolt begins in 1524 as many poor Germans apply Luther’s ideas of religious freedom to their desire for social freedom.

- German princes (with support of Luther) crush revolt killing tens of thousands.

- Protestant German princes eventually go to war with Catholic King Charles V - Europe falls into religious & social turmoil for decades.

- Fighting continues until 1555 Peace of Augsburg agreement ends violence in Germany, but Protestant ideas spread across Europe and the world.
King Henry VIII spreads the Reformation to England

Henry wants to challenge authority of the Catholic Church for personal, not religious reasons
Henry VIII’s complex personal life & desire for power (not religion) motivates his conversion to Protestantism.

- **1st Wife**, no son, 1527 Wants a divorce
- **2nd Wife**, no son, 1536 beheaded
- Finally gets a **son**! She dies in child birth
- 1542 Beheaded
- Outlives Henry!
- **4th Wife**, 1540 Divorces
- **3rd Wife**, 1533 2nd Wife, no son, 1536 beheaded
- 1537-Finally gets a son! She dies in child birth
Henry VIII Establishes Anglican Church (1529)

- Parliament makes King (not Pope) head of England’s (Anglican) Church
  - Divorce is legalized
  - Henry takes over all Catholic Church property in England

- Each of his 3 children rule (Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth) under religious turmoil

- Religious peace returns to England under **Elizabeth I** (rules: 1558-1603)
Legacies of the Reformation

• **Protestant Churches flourish** and one religion NO longer unites Western Europe (ex: Calvinists, Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalian, Baptists)

• **Monarchs gain power** and Church loses power
  – Kings seize land, money and power once held by the Church
  – City-states and small kingdoms evolve and combine into “Nation States”
  – By 1650’s France, England, Spain become strongest nations
  – The political power of Roman Church was greatly reduced

• **Catholic “Counter-Reformation”**
  – Sale of **Indulgences** is banned
  – **St. Ignatius of Loyola** founds **Jesuit Order** dedicated to education, missionaries and stopping spread of Protestantism
  – **Inquisition** uses violence to punish threats to papal authority
  – **Council of Trent** discusses reforms and agrees on many new doctrines

So, WHY is all this an “intellectual revolution”?