

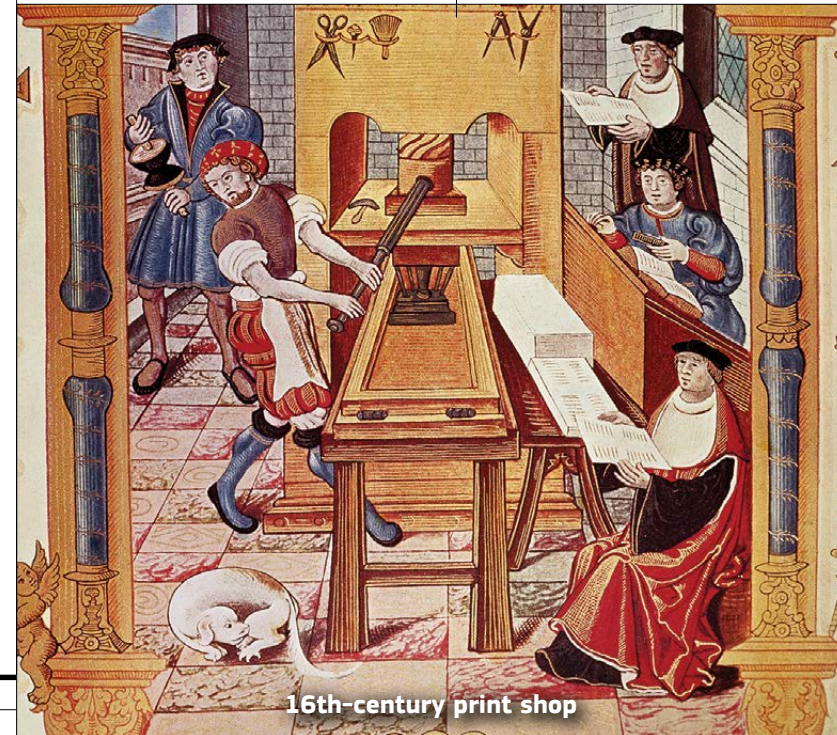
# A century of reform

The Reformation timeline from  
Christian History Institute

## Reformers Church and State Books and Culture World Events

- 1440: Printing press is invented around this time.
- 1453: Turks capture Constantinople.
- 1455: Gutenberg completes printing the Bible.
- 1460: Desiderius Erasmus is born.
- 1470: Portuguese explorers discover Gold Coast of Africa.
- 1478: Spanish Inquisition begins.
- 1485? Andreas von Karlstadt is born.
- 1483: Martin Luther and Gasparo Contarini are born.
- 1484: Huldrych Zwingli is born.
- 1485? Balthasar Hubmaier is born.

- 1489: Thomas Cranmer is born.
- 1491: Henry VIII and Martin Bucer are born.
- 1492: Columbus sails to the Americas.
- 1494: William Tyndale is born.
- 1496: Menno Simons is born.
- 1497: Philipp Melanchthon is born.
- 1498: Girolamo Savonarola is burned at the stake in Florence.
- 1499: Swiss gain independence.
- 1500? Hans Denck is born.
- 1502: Frederick, elector of Saxony, founds Wittenberg University.



16th-century print shop



Christopher Columbus

- 1505: Luther vows to become a monk.
- 1506: Leonardo da Vinci paints *Mona Lisa*. Pope Julius II orders work on St. Peter's in Rome.
- 1508: Michelangelo begins Sistine Chapel ceiling.
- 1509: John Calvin is born; Henry VIII assumes throne of England, marries Catherine of Aragon.
- 1512: Luther leaves monastery to teach at Wittenberg.
- 1513: John Knox is born. Leo X becomes pope. Vasco Núñez de Balboa discovers the Pacific Ocean.
- 1515: Teresa of Ávila is born.
- 1516: Erasmus's Greek New Testament and Thomas More's *Utopia* are published.
- 1517: Fifth Lateran Council ends after passing several reforming decrees. Luther writes *95 Theses*; Machiavelli writes *The Prince*.

- 1519: Eck debates Karlstadt and Luther at Leipzig; Zwingli launches Swiss reformation. Charles I of Spain is elected Holy Roman Emperor as Charles V; Hernán Cortes enters Aztec capital.
- 1520: Luther writes *To the Christian Nobility, On the Babylonian Captivity of the Church*, and *The Freedom of a Christian*; burns papal bull and canon law. Suleiman I becomes sultan of the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire.
- 1521: Luther is excommunicated at Diet of Worms and hidden at Wartburg Castle; religious unrest begins in Wittenberg. Leo X titles Henry VIII "Defender of the Faith." Thomas Müntzer publishes *Prague Manifesto*.
- 1522: Luther returns to Wittenberg; Zwingli argues his first Reformation debates and marries secretly. Hadrian VI becomes pope. Ignatius Loyola writes *Spiritual Exercises*; Adam Petri prints Luther's New Testament. Spanish complete circumnavigation of globe.
- 1523: First two Protestant martyrs are burned at the stake; Calvin goes to Paris to study; disputations are held in Zurich. Clement VII becomes pope.
- 1524: Luther debates Karlstadt on the Lord's Supper; Theatine religious order is founded. Diet of Nuremberg fails to enforce Edict of Worms; Erasmus writes *On Freedom of the Will*.
- 1524-1525: Peasants' War is fought in Germany.
- 1525: Anabaptist movement begins in Zurich; Bolt Eberle becomes first

- Anabaptist martyr; Luther marries Katharine von Bora. Luther writes *Against the Robbing and Murdering Hordes and Bondage of the Will* against Erasmus.
- 1526: Reformation spreads to Sweden and Denmark. Tyndale's edition of the New Testament is published.
- Huldrych Zwingli
- 1527: Luther debates Zwingli on the Lord's Supper; Hans Denck dies. First Protestant university (Marburg) is founded; *Schleitheim Confession* of Anabaptist beliefs is promulgated. Imperial troops sack Rome; plague strikes Wittenberg.
- 1528: Balthasar Hubmaier is martyred; Calvin goes to Orleans to study law. Tyndale publishes *The Obedience of a Christian Man*.
- 1529: Luther and Zwingli attend Marburg Colloquy but reach no agreement on the Lord's Supper; name "Protestant" is first used. Second Diet of Speyer enforces Edict of Worms and declares death penalty for rebaptism. Luther publishes *Large Catechism* and *Small Catechism*. Turks lay siege to Vienna.



Basel

- 1530: Diet of Augsburg attempts to end division in Holy Roman Empire; Melchior Hoffmann baptizes 300 Anabaptists. Melanchthon presents Augsburg Confession at the Diet of Augsburg; Tyndale publishes *The Practice of Prelates*.
- 1531: Zwingli is killed in battle at Kappel. Schmalkaldic League, a political body of German Protestants, forms against Charles V.
- 1532: Diet of Regensburg and Peace of Nuremberg guarantee religious toleration in face of Turkish threat.
- 1533: Calvin and Nicolas Cop flee Paris; Calvin undergoes what he later calls a "sudden conversion"; Jakob Hutter joins Moravian group who become known as Hutterites. Thomas Cromwell declares Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine null and void; Henry marries Anne Boleyn. Three-year-old Ivan the Terrible ascends Russian throne.



Huldrych Zwingli



Luther preaching

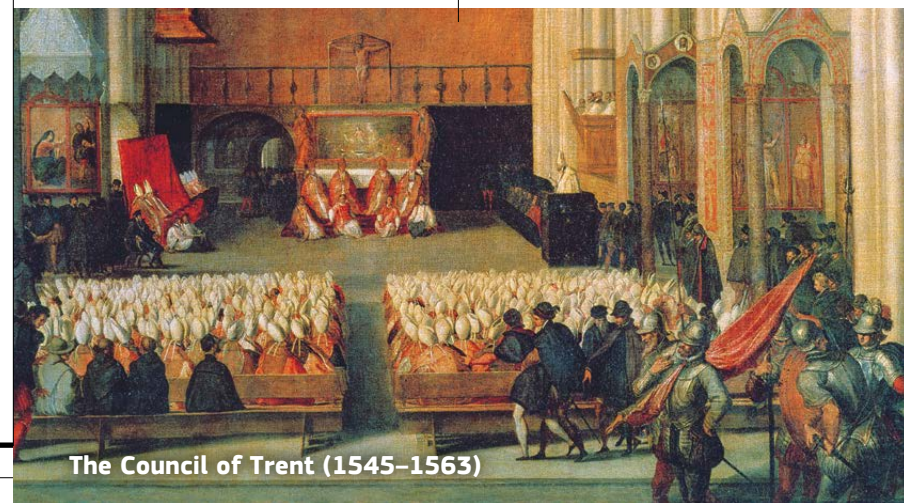
INTERIOR OF A 16TH-CENTURY PRINTING WORKS. COPY OF A MINIATURE FROM CHANTS ROYAUX SUR LA CONCEPTION COURONNÉE DU ROI DE ROUEN (COLOUR LITHO), (FRENCH SCHOOL, 16TH CENTURY) (AFTER) / BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE, PARIS, FRANCE / BRIDGEMAN IMAGES  
PORTRAIT OF A MAN, SAID TO BE CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS (C.1486-1490), OIL ON CANVAS, POMEI, SEBASTIANO DEL LIS, LUCIANI (C.1485-1491) / METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART, NEW YORK, USA / BRIDGEMAN IMAGES  
KUNSTMUSEUM WINTERHUR, DONATED BY THE INHERITORS OF BARON FRIEDRICH VON SULZER-WART, 1888 © SCHWITZERSCHE INSTITUT FÜR KUNSTWISSENSCHAFT ZÜRICH, JEAN-PIERRE KUHN  
MAP OF BASEL, SWITZERLAND, FROM CIVITATES ORBIS TERRARUM BY GEORG BRAUN, 1541-1622 AND FRANZ TOGENBERG, 1540-1590, ENGRAVING / DE AGOSTINI PICTURE LIBRARY / F. MERLO / BRIDGEMAN IMAGES  
MARTIN LUTHER, KATHARINE VON BORA, C.1528 OIL ON PANEL, CRANACH, LUCAS, THE ELDER (1473-1528), (ENGRAVING) (SEE PHOTO), HONIGS, HENDRIK (1573-1649) (AFTER) / PRIVATE COLLECTION / THE STAPLETON COLLECTION / BRIDGEMAN IMAGES  
JOHN KNOX, FROM EFFIGIES BY JACOBUS VERHEIDEN, 1602 (ENGRAVING) (SEE PHOTO), HONIGS, HENDRIK (1573-1649) (AFTER) / PRIVATE COLLECTION / THE STAPLETON COLLECTION / BRIDGEMAN IMAGES  
THE COUNCIL OF TRENT, FROM EFFIGIES BY JACOBUS VERHEIDEN, 1602 (ENGRAVING) (SEE PHOTO), HONIGS, HENDRIK (1573-1649) (AFTER) / PRIVATE COLLECTION / THE STAPLETON COLLECTION / BRIDGEMAN IMAGES  
QUEEN ELIZABETH I, C.1575 OIL ON PANEL, NETHERLANDISH SCHOOL, 16TH CENTURY / NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, LONDON, UK / DE AGOSTINI PICTURE LIBRARY / BRIDGEMAN IMAGES

- 1534: Henry VIII is declared supreme head of the English church. Jan van Leiden is crowned king in Münster; Paul III becomes pope.
- 1535: Henry VIII executes Thomas More, John Fisher, and Carthusian monks in London; Ursuline religious order is founded; diplomat Gasparo Contarini is made a cardinal. Anabaptist uprising at Münster is put down; Charles V forms Catholic Defense League.
- 1536: Luther agrees to Wittenberg Concord on the Lord's Supper, but Zwingli does not accept it; William Tyndale is burned at the stake; Denmark and Norway become Lutheran; Erasmus dies; Henry VIII begins to dissolve monasteries; Calvin is persuaded to remain in Geneva; Menno Simons begins to lead Anabaptists in the Netherlands; Paul III sets up a commission for reform headed by Contarini. Anne Boleyn is executed; Henry marries Jane Seymour, who dies in 1537 after giving birth to the future Edward VI. First edition of Calvin's *Institutes* is published.
- 1537: Luther draws up *Schmalkaldic Articles* as his "theological last will and testament."
- 1538: Calvin and Farel are banished from Geneva; Calvin goes to Strasbourg and meets Bucer.
- 1539: Calvin is asked to respond to Cardinal Sadoletto on behalf of Geneva. Frankfurt Truce is



Martin and Katie Luther

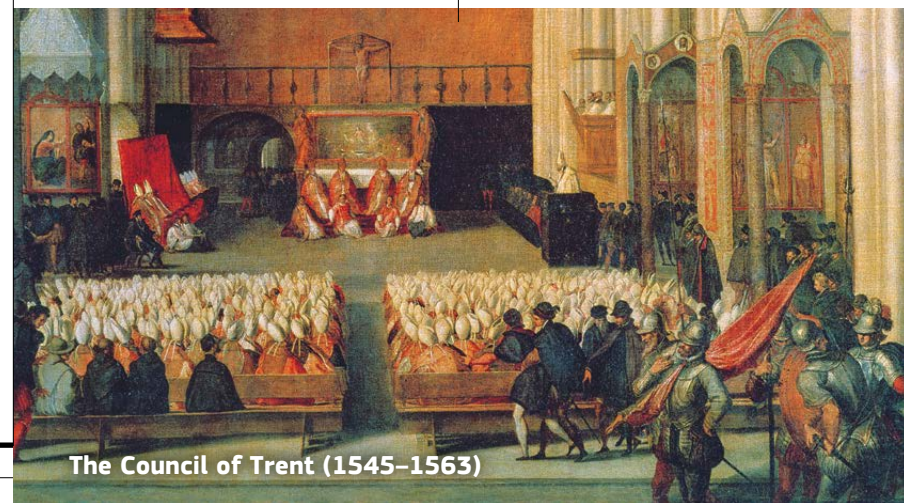
- 1534: Henry VIII is declared supreme head of the English church. Jan van Leiden is crowned king in Münster; Paul III becomes pope.
- 1535: Henry VIII executes Thomas More, John Fisher, and Carthusian monks in London; Ursuline religious order is founded; diplomat Gasparo Contarini is made a cardinal. Anabaptist uprising at Münster is put down; Charles V forms Catholic Defense League.
- 1536: Luther agrees to Wittenberg Concord on the Lord's Supper, but Zwingli does not accept it; William Tyndale is burned at the stake; Denmark and Norway become Lutheran; Erasmus dies; Henry VIII begins to dissolve monasteries; Calvin is persuaded to remain in Geneva; Menno Simons begins to lead Anabaptists in the Netherlands; Paul III sets up a commission for reform headed by Contarini. Anne Boleyn is executed; Henry marries Jane Seymour, who dies in 1537 after giving birth to the future Edward VI. First edition of Calvin's *Institutes* is published.
- 1537: Luther draws up *Schmalkaldic Articles* as his "theological last will and testament."
- 1538: Calvin and Farel are banished from Geneva; Calvin goes to Strasbourg and meets Bucer.
- 1539: Calvin is asked to respond to Cardinal Sadoletto on behalf of Geneva. Frankfurt Truce is



The Council of Trent (1545-1563)

- Catherine Howard is executed; Paul III establishes the Inquisition. Calvin writes a treatise on free will.
- 1543: Henry VIII (d. 1547) marries Catherine Parr, who will outlive him. Copernicus writes that the earth revolves around the sun.
- 1545: Council of Trent convenes for reform of the Catholic Church.
- 1546: Martin Luther dies.
- 1547: Henry VIII's Protestant son, Edward VI, succeeds him. Armed Diet held in Augsburg.
- 1548: Augsburg Interim makes some concessions to Protestantism, but many Catholic and Protestant leaders refuse to accept it.
- 1549: John Knox is released from French imprisonment; Idelette Calvin dies; Martin Bucer goes to England; *Sensus Tigurinus* and the first edition of the *Book of Common Prayer* are published.
- 1550: Julius III becomes pope.
- 1551: Martin Bucer dies.
- 1552: Katharine Luther dies.
- 1553: Edward VI's Catholic half-sister, Mary, succeeds him; Servetus is executed for heresy with Calvin's approval.

- 1534: Henry VIII is declared supreme head of the English church. Jan van Leiden is crowned king in Münster; Paul III becomes pope.
- 1535: Henry VIII executes Thomas More, John Fisher, and Carthusian monks in London; Ursuline religious order is founded; diplomat Gasparo Contarini is made a cardinal. Anabaptist uprising at Münster is put down; Charles V forms Catholic Defense League.
- 1536: Luther agrees to Wittenberg Concord on the Lord's Supper, but Zwingli does not accept it; William Tyndale is burned at the stake; Denmark and Norway become Lutheran; Erasmus dies; Henry VIII begins to dissolve monasteries; Calvin is persuaded to remain in Geneva; Menno Simons begins to lead Anabaptists in the Netherlands; Paul III sets up a commission for reform headed by Contarini. Anne Boleyn is executed; Henry marries Jane Seymour, who dies in 1537 after giving birth to the future Edward VI. First edition of Calvin's *Institutes* is published.
- 1537: Luther draws up *Schmalkaldic Articles* as his "theological last will and testament."
- 1538: Calvin and Farel are banished from Geneva; Calvin goes to Strasbourg and meets Bucer.
- 1539: Calvin is asked to respond to Cardinal Sadoletto on behalf of Geneva. Frankfurt Truce is



The Council of Trent (1545-1563)

- 1544: Knox travels to Geneva and meets Calvin.
- 1555: Mary burns Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley, and Thomas Cranmer at the stake. Peace of Augsburg allows German rulers to determine religion of their regions; Marcellus II becomes pope but dies 22 days later; Paul IV becomes pope.
- 1557: Geneva Bible is published.
- 1558: Theodore Beza joins Calvin in Geneva. Mary's Protestant half-sister, Elizabeth, succeeds her.
- 1559: Matthew Parker becomes archbishop of Canterbury. Pius IV becomes pope. Final edition of *Institutes* is published; Geneva Academy is established.
- 1560: Philip Melanchthon dies. Catholicism is abolished in Scotland. John Jewel writes *An Apology for the Church of England*.
- 1561: Menno Simons dies.
- 1562: Teresa of Ávila establishes her first convent.
- 1563: *Thirty-Nine Articles* are drafted; Council of Trent concludes.
- 1563: Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* is published.
- 1566: Pius V becomes pope. Iconoclasm riots rage in the Netherlands.
- 1568: John of the Cross establishes religious order for men. Eighty Years' War begins in the Netherlands.



John Calvin

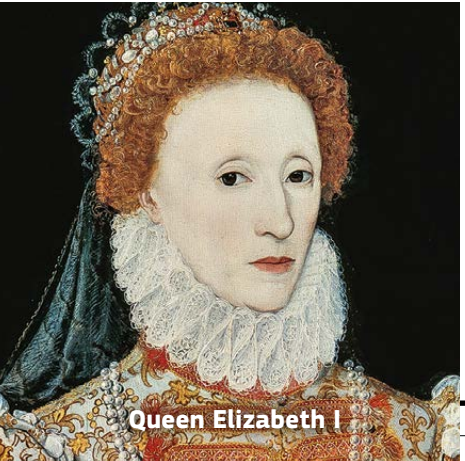


St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, 1572

- 1564: Calvin dies; the word "Puritan" is first used in England for the first time.
- 1572: John Knox dies. Gregory XIII becomes pope. St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre of Huguenots occurs.
- 1573: Congregation of the Oratory is founded.
- 1580: Edmund Campion arrives in England as a Jesuit missionary. Lutheran *Book of Concord* is published in German.
- 1581: Elizabeth I executes Campion. Richard Hooker publishes *Laws of Ecclesiastical Polity*.
- 1582: Teresa of Ávila dies. Pope Gregory XIII introduces the Gregorian calendar.
- 1585: Sixtus V becomes pope.
- 1590: Urban VII becomes pope, dies after 12 days. Gregory XIV succeeds him.
- 1591: John of the Cross dies. Innocent IX becomes pope.
- 1592: Clement VIII becomes pope.
- 1593: Discalced Carmelites become a separate religious order. Puritan assemblies and activities are outlawed in England.
- 1603: Elizabeth I is succeeded in England by her Protestant cousin, James VI of Scotland.



John Knox



Queen Elizabeth I

This timeline is available with interactive hot links at [www.christianhistoryinstitute.org](http://www.christianhistoryinstitute.org) under issue #120.  
(Compiled from *Christian History* issues 5, 12, 48, 115, and 118, with additions by the editors.) © 2016 *Christian History* magazine.

Buy this issue. Buy copies of this timeline.

Errata: Cranmer was executed in 1556;  
The Westminster Confession dates to 1648.