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| Name of the Challenge | Protestant Reformation |
| Source of the Challenge | The Italian Renaissance brought about the renewal of Rome and the commissioning of St Peter’s Basilica but a corrupt papacy was in need of reform. The humanism of Erasmus and his criticism of the papacy as well as invention of the printing press by Guttenburg in the 15th century laid the social foundation of the reform. The Holy Roman (Germanic) Empire was strong and early reformers like John Wycliffe and John Huss had been dealt with harshly by the faith. The unexpected disturbance came through the unwitting Martin Luther who was the central figure of the Reformation. |
| Details of the Challenge | Luther was an Augustinian monk and professor of theology when he became distressed at what he perceived to be rampant corruption in the Church and the errors that underlay the corruption. He felt that greedy Church officials who were persuaded that paying for penances and indulgences would ensure their place in heaven were exploiting ordinary Christians. Posting his now famous 'Ninety-five Theses' on the door of the Wittenberg Church was a standard means of opening theological discussion, and Luther had little idea that this action would set in motion a round of events that would lead to his eventual dismissal from the Church. Luther's recourse to the authority of scripture was not able to withstand the authority of the Pope, and he was excommunicated in 1521. Luther believed that believers were justified by faith, that the pious practices encouraged by the Church would not enable people to obtain eternal life and that the scripture held prime authority over any other. He also believed in the autonomy of the individual conscience - another belief that challenged the Church. At this time the authority of the Church was paramount to its princes, so they saw Luther, and the subsequent reformers, as undermining their authority and therefore God's. The Church resisted Luther's calls for reform but his voice was not the only one calling for change.  Change swept through Northern Europe and Britain and saw crises in all regions. This situation in Europe led to the **Thirty Years’ War,**(1618–48), the bloodiest period in European history. It was a series of wars fought by various nations for various reasons, including religious, dynastic, territorial, and commercial rivalries. Its destructive campaigns and battles occurred over most of Europe, and, when it ended with the Treaty of Westphalia in 1648, the map of Europe had been irrevocably changed.  Southern Europe remained Roman Catholic. |
|  | 1517-1648  The Age of Reformation / Counter Reformation |
| Dates & Events | 1517 Ninety-five Theses / Huldrych Zwingli’s Reform in Zurich  1521 Diet of worms and Excommunication of Luther  1522 Luther translates German Bible  1532/3? John Calvin’s conversion (Geneva Reform begins)  1534 Henry VIII Act of Supremacy  1540 Jesuit Order founded by Ignatius of Loyola  1559 Final version of *John Calvin’s Institutes of Religion*  1545 – 63 Council of Trent (Counter / Catholic Reformation) |
| Places | Germany: Mainz; Wittenberg; Worms  England  Switzerland  Rome |
| People | Luther, Pope Leo X, Zwingli, Calvin, Henry XIII |
| Aspects of Religious Traditions effected by the challenge or used to respond to the challenge | **Sacred Text**: Luther’s Translation of the bible into German; Non-Hebrews OT texts removed from the Protestant bible  **Rituals:** The number of sacraments and the significance of the Eucharist were questioned by reformers  **Individual Experience:** The beginning of the challenge to authority based in the priesthood of all the people  **Beliefs**: Sola Scripture; sola gratia; sola fides; Purgatory not biblical; Luther wrote a Greater and Less Catechism  **Ethics:** Protestants followed the law revealed in their interpretation of scripture. Natural law makers should follow the statutes of the bible.  **Symbols**: Luther’s criticism of the St Peter’s Basilica Project; English trans King James Bible (66 books)  **Symbols:** Luther; Calvin: The number and authenticity of the Sacraments restricted to the Biblical evidence. Luther only allowed for baptism and Eucharist and perhaps reconciliation  **Social Structure**: Luther’s 95 theses (concerning indulgences) “21. Therefore those preachers of indulgences are in error, who say that by the pope's indulgences a man is freed from every penalty, and saved”  **Social Structure**: Luther’s pamphlets attacking the papacy; Promotion of the role of the Laity (Presbyteriansim)  **Social Structure:** Priesthood of the people; Priesthood is about preaching; the role of the king, princes and civic authorities is to lead in the temporal world in the ways of the bible |
| Stance taken by the tradition | The Roman Church stood against the actions and the statements of reformers in a variety of ways that culminated in the Council of Trent |
| Responses taken by the tradition | While the papacy was initially slow to react, it actively worked against Luther. It used *excommunication* & *anathema*; *Trial*: Diet of Worms. Moves for reunion were tried by Emperor Charles V; Augsburg 1530.  Ultimately the *Council of Trent* (1545-63) was called to condemn the reformers and solidify Catholicism, assisted by the founding of the Jesuits by Ignatius.   * **Sacred Texts**: The Bible shall not be translated * **Ritual:** The Mass must be celebrated in Latin; *Roman Missal; Roman Breviary (Prayer of the Church)* There are seven sacraments instituted by Christ; *Roman Catechism; Ritual Romanum* * **Beliefs**: Scripture and Tradition are the sources of Christian Faith; Payment for indulgences is finally removed, plenary indulgences remain * **Ethics:** Marriage must be contracted in the presence of a priest * **Symbols:** Christ is truly present under the species of bread and wine; St Peter’s completed 1590   **Social Structure:** Schools, seminaries, Roman Colleges established; *Jesuits influence;* Roman Congregations established; Priesthood affirmed as a power to consecrate; Role of the Papacy affirmed; Birth of religious orders and reigniting of spiritual traditions |
| Significance of the Challenge | * **within the religious tradition/s**   Roman Catholicism was re-established and stable along traditional lines with strength of leadership, papacy reinvigorated. The birth of religious orders was a spiritual response to the new order.   * **religious tradition/s’ relationship to the wider society**   The religious map of Europe was to radically change in a generation. The political outcome of the 30 year war 1618-1648 and the peace of Westphalia established a Europe that no longer needed papal approval for international political decisions. Catholicism stood against orthodox and protestant. Protestantism would continue to influence reform around the expanding western world.   * **religious tradition/s’ relationship to other religious communities.**   The work of Luther (translation of bible into German, the Catechism) & John Calvin – Geneva (Institutes of Religion) provided down to earth religious expression over the alps. England separated from Rome; Scotland followed the Geneva reform.  ***Catholic***: Scripture and Tradition; Latin; Tridentine Missal; Catechism of Trent; 7 Sacraments; Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist; Holy Ordained Celibate Trained Priesthood  ***Protestants***: Sola Scriptura; Sola Fides; Sola Gratia; Vernacular; Various Prayer Forms; Various Protestant Creeds; 2 sacraments or none; various understandings of the Eucharist; Priesthood of the People |
| Theological Challenge/  Ethical Challenge/  Challenge to Continued existence | Theological  Ethical  Continued existence |
| Sources | *95 Theses Martin Luther*  *#32. Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters will be eternally damned, together with their teachers.*  *Exsurge Domine* (Latin for *"Arise, O Lord"*) is a papal bull promulgated on 15 June 1520 by Pope Leo X.  *With the advice and consent of these our venerable brothers, with mature deliberation on each and every one of the above theses, and by the authority of almighty God, the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and our own authority, we condemn, reprobate, and reject completely each of these theses or errors as either heretical, scandalous, false, offensive to pious ears or seductive of simple minds, and against Catholic truth.*  Council of Trent Fourth Session DECREE CONCERNING THE CANONICAL SCRIPTURES  *But if any one receive not, as sacred and canonical, the said books entire with all their parts, as they have been used to be read in the Catholic Church, and as they are contained in the old Latin vulgate edition; and knowingly and deliberately contemn the traditions aforesaid; let him be anathema.* |
| References | <https://www.britannica.com/event/Reformation> (25/07/2017)  <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reformation> (25/07/2017)  <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counter-Reformation> (25/07/2017)  <https://www.luther.de/en/95thesen.html> (11/07/2019)  <https://www.britannica.com/event/Thirty-Years-War> (25/07/2017)  <http://www.history.com/topics/reformation> (25/07/2017) |