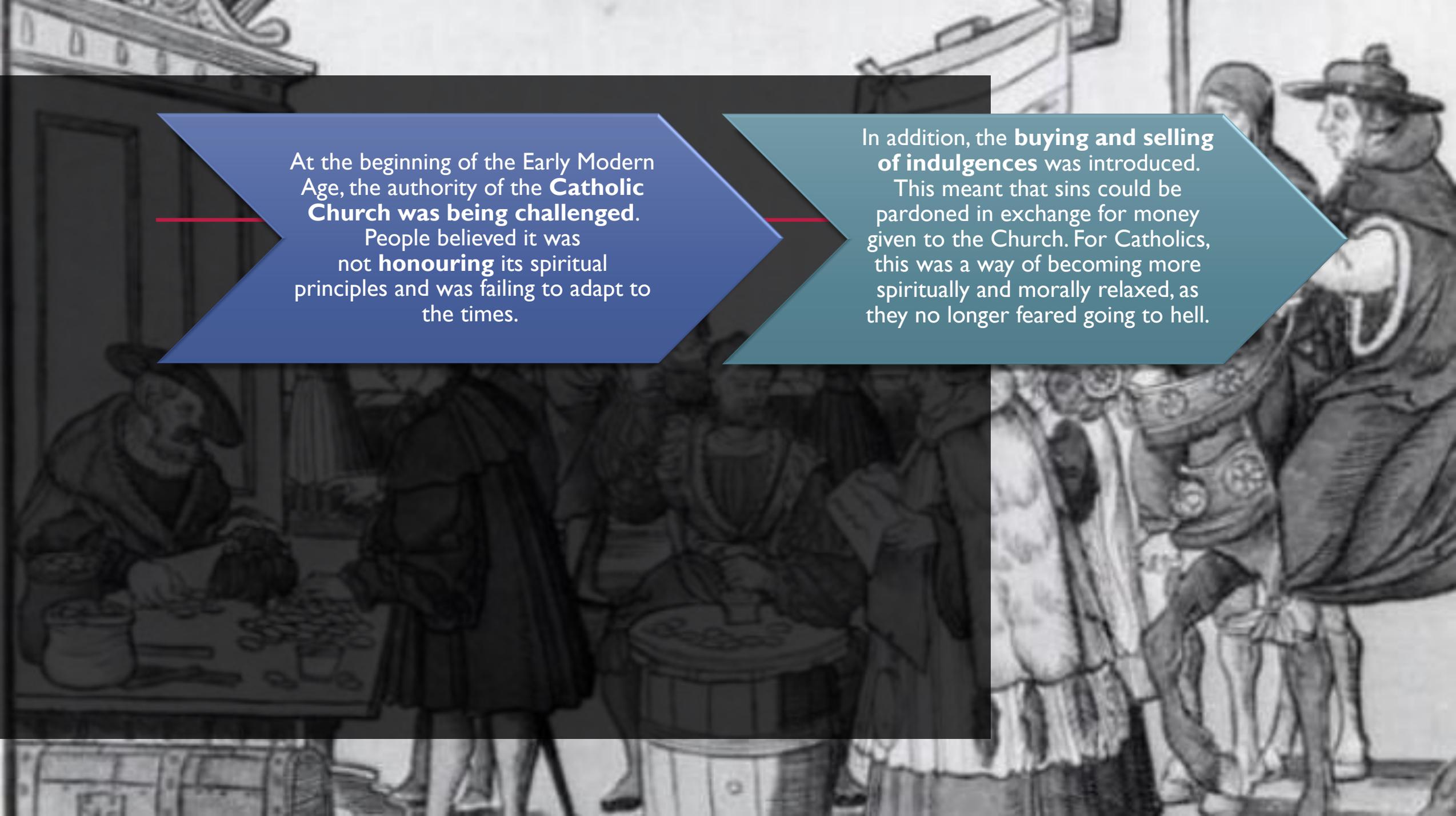




RELIGIOUS REFORM AND SPANISH DOMINANCE

UNIT 8



At the beginning of the Early Modern Age, the authority of the **Catholic Church was being challenged.**

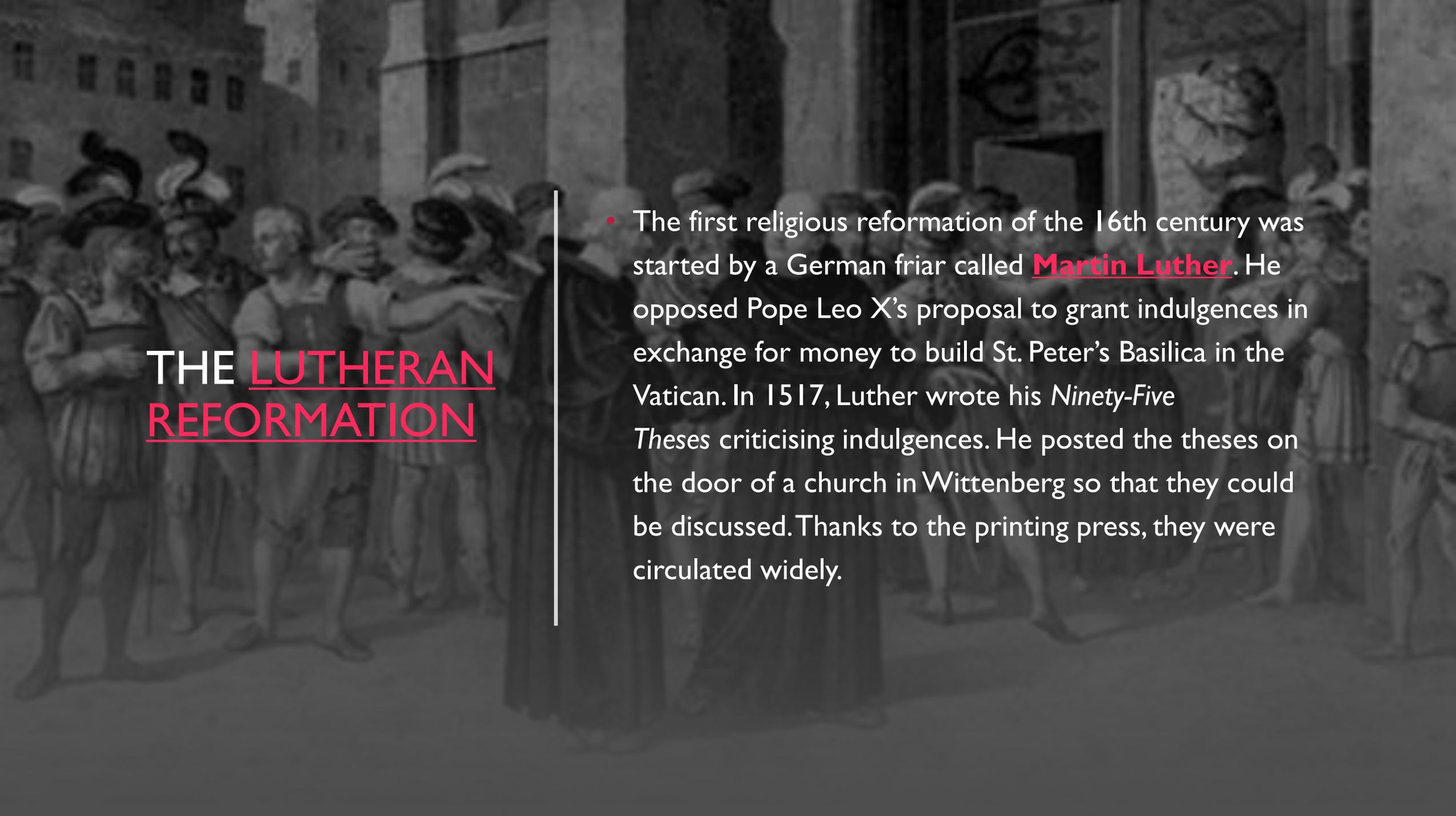
People believed it was not **honouring** its spiritual principles and was failing to adapt to the times.

In addition, the **buying and selling of indulgences** was introduced.

This meant that sins could be pardoned in exchange for money given to the Church. For Catholics, this was a way of becoming more spiritually and morally relaxed, as they no longer feared going to hell.

A man with a shaved head and a black robe is shown from the chest up. He is looking slightly to his right with a serious expression. His right hand is pressed against a wall covered in various papers and documents. The background consists of dark wood paneling. A dark horizontal bar is overlaid on the lower half of the image, containing the text 'THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION' in white, uppercase letters. Below the text is a thin orange horizontal line.

THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION



THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION

- The first religious reformation of the 16th century was started by a German friar called Martin Luther. He opposed Pope Leo X's proposal to grant indulgences in exchange for money to build St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. In 1517, Luther wrote his *Ninety-Five Theses* criticising indulgences. He posted the theses on the door of a church in Wittenberg so that they could be discussed. Thanks to the printing press, they were circulated widely.

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- Lutheran ideas spread throughout the **Holy Roman Empire**, so Emperor Carlos V intervened. First, he tried to mediate, seeking a compromise between Luther and the Catholic Church. However, he later condemned Lutheranism at two imperial assemblies: the **Diet of Worms** (1521) and the **Diet of Speyer** (1529). At this last assembly, six reformist princes and 14 cities protested against Luther's condemnation. They therefore became known as **Protestants**. This marked the start of hostilities between the Protestant princes and the Catholic ones, who were led by the Emperor.

LUTHERAN DOCTRINE

Salvation through faith: In order to save your soul, you only needed to have very strong faith, so the Church's involvement was not required.

Free interpretation of the Bible: Anyone could interpret the Bible's message, so the Church's interpretation of it was not the only valid one.

Reformation of the sacraments: Lutheran doctrine included only two sacraments: Baptism and the Eucharist.



Martin Luther

Universal priesthood: Lutherans rejected the hierarchy of the Catholic Church and the authority of the pope. Protestant pastors replaced priests, but they did not have to be **celibate**.

Religious orders were prohibited, as was the worship of images of the **Virgin Mary** and saints.



CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

To achieve salvation, you must have **faith**, follow all precepts (commandments, sacraments, etc.) and do good works (pilgrimages, paying for indulgences, etc.).

The Church's interpretation of the Bible was the **only valid interpretation**. The Church's official Latin version was known as the **Vulgate Bible**.

Catholicism had **seven sacraments**: Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders.

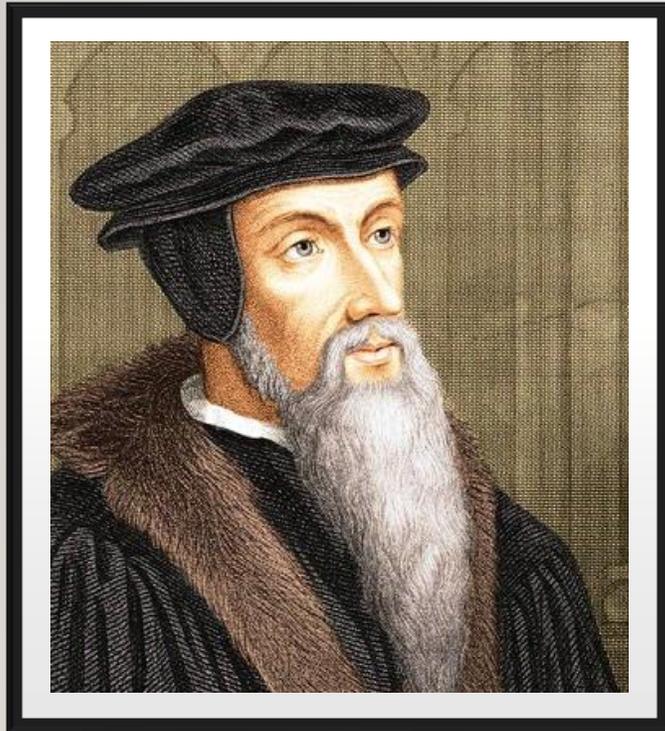


Leo X

The Catholic Church had a welldefined hierarchical structure separating the high and low clergy, with many different ranks whose members had to be celibate.

Religious and military orders, and worshipping the Virgin Mary and saints were **very important aspects of Catholicism**.

CALVINISM



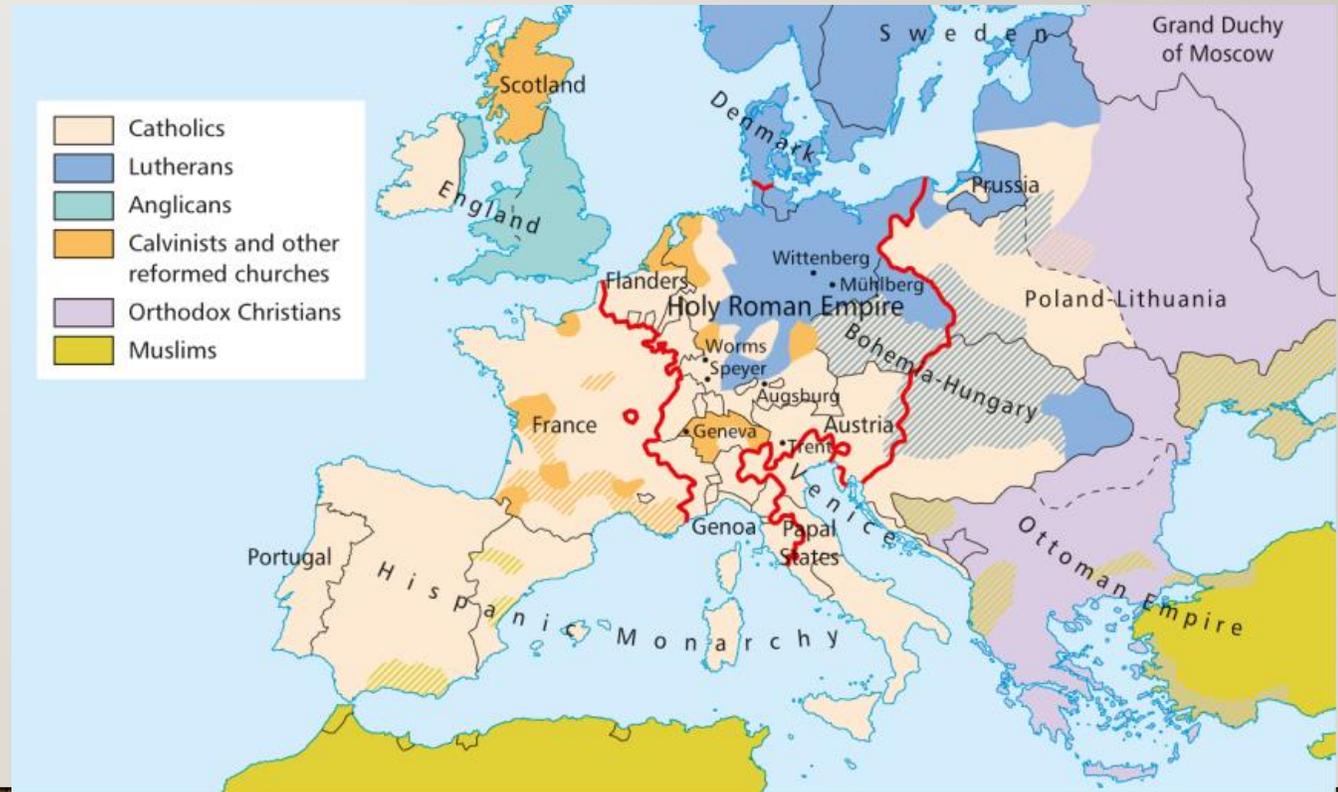
- Protestant ideas spread throughout Europe and reached the cantons of the Swiss Confederation, where they became even more radical. A French priest called **John Calvin** (1509–1564) established a theocracy in Geneva. This was a type of government based on the following principles:
 - **Strict adherence to the Bible**, as it was the only expression of God's will.
 - **Belief in predestination**: everyone is born predestined either to be saved or condemned.
 - **Humility and austerity**, although financial and social success were not punished.

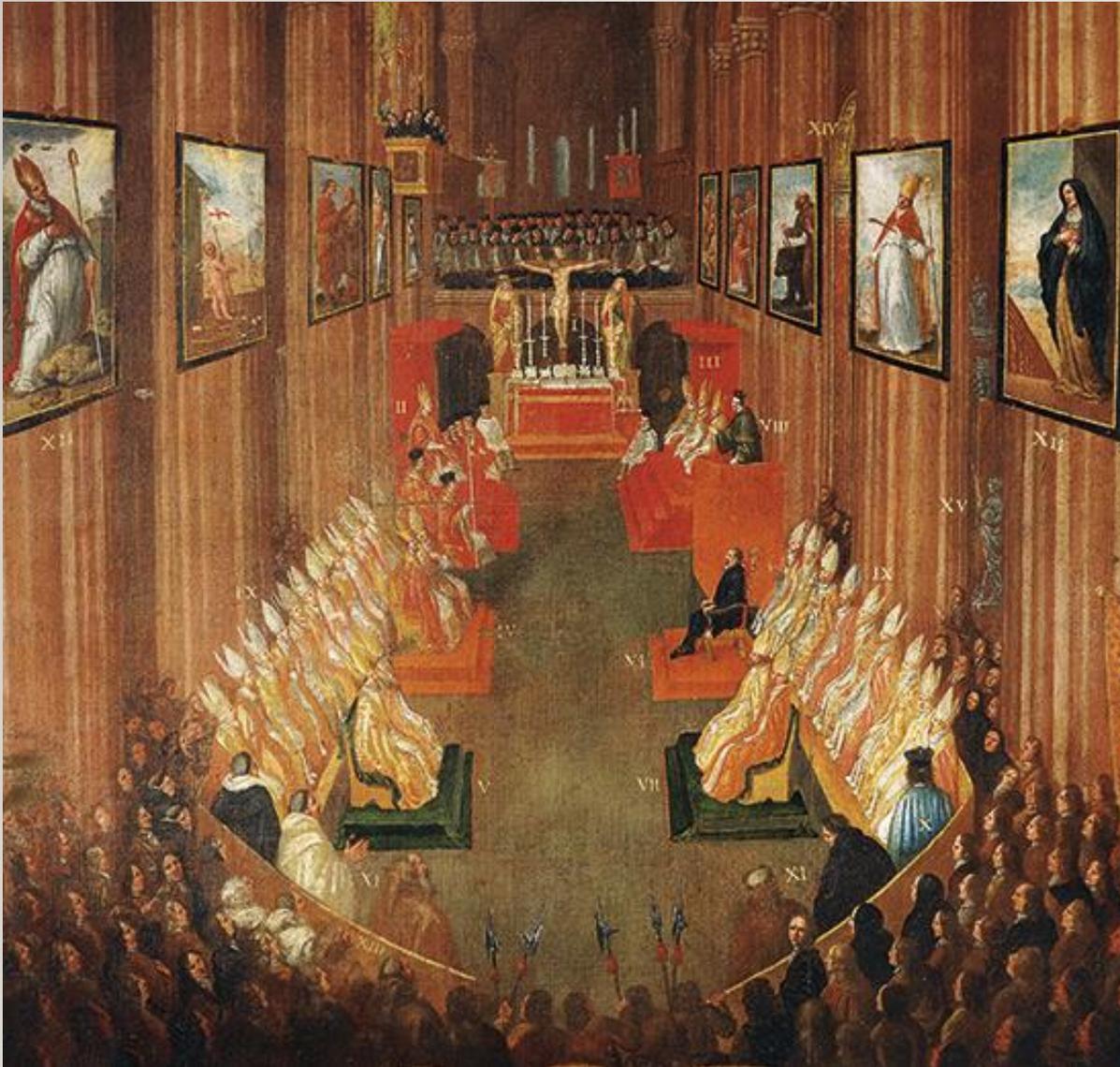
THE CATHOLIC REFORMATION: THE COUNTER-REFORMATION

- The Catholic Church tried to stop the spread of the Protestant Reformation by carrying out an **internal reform**, called the Counter-Reformation. The aim was to rectify problems and oppose Protestant doctrine.

The **Council of Trent** was held. During this meeting, a programme of changes was formulated both in response to the Protestant Reformation and to stop the crisis in the Catholic Church. The main agreements reached were:

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- The Church's hierarchical structure was reaffirmed, with the pope as its head. Catholic dogma (indisputable principles) was also reaffirmed. One of the most important principles was that salvation was achieved through faith and good works.
 - The Vulgate Bible was the only valid version, and the Catholic Church's interpretation of it was the only correct one.
 - The seven sacraments and worship of the Virgin Mary and saints were maintained.
 - Priests and the high clergy needed to have better discipline and training.





THE COUNCIL OF TRENT

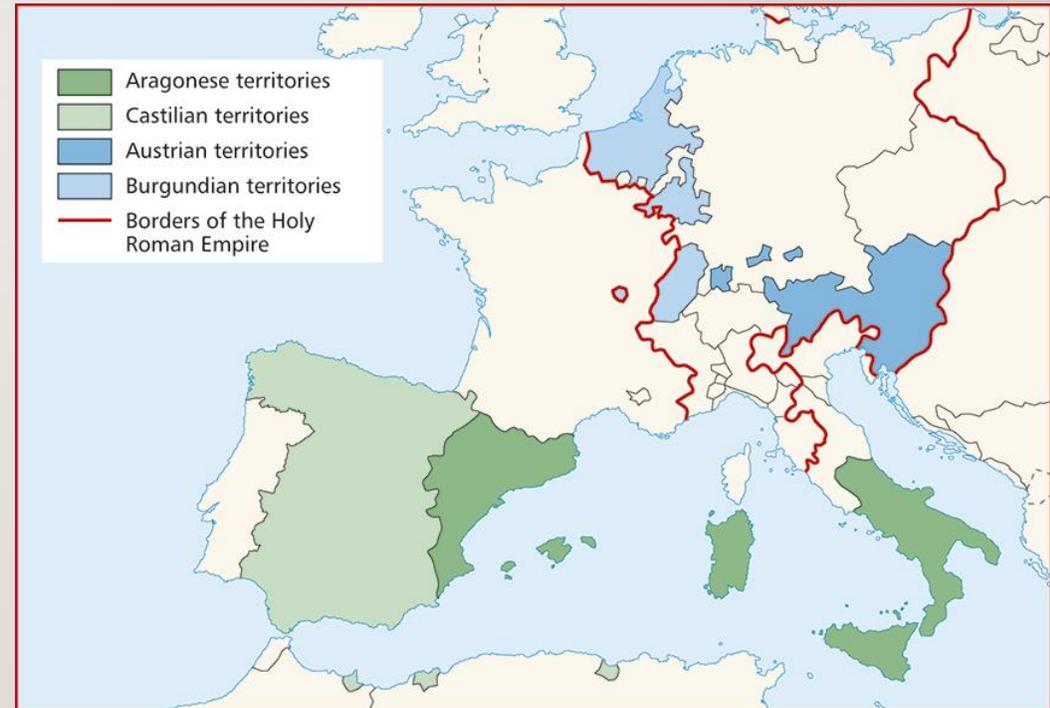
- The Council of Trent was a meeting that took place in the Italian city of Trent between 1545 and 1563. During this period there were 25 sessions of debate. The council was convened by Pope Paul III and brought together the Catholic Church's most important figures.

ACTIVITIES

- Write a list of the most frequent corrupt practices in the Church.
- How did the sale of indulgences affect the Church's spiritual authority?
- How did Lutheran doctrine and Catholic doctrine differ in terms of the interpretation of the Bible?

THE UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN EMPIRE OF CARLOS V

- There was **no real political unity** in this vast Empire, as the only thing the kingdoms had in common was the sovereign. The Empire included two key areas: **Flanders**, with its rich trade and craft sectors, and **Castilla**, whose important financial resources were reinforced by the arrival of precious metals from America.



- During his reign as Holy Roman Emperor, Carlos V was constantly engaged in wars:
- The Protestants in the Holy Roman Empire.
- France, because of its traditional hostility towards Aragón, Burgundy and Austria, now territories ruled by Carlos V. The French King Francis I also tried to become Holy Roman Emperor, but failed.
- The Ottoman Empire, which was expanding through the Balkans, threatening Austrian territories.
- The pope, who feared that the emperor would become the head of Christendom. His territories were also almost completely surrounded by those of Carlos V.



THE SPANISH MONARCHY UNDER FELIPE II

- Carlos V abdicated in 1556. His inheritance was divided between his brother **Fernando** and his son **Felipe II**. Fernando inherited the Habsburg Empire and the right to the imperial title, while **Felipe II** inherited the kingdoms of **Spain** and **Burgundy**. Felipe II reigned between 1556 and 1598.
- Because Castilla was the kingdom that made the greatest financial contribution to the Empire, Felipe II chose **Madrid as Spain's capital** in 1561. During his reign, he completed the implementation of a system of **monarchical government** started by the Catholic Monarchs which was **based on a system of councils**.

FIGHT FOR HEGEMONY AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

- **Felipe II was recognised as the King of Portugal** by the Portuguese Courts of Tomar in 1580. Portugal kept its own laws and government institutions. By incorporating all the Portuguese colonies into his kingdom, Felipe II gained an **Empire of global proportions**.
- Felipe II was able to maintain his international policy thanks to his powerful royal **armies**, funded by precious metals from America and money collected primarily in Castilla, although its funds were being exhausted.
- However, the conflicts were not resolved and this led to severe economic problems. The Royal Treasury went **bankrupt** on several occasions.

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- Tercios were military infantry units from the Habsburg army. Unlike other armies, consisting of mercenaries and **conscripts**, most members of the tercios were volunteers. Their formations were compact and mobile and they used firearms. The *tercios* revolutionized military strategy and played a key role in the military success of the Spanish monarchy.

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THE ECONOMY

- **Crop farming:** Non-irrigated cereal farming was the most important sector, particularly in inland areas. However, irrigated farming was more productive. The moriscos were masters of this technique, so it was used primarily in areas with larger morisco populations, such as the fertile plains of the Ebro and Granada, and the fertile, irrigated regions of Murcia and Valencia.
- **Livestock farming:** Since the Middle Ages, the Spanish kingdoms had been major producers of wool. This raw material was exported and was also supplied to artisans' workshops. Wool production was concentrated in the main mountain ranges.
- **Craftwork:** In the 16th century, cities such as Segovia, Burgos and Cuenca were important producers of cloth made from Castilian wool. This cloth was exported to the rest of Europe. Silk production was also important in Valencia, Granada, Córdoba and Zaragoza.
- **Trade:** Because of wool and cloth exports, there was a boom in Castilian trade fairs. These fairs also became important centres for currency exchange. In the Mediterranean, the port of Valencia played a key role in the export of raw materials and Valencian and Aragonese textiles.

