



Section 3

MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION

The Church at the Time of Luther

- Catholic preachers like Johann Tetzel would collect money to allow buyer to escape hell- called an indulgence
- Church was very involved in worldly affairs- wars, monarchies, etc
- People like Erasmus were calling out the Church
- Luther became concerned over Church teachings
- Tetzel made him get angry



Luther Starts the Reformation

- 10/1517- Martin Luther wrote 95 theses (arguments) about the Church's problems and posted them on the Church door in Wittenburg, Germany
- He said people could achieve salvation (go to heaven) based on faith, not good works
- Said a priest was just an officeholder, anyone could do what a priest did
- The Bible should be the only authority on Christianity- if the pope taught differently, you could disobey him
- 1521- Luther was labeled an outlaw but people like him too much so they never enforced it

The Reformation Succeeds

- Reformation- Luther's break with the Church and the movement it inspired
- Germans liked Luther's teachings
- German nobles resented the pope and power of Rome
- The poor were encouraged by Luther's teachings of equality
- 1520s- German peasants revolted- Luther spoke out against them- people should respect authority in nonreligious matters
- Lutheranism spread through Germany and into Sweden and Norway
- 1555 Peace of Augsburg- the Church allowed Lutherans to practice their religion

