






English Reformation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Martin Luther started the Reformation in 1517 by pounding his 95 Theses onto a church door in Wittenberg, Germany.• He insisted that the Bible alone was authoritative, as opposed to the teachings of men.• He insisted that we are saved through faith alone, as opposed to sacraments and religious rituals.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Calvin emphasized the idea of predestination, that we are all guilty of hell, but that God chooses some to be saved out of His divine grace—the <i>elect</i>.• When studying the Bible, Calvin emphasized the covenantal nature of God’s relationship with Israel. This led Calvinists to see their relationships with civic rulers as covenants (contracts) which they were not obligated to observe, if the rulers violated their rights.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Henry VIII was not opposed to Roman Catholic theology; in fact, he was awarded the title <i>Defender of the Faith</i> after writing a short book against Martin Luther.• He broke with Rome in 1533 when Rome refused to sanction his divorce from Catherine of Aragon and a subsequent marriage to Anne Boleyn.• The Anglican Church (Episcopalian in the United States) retained more of the Catholic religious symbols and rituals, than the Lutheran or Calvinist churches.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After the reign of Queen Mary 1 (“Bloody Mary”) from 1553-58 and the persecution of Protestants, the Religious Settlement of 1559 (during the reign of Elizabeth I) brought England back into the Protestant camp.• The <i>Act of Uniformity</i> insisted that Englishmen attend Anglican church services every Sunday.• The <i>Act of Supremacy</i> declared the English Church’s independence from Rome, and the monarch of England to be its head. It also included an oath of loyalty to the monarch.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two groups arose (within Protestantism) in opposition to the Anglican Church: Puritans who wanted to “purify” the Anglican church from within, and Nonconformists (or Dissenters), separatists who wanted to form their own churches.• For the most part, both groups were strongly Calvinist.• John Winthrop was a governor of the Plymouth Colony (later to become Massachusetts) who helped establish self-government by the American colonies in the early 1600s.