

The Reformation

Chapter 12: The Reformation · Topic 1

Key Concept

Martin Luther, a German monk, began the Reformation in 1517 by challenging Catholic Church practices, like the selling of indulgences, through his 95 Theses.

Luther argued for salvation through faith alone and the importance of the Bible over Church authority, ideas that spread rapidly with the printing press.

The Reformation led to the establishment of various Protestant denominations, breaking the Catholic Church's religious dominance in parts of Europe.

This religious upheaval had significant social and political consequences, including religious wars and lasting changes to European religious diversity.

Quick Revision Notes

- Martin Luther began the Reformation in 1517.
- He challenged Church practices like indulgences.
- He wrote the 95 Theses.
- Luther argued for salvation through faith alone.
- He emphasised the Bible over Church authority.
- The printing press spread these ideas rapidly.
- This led to Protestant denominations forming.
- It had major social and political consequences.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Martin Luther and the 95 Theses.
- 2 Discuss why Luther opposed indulgences.
- 3 Explain how the printing press helped the Reformation.
- 4 Research a Protestant denomination that emerged.
- 5 Discuss the consequences of the Reformation.
- 6 Create a timeline of the Reformation's key events.