

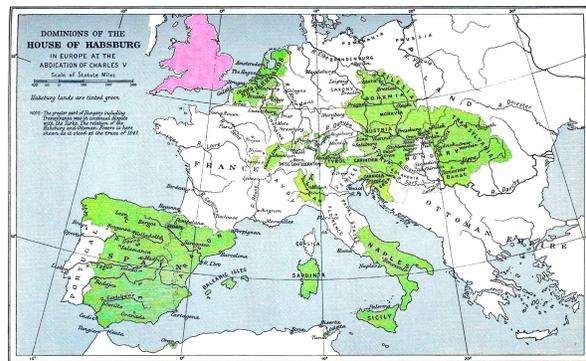
VII. The Reformation and Religious Wars (1517-1648)

A. Martin Luther's Challenge to the Pope

- In the early 1500s, the popes wished to construct a huge church in Rome, called St. Peter's.
- In order to pay for this project, Leo authorized the sale of special "indulgences" to Christians throughout Europe.
 - In Christianity, people hold the belief that when you die a part of you, called the "soul," continues to exist, and can go to "heaven."
 - It was believed that people who were not perfectly good (most people, of course!) had to wait to get to heaven in a place called "purgatory."
 - By obtaining an indulgence, it was believed that one's time, or the time of a loved one, in purgatory could be shortened. (In other words, an indulgence was a way of getting to heaven more quickly after death.)
 - To obtain an indulgence, one had to confess one's sins to a priest and demonstrate that one was truly sorry, and one had to pay a fee to the Church.
- A monk named Martin Luther, who lived in Wittenberg, Germany and who had dedicated his life to earning his way into heaven by being as perfectly religious as he could, was furious that people were being told they could buy their way into heaven.
- Luther wrote down his objections to the sale of indulgences in an essay that became known as the "Ninety-Five Theses". (He had ninety-five separate objections!) He posted these objections to the Church door in Wittenberg to make them public on October 31st, 1517.
- Pope Leo wrote Luther explaining why he thought Luther was wrong, but Luther burned the pope's response in public, and the pope excommunicated him.

B. Intervention of the Holy Roman Emperor

- In 1519, a new Holy Roman Emperor had been elected, named Charles V. Charles was the grandson of the joint rulers of Spain, Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile. He was also the son of the Hapsburg family of Austria, which had gradually become the most powerful family in the Holy Roman Empire after 1273. Charles's control over both Spain and much of central Europe made him the most powerful ruler of his time.
- Charles ordered Martin Luther to an imperial court, called a "diet," to answer for his defiance of the pope, in the city of Worms in Germany (the *Diet of Worms*!)
- Martin Luther refused to apologize or take back any of his views.



The marriage of the Austrian *Hapsburg* family, to the ruling family of Spain created a new empire. By marriage, this family was also joined to England (pink), thereby "sandwiching" France in the middle.

C. Lutheranism becomes an accepted form of Christianity in Europe (1555)

- Luther obtained the support of different German lords who created the Schmalkaldic League (in the town of Schmalkalden) to defend him.
- After a long war, the emperor gave up trying to destroy the Lutherans and he agreed to the Peace of Augsburg in **1555**, which applied the rule "*cuius regio, eius religio*" (the ruler chooses the religion—at least inside the Holy Roman Empire.)