The Simple AP® European History Unit 2 Cheat Sheet

2.1–2.2 Luther & the Protestant Reformation

Causes

Church problems: corrupt & poorly trained clergy, and popes who lived like wealthy princes.
Indulgences: Tetzel sold them to raise money for building St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.
Helpers: the printing press, Christian humanism & German anger at money sent to Rome.

Luther's Break

95 Theses (1517): Luther attacks indulgences; printed copies spread across Germany fast.
Diet of Worms (1521): Luther refuses to take back his ideas & is declared an outlaw.
Protection: Frederick the Wise hides him; Luther translates the New Testament into German.
Excommunicated (1521): the pope expelled Luther from the Church after he refused to obey.

Core Beliefs

Issue	Luther	Catholic
Salvation	Faith alone	Faith + works
Authority	Bible alone	Bible + tradition
Sacraments	2	7
Clergy	Can marry	Celibate

Priesthood of all believers: every Christian can read the Bible & pray to God directly.

⚠ Luther first wanted to REFORM the Church, not split it. The break came after Rome rejected him.

✓ The printing press is key evidence for why Luther's ideas spread so fast across Europe.

2.2 Reformation Politics in the Holy Roman Empire

Why Princes Backed Luther

Power & money: princes could control their own churches, take church land & keep taxes.
Weak emperor: the HRE had ~300 states, so the emperor couldn't force them all to agree.

Charles V

Charles V: Catholic Habsburg emperor who ruled Spain, the HRE & the Netherlands at once.
Too busy: wars w/ France & the Ottomans kept him from stopping Luther's ideas early on.

Peasants' War (1524–25)

Revolt: peasants used Luther's ideas about Christian freedom to demand better treatment.
Luther's answer: he sided w/ the princes, who crushed the revolt; ~100,000 peasants died.

Peace of Augsburg (1555)

Year	Event
1530	Augsburg Confession
1531	Schmalkaldic League
1546–47	Schmalkaldic War
1555	Peace of Augsburg

Rule: each prince chose Lutheran or Catholic for his land ("whose realm, his religion").

⚠ Augsburg gave choice to PRINCES, not people. Subjects had to follow the faith or move away.

✓ Princes gaining power is a strong political cause to use in Reformation essays.

2.3 Calvin & the Radical Reformation

Zwingli

Zwingli (Zurich): removed images from churches; split w/ Luther over the meaning of communion.

Calvinism

John Calvin: French reformer who wrote the *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (1536).
Predestination: God has already chosen who is saved (the **elect**) & who is not saved.
Geneva: Calvin's model city where church leaders strictly controlled people's behavior.
Work ethic: Calvinists valued hard work, thrift & a disciplined life as signs of being saved.
Spread: Calvinism became the most international Protestant faith across Europe by 1600.

Region	Calvinist group
France	Huguenots
Scotland	Presbyterians
Netherlands	Dutch Reformed
England	Puritans

Anabaptists

Beliefs: baptize adults only, keep church & state separate, refuse to fight in any war.
Münster (1534–35): radical Anabaptists took over a city until armies crushed them by force.
Persecution: attacked by both Catholics & Protestants; later groups include the Mennonites.

⚠ Calvinists often resisted kings (Huguenots, Dutch); Lutherans usually obeyed their princes.

✓ Anabaptists show how far some reformers went: they wanted church & state fully separate.

2.3 The English Reformation

Henry VIII's Break

Motive: Henry VIII wanted a son & an annulment of his marriage to Catherine of Aragon.
Pope says no: the pope was under the control of Charles V, who was Catherine's nephew.
Act of Supremacy (1534): the king became head of the new Church of England (Anglican).
Monasteries closed: Henry took church lands & sold them to nobles, winning their support.
Beliefs: Henry kept most Catholic teachings; his break w/ Rome was about power, not faith.

Tudor Religion Changes

Ruler	Religion
Henry VIII	Anglican, Catholic-ish
Edward VI	Protestant
Mary I	Catholic
Elizabeth I	Moderate Anglican

Edward VI: made England Protestant w/ the English-language *Book of Common Prayer* (1549).
Mary I: brought back Catholicism & burned ~280 Protestants, earning the name "Bloody Mary."

Elizabeth I

Middle way: Protestant beliefs mixed w/ Catholic-style bishops & ceremony to keep peace.
Spanish Armada (1588): England defeated Catholic Spain's invasion fleet & stayed Protestant.

⚠ England's Reformation started at the TOP for political reasons, not as a popular movement.

✓ Elizabeth used religion to keep the country stable. Compare her w/ Henry IV in France.

2.4 Wars of Religion

France

Wars of Religion (1562–98): French Calvinists (Huguenots) fought Catholics for control.
St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre (1572): thousands of Huguenots were killed.
Henry IV: a Huguenot who became Catholic to rule, saying "Paris is well worth a Mass."
Edict of Nantes (1598): gave Huguenots the right to worship in certain towns & cities.

Spain & the Dutch

Philip II: Catholic king of Spain; his Armada attacking England failed in 1588.
Dutch Revolt: Calvinist Dutch rebelled against Spanish taxes & rule; the north won freedom.

Thirty Years' War (1618–48)

Phase	Turning point
Bohemian	Defenestration of Prague, 1618
Danish	Habsburgs win
Swedish	Gustavus Adolphus wins
French	Catholic France vs. HRE

Damage: up to 1/3 of Germany's people died from war, hunger & disease during the fighting.
Peace of Westphalia (1648): Calvinism allowed; German states gain power; HRE weakened.

⚠ After 1648, wars were fought for STATE interests, not religion. This is a key turning point.

✓ Catholic France helped Protestant Sweden, showing that politics mattered more than faith.

2.5 The Catholic Reformation

Council of Trent (1545–63)

Trent did this	Examples
Reaffirmed doctrine	Faith + works, 7 sacraments
Kept authority	Scripture + tradition, Vulgate
Fixed abuses	Ended indulgence sellers
Trained clergy	Seminaries in each diocese

No compromise: Trent rejected Protestant ideas & made Catholic beliefs clear & firm.
Better priests: bishops had to live in their areas & new seminaries trained priests well.

New Religious Orders

Jesuits: founded by Ignatius of Loyola (1534); loyal to the pope, ran schools & missions.
Missions: Jesuits like Francis Xavier spread Catholicism to Asia & the Americas.
Ursulines: an order of nuns started by Angela Merici to educate girls in the faith.
Teresa of Ávila: Spanish nun who reformed her order & focused on deep personal prayer.

Enforcement

Roman Inquisition (1542): church court that tried people suspected of holding heresy.
Index of Prohibited Books: list of banned books, including Protestant works & some Erasmus.

⚠ 2 sides: internal REFORM (better priests) + COUNTER-attack (Jesuits, Index, Inquisition).

✓ Trent ended the SALE of indulgences, not indulgences themselves. Be precise on the exam.

2.6–2.7 Society, Politics & Art

Family & Society

Marriage: Protestants praised marriage & family life over staying single as a priest or nun.
Women: convents closed in Protestant lands, but more girls learned to read the Bible.
Schools: Protestant & Jesuit schools spread across Europe, so literacy rose steadily.
Witch hunts (c. 1580–1650): tens of thousands were killed, most of them women, often poor.
Price Revolution: silver from the Americas & a growing population caused rising prices.

Religion & Politics

Rulers decide: kings & princes chose their land's religion; dissent looked like rebellion.
Nobles: used religion to resist kings, like Huguenot nobles in France & princes in the HRE.

Art: Mannerism & Baroque

Style	Traits	Artists
Mannerism	Stretched, tense	El Greco
Baroque	Dramatic, emotional	Bernini, Caravaggio
Dutch	Everyday life	Rembrandt

Baroque: the Catholic Church used dramatic, emotional art to inspire faith & awe.

⚠ Baroque art supported the Catholic Reformation by pulling people back.

✓ Witch hunts were worst in divided, war-torn areas full of fear & religious conflict.

2.8 Causation & Exam Strategy

Causes of the Reformation

Type	Cause
Religious	Abuses, indulgences
Political	Princes want power
Economic	Taxes sent to Rome
Intellectual	Humanism, printing

Trigger: the indulgence sale of 1517; **long-term**: centuries of church problems & critics.

Effects

Religious: Western Christianity split for good; the Catholic Church renewed itself at Trent.
Political: rulers gained control over churches; after 1648, state interest ruled diplomacy.
Social: literacy & schools grew; family life was praised; witch hunts spread in many areas.
Cultural: Bibles in local languages, Baroque art & new Protestant hymns spread widely.

Exam Tips

LEQ: rank causes, like religion vs. politics, & back each one w/ specific evidence.
DBQ: explain each author's point of view (Luther, the pope, a prince) & their purpose.
SAQ: name a specific event & date (Peace of Augsburg, 1555), then explain why it matters.

⚠ Don't say the Reformation was only about religion. Strong answers include politics & money.

✓ Know the key pairs: Luther vs. Calvin, Augsburg vs. Westphalia, Henry vs. Elizabeth.