Looking at the Language of Resistance and Reform

Practice 1: Categorizing New Words

**Step 1: Directions:** What do each of these terms mean? Discuss with your partner

UNIT 7 | Transformation of Western Europe and Russia | SQ 10: What effect did Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Elizabeth I have on political and religious unity in Europe?
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Who was Martin Luther? What impact did his ideas have on political and religious unity in Europe?

➡ Directions: Read the excerpt below, then complete each of the activities below.
Martin Luther was a German monk and religious reformer who is credited for sparking the Protestant Reformation in the 16th century. Martin Luther was born into a world dominated by the Catholic Church, which held spiritual and political authority over all the nations of Europe. Martin Luther vowed to become a monk and devote his life to the Church’s promise of salvation [saving a soul from hell]. After Martin Luther entered the monastery, he started to doubt that the Church could offer him salvation. During a visit to Rome, the center of the Catholic Church, he found corruption and a lack of spirituality. Luther realized that many of the things he believed about the Church were not true. As time progressed, he encountered more examples of his growing doubts in the Church.
1. Why did Martin Luther begin to doubt the Church?

In 1516, Johann Tetzel, a Dominican friar and papal commissioner for indulgences, was sent to Germany by the Roman Catholic Church to sell indulgences to raise money to rebuild St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Indulgences were pieces of paper issued by the Catholic Church that forgave sins so one's soul could quickly go to heaven when they died. Indulgences implied that the rich could buy their way into heaven while the poor could not if they were unable to pay for indulgences. Upon hearing the news that Tetzel was preaching that people could be forgiven by paying for indulgences, Luther was deeply troubled and irritated. In response to the sale of indulgences, on October 31, 1517, Luther drafted a set of propositions and questions as an academic debate on indulgences at the university in Wittenberg. This document became known as the 95 Theses. Some historians note that he nailed these 95 Theses to the door of the All Saints' Church in Wittenberg. Luther also sent the 95 Theses to Johann Tetzel's superior, Archbishop Albert of Mainz, and requested that the Archbishop stop Tetzel’s preaching and selling of indulgences. Luther circulated these ideas by sending copies to his friends. The spread of his ideas about indulgences benefitted from a revolutionary technology: the printing press. The printing press allowed for quicker production of text, like books and pamphlets, as well as the ability to duplicate in the thousands. A single pamphlet would be carried from one town to another, where it could be further duplicated. Within three months, Luther's 95 Theses had spread through Europe.

2. Why were indulgences collected?

3. What were the 95 Theses?

4. What technology allowed the 95 Theses to spread through Europe so quickly?
The Church was not pleased about the quick circulation of Luther’s beliefs and his **defiance** of the Church. In response, by October 1518, at a meeting with Cardinal Thomas Cajetan in Augsburg, Martin Luther was ordered to **recant** his 95 Theses by the authority of the pope. Luther refused to recant his ideas unless **biblical scripture** proved him wrong. He did not stop there. He also stated that he didn’t believe the pope had the authority to interpret scripture [holy writing]. Throughout 1519, Luther continued to lecture and write in Wittenberg and spread his ideas. In June and July of that year, he publicly declared that the Bible did not give the pope the exclusive right to interpret scripture. This direct attack on the authority of the **papacy** illustrated that Luther was invested in challenging the authority of the Church and the control it had over how people thought. In January 1521, Martin Luther was officially excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church. Excommunication meant that Luther was not allowed to participate in the sacraments and services of the Catholic Church, which according to the Church, would condemn his soul to hell when he died.

5. **How did the Church respond to Martin Luther’s beliefs?**

6. **What were Martin Luther’s views about the Bible?**

7. **What did the Church do to Martin Luther in 1521? Why?**

On May 8, 1521, the Catholic Church released the **Edict of Worms.** Worms is a city in Germany. The Edict declared Luther an outlaw and “convicted **heretic,**” **censored** Luther by **banning** his literature, and required his arrest. The Edict also made it a crime for anyone in Germany to give Luther food or shelter. Lastly, it permitted anyone to kill Luther without legal punishment. Friends helped him hide out at the Wartburg Castle in Germany. While in seclusion, he translated the New Testament into the German language to give ordinary people the opportunity to read the Bible without having to rely on the Church’s interpretation.

8. **What is the Edict of Worms?**

9. **What effect did the Edict of Worms have on the life of Martin Luther?**

10. **What did Martin Luther do when he was in seclusion? Why did he do this?**
Martin Luther returned to Wittenberg Castle Church, in Eisenach, in May 1522. Miraculously, he was able to avoid capture and organized a new church, the Lutheran Church. He gained many followers and was supported by German princes. The spread of his ideas and the start of his Lutheran Church fractured the Roman Catholic Church into new sects of Christianity. These new sects freed themselves from a reliance on the pope and the Catholic Church as the only source of religious knowledge. Politically and religiously, Europe grew less unified as more diverse religious thoughts developed and new Church denominations formed.

13. What impact did the formation of the Lutheran Church have on political and religious unity in Europe?
John Calvin

- 1509-1564
- French supporter of Martin Luther
- 1536: published a book with his religious beliefs
- Started the Calvinist Church which believed:
  - predestination: the belief that God had determined before the beginning of time who would gain salvation and go to heaven
  - lifestyle: strict, disciplined, frugal

Elizabeth I

- Queen of England (1558-1603)
- Tried to create a compromise between the Catholic church and new Protestant beliefs
  - She was a Protestant, but allowed Catholic religious symbols
  - Reduced religious conflict
SQ 10: What effect did Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Elizabeth I have on political and religious unity in Europe?