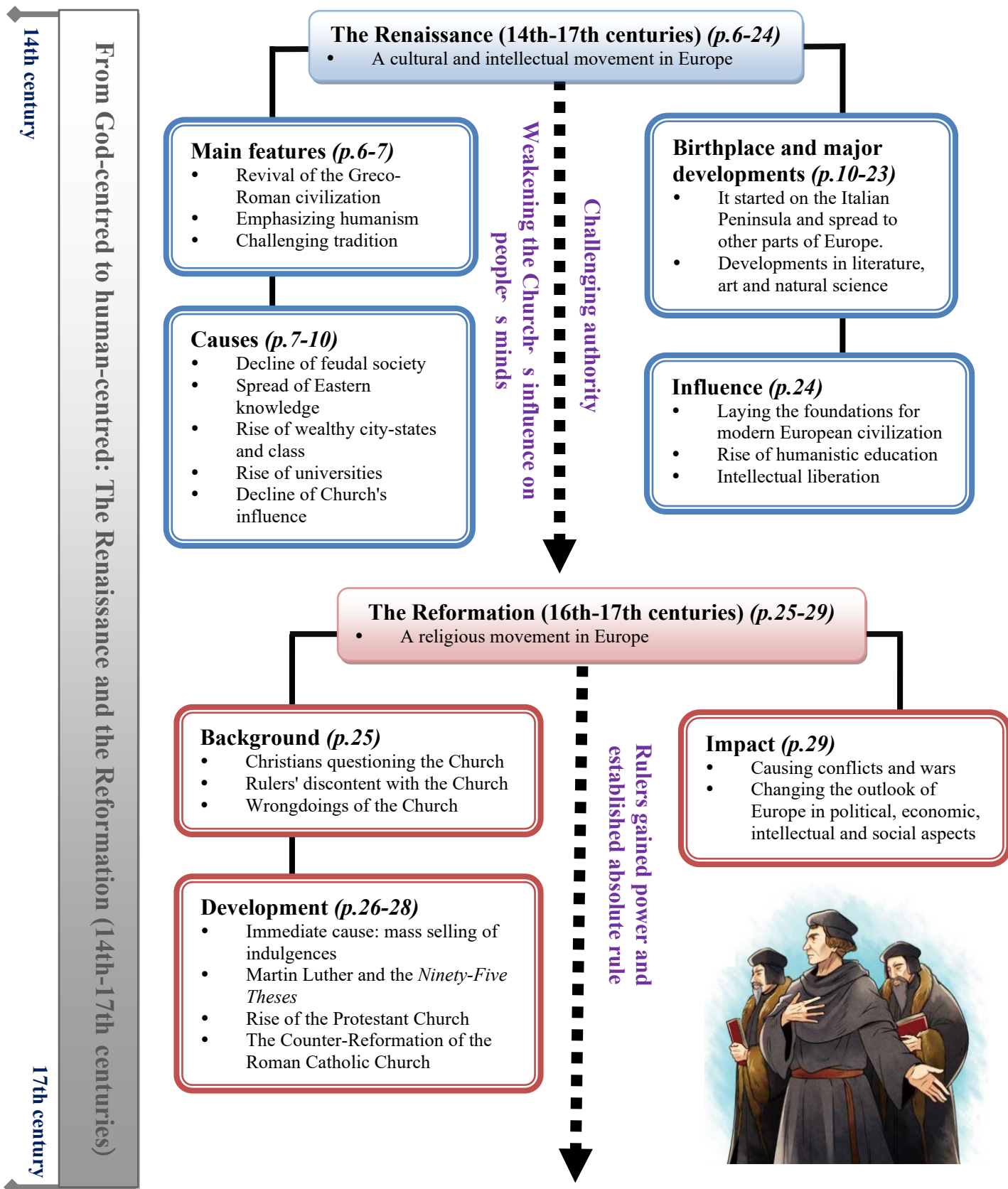




CONCEPT MAP



**A. From God-centred to human-centred:
The Renaissance and the Reformation**

Guiding Questions

- What were the Renaissance and the Reformation?
- What changes did they make to Europe (particularly in thoughts) at that time?

1. The Renaissance

(a) What was the Renaissance?

- The Renaissance
 - means 'revival' or 'rebirth', and refers to the revival of the ancient Greco-Roman civilization;
 - refers to the cultural and intellectual movement that took place in Europe between the 14th and 17th century (late Medieval times);
 - first started in Italy and later spread throughout Europe.
- Europeans of the time innovated and carried forward the classical civilization.
- The Renaissance laid foundations for the development of modern European civilization.
- The Renaissance was also the transitional period from Medieval Times to Modern Times.

(b) Main features of the Renaissance

(i) Revival of the ancient Greco-Roman civilization

- Europeans were keen to revive the ancient Greco-Roman civilization.
- They studied and applied the Greco-Roman theories and art styles to their works.

(ii) Emphasizing humanism

- Europeans were no longer God-centred but were more concerned with worldly affairs.
- They regarded humans as the centre of the universe. Humans should have independent thinking and develop their capacities.
- This human-centred idea was known as 'humanism'.

(iii) Challenging tradition

- Influenced by humanism, Europeans stressed the spirit of inquiry and rational thinking.
- They challenged traditional ideas and Church teachings, and proposed new ideas.
- Many important scientific discoveries and inventions were made.

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(c) Causes of the Renaissance

(i) Decline of feudal society

- The feudal society declined during late Medieval Times.
- Many peasants left their manors and lived in towns.
- They became freemen and thus had greater freedom and more time for art and learning.
- This helped bring about the Renaissance.

(ii) Spread of Eastern knowledge

- Arab scholars in Medieval Times had a good knowledge of science, mathematics, medicine and astronomy. Arab civilization was more advanced than European civilization.
- European Christians started the Crusades between the 11th and 13th centuries. It encouraged the exchange of knowledge between Europe and the Arab world.
 - Arabs' studies and the legacies of ancient civilizations the Arab scholars preserved were brought to Europe through the Crusades.
 - This broadened Europeans' horizons and revived their interest in ancient Greco-Roman art and learning.

(iii) Rise of wealthy city-states and class

- From the 11th century onwards, ports and towns on the routes of the Crusades developed rapidly.
- Many Italian city-states became major trading centres between Europe and Asia.
- Wealthy merchants and bankers emerged in Italy and other European countries.
 - They were concerned with worldly life, and had money to support art and science. This helped the development of the Renaissance.

(iv) Rise of universities

- Since the 12th century, universities built by the government or merchants had emerged in European towns. Education was no longer solely controlled by the Church.
 - University students studied subjects other than Biblical teachings, such as medicine, law and philosophy in a free environment. This broadened their horizons.
- The universities also kept many books related to the ancient Greco-Roman civilization. This encouraged scholars and students to find out more about it.

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(v) Decline of the Church's influence

- Europeans gained new knowledge at universities and from the advanced Arab civilization.
 - They started to question the teachings of the Church.
 - This weakened the influence of the Church on people's minds.
- The failure of the Crusades further undermined the prestige of the Church.
 - Some European rulers refused to pay taxes to it and openly defied the pope.
 - The political influence of the Church declined constantly.

(d) Birthplace and major developments of the Renaissance

(i) Birthplace

- The Renaissance started on the Italian Peninsula and spread to other parts of Europe.
- The Italian Peninsula was the birthplace of the ancient Roman civilization.
 - It preserved many valuable ancient Roman legacies.
- The Italian Peninsula had many rich city-states.
 - The wealthy class supported the work of artists and scholars.

(ii) Developments in literature

- During the Renaissance, changes were first made in literature.
- Before the Renaissance, literary works were mostly related to religion, including biographies of saints, prayers and hymns. They were written in Latin.
 - Only priests and scholars could read and compose these works.
- Renaissance writers were influenced by humanism.
 - They made use of ancient Greco-Roman literary skills and wrote about worldly people, affairs and things.
 - They wrote many poems, novels and plays.
 - Many writers wrote in their native languages. Literature became popular.

Type	Representative	Profile
Poems	Dante (1265-1321)	Italian writer Dante was regarded as a pioneer in European literature. His book, the <i>Divine Comedy</i> , was written in Italian. He described his travels to Heaven and Hell in this book. He also pointed out the social inequality at the time.

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Novels	Boccaccio (1313-1375)	Italian writer Boccaccio wrote realistic novels, the style of which greatly influenced Western literature. In the <i>Decameron</i> , he wrote about a group of young people fleeing from a plague in Florence. They passed their time by telling stories about the wrongdoings of the Church and man.
Plays	Shakespeare (1564-1616)	Shakespeare was the most representative Renaissance playwright. He wrote many famous plays in English, such as <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> , <i>Hamlet</i> , <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> and <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> . They explored different aspects of human life.

(iii) Developments in art

■ Paintings

- Medieval paintings were mainly about religion. Their style was not realistic.
- Renaissance paintings had diverse themes. Their style was more three-dimensional and realistic as new techniques of perspective and shadowing were used.
- Some painters even studied the human body and painted lifelike human body and facial expressions.
- Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael were known as the 'three master artists'.

The three master artists	Profile
Leonardo da Vinci (Italian)	He made use of the techniques of perspective, light and shadowing in his paintings which were lifelike. His most famous works include the <i>Mona Lisa</i> and the <i>Last Supper</i> .
Michelangelo (Italian)	He was good at showing detailed body movements and facial expressions in his paintings. He painted scenes from the <i>Bible</i> on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and later the <i>Last Judgement</i> on the wall of the chapel.
Raphael (Italian)	He studied the works of da Vinci and Michelangelo and developed his own style. His paintings were famous for their harmony, joy and gracefulness. His most famous work is the <i>School of Athens</i> . His other works are mainly about Christianity.

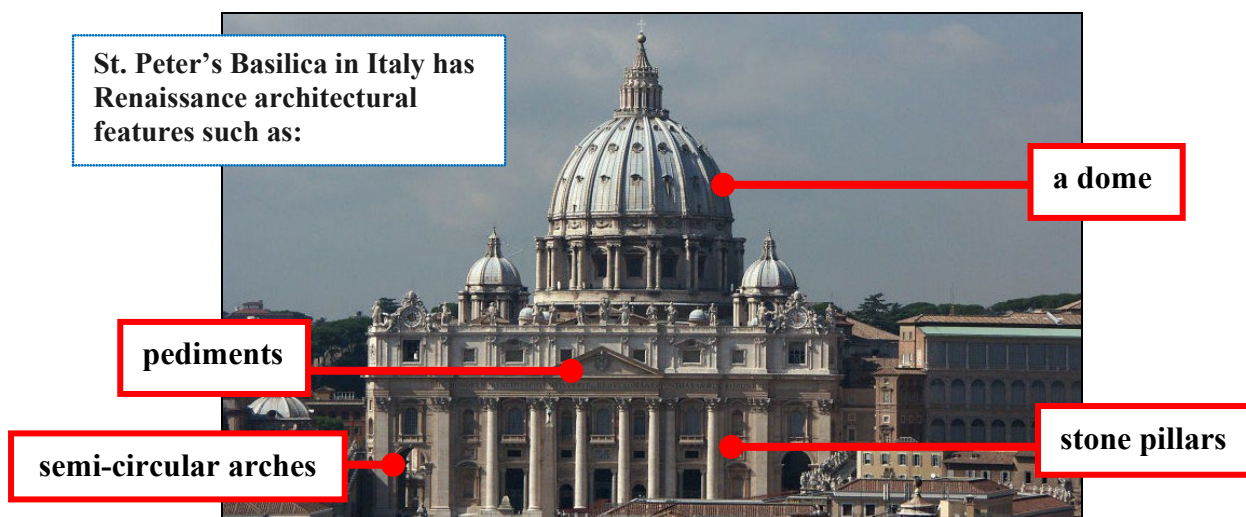
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■ **Sculptures**

- Religion was the main theme of sculptures during early Medieval Times.
- Although Renaissance sculptors still made sculptures with themes from the *Bible*, they focused on the facial expressions and body movements of figures under the influence of humanism.
- Renaissance sculptures were famous for their realism.
 - Sculptors studied the human body and ancient Greco-Roman sculptures in detail. They made use of light and shadow to create lifelike figures, body movements and facial expressions.

■ **Architecture**

- Early medieval buildings were mainly built in the Gothic style.
- Gothic buildings had tall pointed towers, pointed arches, flying buttresses and stained glasses.
 - Christians believed that tall pointed towers brought them closer to God.
- Renaissance architects believed that buildings should be proportional, harmonious and rational which mirrored the beauty of human body. They revived the ancient Greco-Roman architectural style.
 - Renaissance buildings are characterized by stone pillars, pediments, semi-circular arches and domes;
 - Colonnades were built around symmetrical plazas.



(iv) **Developments in natural science**

- The Church had translated many classics of ancient science, and integrated them with theology to explain the universe.
 - One example was the well-known 'geocentrism'.

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- It also claimed that diseases were God's punishments and prohibited dissections of the 'sacred' human body.
- During the Renaissance, European scholars studied original ancient Greek classics.
 - They found many differences from the Church's translation.
 - They started to verify the ancient theories through observation and research, which was known as a spirit of 'scientific inquiry'.

■ Discoveries in medicine

- Renaissance scholars carried out experiments to discover the real causes of diseases.
 - Fracastoro conducted experiments and proved that diseases were spread by bacteria which bred on decayed matter.
 - Vesalius dissected dead human bodies, and described in detail the human skeleton, organs and muscles in his book.

■ Discoveries in astronomy

- Copernicus proposed the theory of heliocentrism, stating that the Sun was the centre of the universe.
- Galileo made telescopes to observe the universe. He also carried out experiments and affirmed heliocentrism.

Major developments during the Renaissance

	Early Medieval Times (God-centred)	The Renaissance (Human-centred)	Representative people / works
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mostly biographies of saints, prayers and hymns• Written in Latin by priests and scholars	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Influenced by humanism, concerned with worldly people, affairs and things• Written in native languages, so that more people could read them	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dante's poems, Boccaccio's novels and Shakespeare's plays
Art	Paintings and sculptures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• About religion	Paintings and sculptures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Had diverse themes and developed new techniques• Showed people, affairs and things in a three-dimensional way	Paintings and sculptures <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The three master artists: Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Raphael

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	Architecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mainly Gothic style, brought people closer to God through tall pointed towers 	Architecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Buildings should be as beautiful as the human body – correctly proportional Revived the ancient Greco-Roman architectural style 	Architecture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Peter's Basilica
Natural science	Astronomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church supported 'geocentrism' 	Astronomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholars questioned 'geocentrism', and proposed new astronomical theories and based on inquiry and observation 	Astronomy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copernicus' heliocentrism and Galileo's telescope
	Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Church stated that diseases were God's punishment The human body was sacred and could not be dissected 	Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scholars started to dissect dead human bodies, and discovered many new medical theories and treatments for diseases 	Medicine <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fracastoro's theories about infectious diseases Vesalius' discoveries in anatomy

(e) Influence of the Renaissance

(i) Laying the foundation for modern European civilization

- During the Renaissance, Europeans revived the ancient Greco-Roman civilization and made great achievements in various areas.
 - European civilization developed rapidly.
- The Renaissance laid the foundations for modern European civilization.

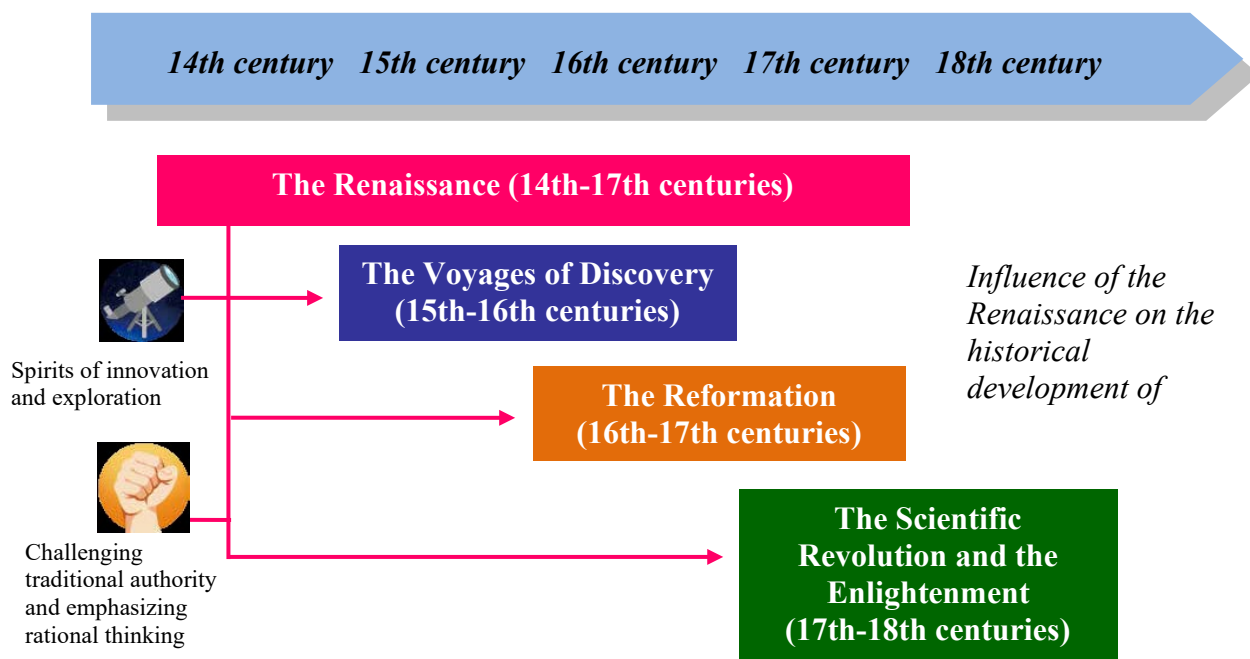
(ii) Rise of humanistic education

- Influenced by humanism, Renaissance scholars stated that the aim of education was not to train clergy but talented 'Renaissance man'.
- More people went to non-church schools to acquire worldly knowledge.
 - This helped develop European education and culture.

(iii) Intellectual liberation

- The Renaissance freed the minds of Europeans. They no longer obeyed traditional authority blindly, and valued rational thinking and spirit of exploration.

- This led to the Reformation, the Voyages of Discovery, the Scientific Revolution and the Enlightenment.
 - All these are regarded as milestones in the rise of modern Europe, with the Renaissance as a starting point.



2. The Reformation

- The Reformation was a religious movement in Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries, including the split of the Christian Church and reforms of the Roman Catholic Church.
 - The Reformation changed various aspects of European traditions.

(a) Background of the Reformation

(i) Christians questioning the Church

- During the Renaissance, Christians studied and emended the early copies of the *Bible*.
 - They found inaccuracies in the Latin *Bible* and the Church had misinterpreted some Christian doctrines.

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- In 1516, Dutch theologian Erasmus published the original Greek version of the *New Testament*.
 - Many Europeans including the leader of the Reformation, Martin Luther, subsequently found out more misinterpretations made by the Church.

(ii) Rulers' discontent with the Church

- In medieval Europe, the Church had great influence on politics.
- During late Medieval Times, strong kings emerged.
 - They were discontented with the Church and wanted to regain their powers.

(iii) Wrongdoings of the Church

- In late Medieval Times, the Church became corrupt.
- It ran casinos and sold 'indulgences'.
- It claimed that indulgences could reduce the sufferings of the purchasers and their relatives in purgatory.
 - This became the spark that set off the Reformation.

(b) Development of the Reformation

(i) Immediate cause: mass selling of indulgences

- In early 1517, the Church sold massive indulgences to raise money for building St. Peter's Basilica.
- Some clergy in German states even exaggerated the function of indulgences.
 - This angered many German theologians.

(ii) Martin Luther and the *Ninety-Five Theses*

- In October 1517, German priest Martin Luther posted the '*Ninety-Five Theses*' on a cathedral.
 - He stressed that people could only be redeemed through faith in God.
 - He criticized the corruption of the Church and priests, and raised the issue of indulgences for discussion.
- Martin Luther wrote the *Ninety-Five Theses* in Latin.
 - It was soon translated into German and spread throughout the German states.
- The *Ninety-Five Theses* was further translated into different languages and sparked strong reactions from the people of Europe.
 - This led to the Reformation.

Key points of the ' <i>Ninety-Five Theses</i> '
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✧ People could only be redeemed through faith in God.✧ Only God can forgive people's sins. The Pope does not have this power.✧ Selling or buying indulgences is a sin. It is a false promise for followers who want to enter Heaven.

(iii) Rise of the Protestant Church

- The ideas of Martin Luther seriously hindered the revenues of indulgences and the Church's prestige.
 - In 1521, Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Church.
- German nobles and people, however, supported Martin Luther.
 - Martin Luther set up a new sect 'Lutheranism'.
- More new sects, including Calvinism and the Anglican Church, were established.
- These sects were known as Protestantism.
- Some European rulers even withdrew from the Roman Catholic Church and made Protestantism their official religions.

(iv) The Counter-Reformation of the Roman Catholic Church

- To restore its prestige the Roman Catholic Church started the Counter-Reformation.
 - The Church suppressed the Protestant Church and carried out reforms.
 - Rulers who still followed the Church were granted more rights to autonomy in religious affairs.
 - The Church banned the sale of indulgences and recognized some societies to promote its image.

(c) Impact of the Reformation

(i) Causing conflicts and wars

- The Reformation split Christianity into the Roman Catholic Church and the Protestant Church.
- Between the 16th and 17th centuries, religious differences led to political instability and even military conflicts within Europe.
 - The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) was regarded as the first great war in modern Europe.

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Protestant and Catholic countries or regions in Europe in 1648

(ii) Changing the outlook of Europe

■ Political aspect

- The Roman Catholic Church was weakened.
- Many European rulers separated religion from politics.
 - They regained power from the Church.
 - They gradually established absolute rule.

■ Economic aspect

- Protestantism, like humanism, stressed worldly life.
 - It encouraged followers to glorify God by working hard.
- This thinking favoured the economic development of Europe (especially in Protestant countries).

■ Intellectual and social aspects

- Protestantism advocated religious tolerance and freedom. It also encouraged public meetings.
 - These sowed the ideological seeds of liberty and democracy in modern Europe.
- The Protestant Church used education as a way to preach.
 - It built schools and taught in relatively simple languages. It also taught new subjects like natural science.
 - Education became more popular in Europe and the educational standard of Europeans improved.

How the Reformation changed the outlook of Europe :

Political aspect



Promoted the separation of religion and politics

Economic aspect



Encouraged Europeans to be more concerned about their daily work

Intellectual and social aspects



- **Helped develop the ideas of liberty and democracy in modern Europe**
- **Protestant schools raised the educational standard of Europeans**