THE CATHOLIC COUNTER-REFORMATION
Review Protestant Reformation

- Lutheranism
- Calvinism
- Anglican Church
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3EGzHsye71c
Reaction to the Protestant Reformation

• As Protestantism swept across many parts of Europe, the Catholic Church reacted by making limited reforms and curbing earlier abuses.
  • This movement is known as the Counter-Reformation

• At the Council of Trent, the Church redefined Catholic beliefs and ended the sale of indulgences.
  • The Church also banned Protestant books
  • It also established the Inquisition:
    • A court whose purpose was to punish heretics (those who denied Church teachings)
    • Trials were held to examine, often by torture, those who denied or opposed Church teachings
The Jesuits

- Another result of the Catholic Counter-Reformation was the growth of the Jesuits, or Society of Jesus.
- This Catholic order was started by Ignatius of Loyola and was dedicated to defending and spreading the Catholic faith.
  - Jesuits were also dedicated to education.
- It would be very influential in converting people once Europe became engaged in the age of colonialism.
Europe’s religious face-lift

• Under the leadership of the Pope and with the support of the Holy Roman Emperor, Catholics checked the further spread of Protestantism and even won some areas back to Catholicism.

• In general, France, Italy, Spain and Southern Germany remained Catholic.

• Northern Germany, Holland, and Scandinavia were mostly Protestant.

• England followed the Anglican Church.
Religious Wars in Europe

- Wars between Catholics and Protestants began in the 1520’s and lasted for more than a century.
- During the Thirty Years War (1618-1648), about 1/3 of the German Population was killed.
Political Impact

- The Reformation tended to strengthen the power of secular rulers.
- In Protestant countries, people no longer had allegiance to the pope: the secular ruler became the highest authority.
- In Catholic countries, the Church gave more power to secular rulers to help fight Protestantism.
Economic Impact

• The weakening of Papal authority also stimulated economic growth in Northern Europe, where the Church no longer collected taxes.

• Religious wars resulted in widespread destruction, but also stimulated economies by creating a need for new goods.
Queen Elizabeth I

• Queen Elizabeth I was a good example of a strong secular ruler.
• Although a woman, she won the loyal and affection of her subjects.
• She maintained a moderate form of Protestantism and defended England from attacks by Catholic Spain.