

Chapter 2

THE UPHEAVAL IN WESTERN CHRISTENDOM, 1300–1560

2.5 DISASTERS OF THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY

Study Questions

1. How would you summarize the disasters that afflicted European society in the fourteenth century?
2. What were the social and political consequences of the Black Death? Consider its effect on (a) the peasants, (b) the upper classes, (c) royal governments, and (d) European population trends.
3. What are the most striking features of the population trends shown in the chart on p. 51? How does the illustration on p. 54 demonstrate the religious anxieties of the age?
4. How was the church of the High Middle Ages, centralized in the papacy, weakened by its successes?
5. What difficulties and challenges did the church and papacy face in the fourteenth century? How were those challenges and difficulties resolved?
6. Discuss the aims, accomplishments, and outcome of the conciliar movement.

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Social and political unrest in the fourteenth century led to symptoms of mass neurosis.
2. At the close of the thirteenth century the church stood at its height. After 1300, the national monarchies were strong enough to assert themselves and to clash with the church.
3. Never had the papacy been so externally magnificent as in the days of the Captivity and the Schism.
4. The division in the papacy in the fourteenth century led to a sense of religious insecurity.

5. By 1450 the popes had triumphed over the challenge of the conciliar movement.

Identifications

Black Death	Hundred Years' War	Philip the Fair
Jacqueries	Joan of Arc	John Wyclif
Wat Tyler's rebellion	Boniface VIII	John Huss
Babylonian Captivity	<i>Unam Sanctam</i>	Pragmatic Sanction of Bourges
Martin V	Great Schism	Council of Constance

2.6 THE RENAISSANCE IN ITALY

Study Questions

1. Why is Renaissance in some ways an erroneous term? What relationship may be pointed out between the modern world and the Middle Ages and the modern world and the Renaissance?
2. Explain the new attitudes and new conception of life itself that arose in Renaissance Italy. How would you contrast Renaissance attitudes with those of the Middle Ages?
3. Describe the growth of realism in sculpture and painting.
4. How were Italian Renaissance attitudes reflected in humanism? What attitude did the humanists take toward the Middle Ages and toward the Greeks and Romans? Why?
5. How was a fusion of civic consciousness and humanism demonstrated in the careers of Salutati and Bruni?
6. Discuss the impact of the Renaissance on education and on personal manners. What kinds of ideals regarding the "courtier" and the "gentleman" emerged in this age?
7. What may be said about the role of women in the Renaissance? Of what significance were marriage and family patterns?
8. Discuss the special contributions made by Machiavelli to politics and political thought. What motivated his writings? How would you evaluate his conclusions?
9. How do the illustrations in this section convey a sense of (a) the art and (b) the social,

cultural, and civic life of this era?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. The Renaissance marked a new era in thought and feeling, by which Europe and its institutions were in the long run to be transformed.
2. It was in Renaissance Italy that an almost purely secular attitude first appeared.
3. What captivated the Italians of the Renaissance was a sense of the vast range of human powers.
4. Florence produced an amazing number of leading figures of the Italian Renaissance.
5. Renaissance individualism emphasized the outstanding attainments of extraordinary men (women, by contrast, were usually expected to pursue the ordinary tasks of domestic life).
6. If the humanists made a cult of antiquity, it was because they saw kindred spirits in ancient cultures and sensed a relevancy for their own time.
7. Italian humanism had tangible and lasting effects on education.
8. The Renaissance failed to produce effective political institutions.
9. Machiavelli wrote the first purely secular treatise on politics.

Identifications

Quattrocento	Leonardo da Vinci	Castiglione
The Medici family	<i>Virtú</i>	Michelangelo
<i>Condottiere</i>	Lorenzo Valla	Petrarch
Pico della Mirandola	Christine de Pisan	Machiavelli

2.7 THE RENAISSANCE OUTSIDE ITALY

Study Questions

1. How did the Renaissance in Europe north of the Alps differ from the Renaissance in Italy?
2. What were the focal points of universities that were established after Renaissance?

3. How did the scientific and mathematical interests of the northern Renaissance resemble Italian Renaissance ideas?
4. What special religious aspects were there to the northern Renaissance? Of what significance were (a) the spread of mysticism and (b) the development of religious groups outside the clergy?
5. Explain the contributions of Erasmus to his age. How does Holbein's portrait of Erasmus (p. 73) depict Erasmus as a scholar and as a person?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Outside Italy people were much less conscious of any sudden break with the Middle Ages.
2. The interest in the human potential to understand and control physical nature developed mostly in the northern Renaissance.
3. The religious interests of the northern Renaissance were reflected both in religious scholarship and in the religious impulse of individual mystics.
4. The mystic had no need of reason, nor of words, nor of joining with other people in open worship, nor of the sacraments administered by the priests—nor even of the church.
5. Erasmus was the greatest of all the northern humanists and indeed the most notable figure of the entire humanist movement.

Identifications

Christian humanism	Meister Eckhart
Regiomontanus	Thomas à Kempis
Nicholas of Cusa	Sisters and Brothers of the Common Life
Copernicus	Modern Devotion
Erasmus	Paracelsus
Dr. Faustus	Gerard Groote

2.8 THE NEW MONARCHIES

Study Questions

1. Describe the origins, nature, and accomplishments of the New Monarchies in (a) England, (b) France, (c) Spain, and (d) the Holy Roman Empire.
2. What role did the following play in the growth of royal authority: (a) towns, (b) new weapons, and (c) the revival of Roman law?
3. Describe the significance of Henry VII's contribution to England.
4. How did Charles V become the most powerful ruler of his day? What attitudes did Europeans take toward the Habsburg supremacy?
5. What political and nonpolitical developments may be cited as important to the emergence of Protestantism?
6. How does the painting on p. 78 illustrate religious policies in Spain in this era? What effect did these policies have?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. After the middle of the fifteenth century, the New Monarchs resumed the interrupted labors of the medieval kings, strengthening royal authority over feudal authority and laying the basis for national territorial states.
2. In Spain, the New Monarchy took the form not so much of political centralization as of unification around the church.
3. Spain was one of the places in Europe where a person's Christianity could not be taken for granted, because many Spanish families had been Jewish or Muslim for centuries and had only accepted Christianity to avoid expulsion.
4. In the Holy Roman Empire, Maximilian (1493–1519) tried unsuccessfully to introduce centralizing principles.
5. Charles V (1519–1556) was beyond all comparison the most powerful ruler of his day.

Identifications

Henry VII
Granada
Star Chamber

Tudors
Reconquista
Moriscos

Louis XI
Ferdinand and Isabella
Maximilian I

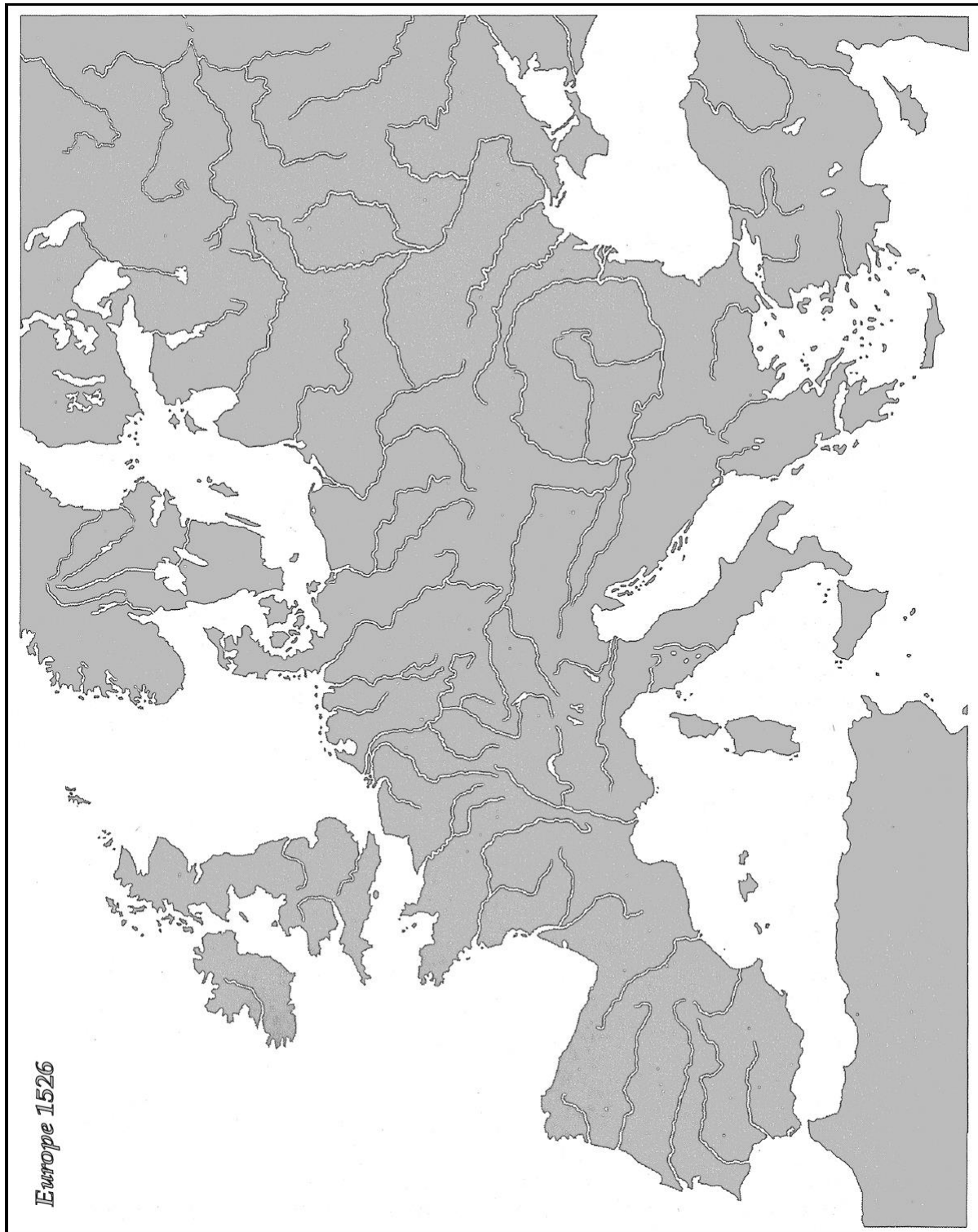
Oncordat of Bologna
Electors

Marranos

Charles V

Map Exercises

1. On the outline map, Europe, 1526, indicate (a) the territory ruled by the Habsburg family and (b) the boundaries of the Holy Roman Empire. What disposition did Charles V make of his territories in 1526? Source: A History of the Modern World, p. 79.
2. Can you locate each of the places mentioned in Section 2.8?



2.9 THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Study Questions

1. Describe the sources of dissatisfaction that contributed to the sixteenth-century religious upheaval.
2. What was revolutionary about Luther's position on religious authority? What political support did he find for his program?
3. How did Lutheranism become involved in political and social upheaval? How did Luther modify his position in the face of these events?
4. How did Calvin differ from Luther in training, background, and personality? How did Calvinism resemble and differ from Lutheranism?
5. Describe the spread of Calvinism and explain how its outlook was far from democratic in any modern sense.
6. Explain the special course of the Reformation in England. What changes occurred under Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary, and Elizabeth? How is Elizabeth depicted in the portrait on p. 90?
7. What common doctrines and beliefs were shared by all Protestants? What observations may be made about the results of the Protestant Reformation in Europe by 1560?
8. Discuss the idea that the chief motivation for the Protestant Reformation was economic. Do you agree or disagree with this theory?
9. How did the religious changes of this era affect (a) the role of women in society and (b) attitudes about marriage and the family?
10. How do the illustrations on pp. 83, 87, and 92 supplement the discussion of the Reformation?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. Three streams of discontent contributed to the religious upheaval of the sixteenth century.
2. The leaders of the Reformation were religious revolutionaries, not partisans of freedom of religion or of religious toleration.
3. Horrified at the way in which religious revolution became confused with social revolution,

Luther defined his own position more conservatively.

4. The terms set at Augsburg signified a complete victory for the cause of Lutheranism and states' rights.
5. Calvin and Luther differed on (a) the idea of predestination and (b) the relationship between church and state.
6. In England the government broke with the Roman Catholic church before adopting any Protestant principles.
7. By 1560, although religious issues were far from settled, the chief Protestant doctrines had been affirmed; and geographically, Protestantism had made many conquests.
8. In the Protestant Reformation, economic conditions seemed less decisive than religious convictions and political circumstances.
9. The opportunities, even if limited, that some women found in medieval convents and religious communities disappeared in Protestant societies.
10. Protestantism did little to change the role of women in Christian churches or in the wider social order.

Identifications

Protestant	Schmalkaldic League	John Calvin
Justification by faith	Peace of Augsburg	Predestination
Indulgences	Martin Luther	Henry VIII
95 theses	Ecclesiastical Reservation	Act of Supremacy
Transubstantiation	<i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i>	Thirty-Nine Articles
Anabaptists	Anglican church	Elizabeth

2.10 CATHOLICISM REFORMED AND REORGANIZED

1. What is the difference between the Catholic Reformation and Counter Reformation?
2. Why did the French king, Francis I, favor the pope and oppose the emperor? Explain.
3. Explain the purpose, nature, and accomplishments of the Council of Trent. How did it reaffirm Catholic doctrine? How did it attempt to reform church abuses?

4. Describe the changes in Catholicism with respect to (a) new religious attitudes, (b) missionary activities, (c) the role of the Jesuits, and (d) the reforming popes.
5. How were European religious divisions and religious wars eventually resolved?

Key Discussion Sentences

1. The Vulgate, a translation of the Bible into Latin by St. Jerome in the fourth century, was declared to be the only version on which authoritative teaching could be based.
2. The reforms decreed by the Council of Trent might have remained ineffectual had not a renewed sense of religious seriousness grown up within Catholicism at the same time.
3. It was in Spain that much of the new Catholic feeling and missionary spirit first developed.
4. By 1560 the Catholic church had devised the practical machinery for a counteroffensive against Protestantism.

Identifications

Episcopal Movement	St. Vincent de Paul	Council of Trent
Works and faith	St. Ignatius Loyola	Index of Prohibited Books
Vulgate	Society of Jesus	Spanish Inquisition
Pluralism	<i>Spiritual Exercises</i>	Papal Inquisition
Paul III		

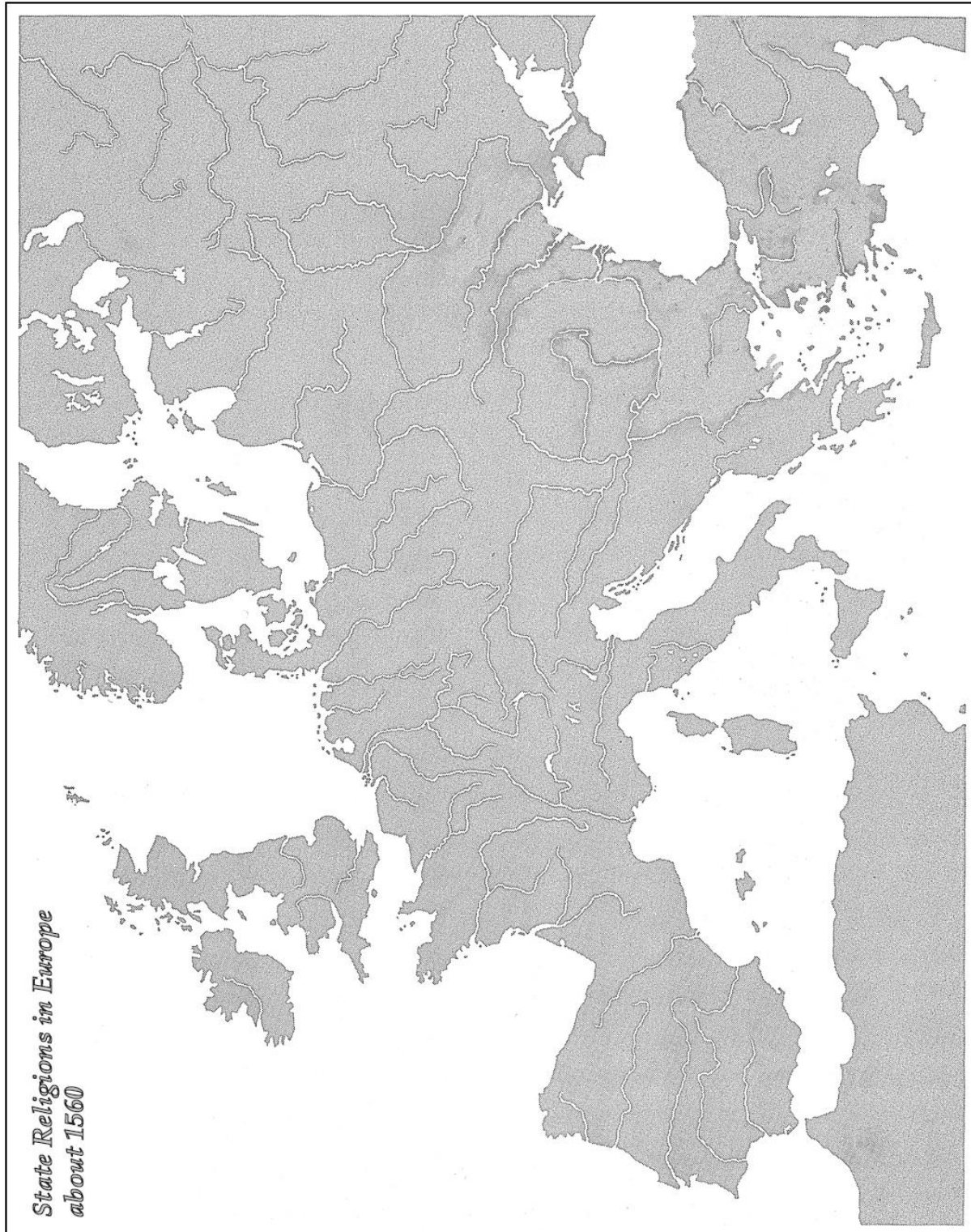
Map Exercises

1. On the outline map, State Religions in Europe about 1560, indicate these state religions, using different shading for Lutheranism, Anglicanism, Calvinism, and Roman Catholicism. In which areas was Calvinism the dominant religion? Where was it a minority religion?
Source: A History of the Modern World, p. 89.

GENERAL ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER 2

1. In the age of religious revolution and secularization from 1300 to 1560, Europe began to take on its modern outlines. What major developments accounted for that historic change?

2. Do you believe that a religious revolution had taken place in Europe by 1560? Why or why not?
3. What common elements and what distinctive differences do you see in comparing the following: (a) the Italian Renaissance, (b) the Renaissance outside Italy, (c) the Protestant Reformation, and (d) the Counter Reformation?



4. In what ways did (a) the Middle Ages, (b) the Renaissance, and (c) the Reformation help create the modern world?

GENERAL DISCUSSION PASSAGES FOR CHAPTER 2

1. Latin Christendom was the first of the world's major religious cultures to become "secularized." (p. 49)
2. The effects of the Italian Renaissance, though much modified with the passage of time, were evident in the books and art galleries of Europe and America, and in the architecture of their cities, even after the revolution of "modern" art in the early twentieth century. (p. 56)
3. With Petrarch, literature became a kind of calling, and also a consideration of moral philosophy, still related but no longer subordinate to religion. It was moral philosophy in the widest sense, raising questions of how human beings should adjust to the world, what a good life ought to be, and where the ultimate rewards of living were to be found. (p. 63)
4. History became a new kind of useful knowledge. It took on a public value that it had once had for the Greeks and Romans and that it would retain in the future in Europe and eventually in other parts of the world: the function of heightening a sentiment not yet of nationalism, but of collective civic consciousness or group identity. It was meant to arouse its readers to a life of commitment and participation. (p. 64)
5. What really happens, said Machiavelli, is that effective rulers and governments use their power to act only in their own political interest. They keep faith or break it, observe treaties or repudiate them, are merciful or ruthless, forthright or sly, peaceable or aggressive, according to their estimates of their political needs. He had nevertheless diagnosed the new era with considerable insight. (p. 69)
6. Tolerance, restraint, good manners, scholarly understanding, a love of peace, a critical and reforming zeal, and a reasonable tone from which shouting and bad temper were always excluded—such were the Erasmian virtues. (p. 73)
7. Calvinism was far from democratic in any modern sense. It carried an almost aristocratic outlook, in that those who sensed themselves to be God's chosen few felt free to dictate to the wider population of lost souls. Yet in many ways Calvinism entered into the development of what became democracy. (p. 87)
8. It is possible that Protestantism, by casting a glow of religious righteousness over a person's daily business and material prosperity, later contributed to the economic success of Protestant peoples and to new cultural assumptions about the moral failings of poor people, but it does not seem that a Protestant work ethic or other economic factors were of

any distinctive importance in shaping the first stages of Protestantism. (p. 92)

9. The Council of Trent, which shaped the destiny of modern Catholicism, sat at irregular intervals for almost 20 years. It was not until the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s that some of the main decisions made at Trent were substantially modified. (p. 93)