

Authority Under Pressure

Trace how religious challenges reshaped Europe.

9.9b "The Reformation challenged traditional religious authority, which prompted a counter reformation that led to a religiously fragmented Western Europe and political conflicts..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline challenges or defenses of religious authority. Circle effects on politics, religious divisions, or Jewish communities.

Reformation, Response, and Division

- ① In 1517, Martin Luther challenged indulgence preaching and abuses linked to fundraising. He later argued for justification by faith alone and rejected papal authority. These disputes concerned salvation, scripture, and who could define Christian teaching. Print helped his writings spread, and some rulers and communities adopted reform. John Calvin developed another Protestant tradition centered in Geneva. Protestant movements differed from one another, but all contributed to the breakup of Catholic institutional unity across much of western Europe.
- ② Catholic reformers defended Church teaching while addressing abuses. The Council of Trent clarified doctrine and ordered reforms. Ignatius Loyola and his companions founded the Jesuits, whose schools and missions promoted Catholic learning and faith. In England, Elizabeth I's settlement restored Protestant royal government of the Church after earlier religious changes. Religious disagreements combined with dynastic and political struggles to fuel conflict. Rulers' official churches did not necessarily match all their subjects' beliefs.
- ③ Jewish communities had faced legal restrictions, expulsions, and persecution long before the Reformation. Religious upheaval did not bring them equal rights. Catholic and Protestant authorities continued restrictions that varied by place, while hostile writings reinforced older prejudices. Demands for religious conformity could increase minorities' vulnerability. Jewish communities nevertheless maintained religious, family, and cultural life under difficult conditions. The Reformation changed Christian authority while discrimination against Jews continued; experiences were not identical throughout Europe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What did Martin Luther criticize, and how did his ideas challenge traditional religious authority?

2 Identify two ways Catholic leaders responded to the Reformation.

3 How does Elizabeth I's action in England show that religious choices had become political choices?

4 According to the passage, how did the Reformation era affect Jewish communities?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-sentence cause-and-effect summary of the religious upheaval. Include a Protestant challenge, a Catholic response, one political result in Europe, and the continued marginalization of Jewish communities.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline challenges or defenses of religious authority. Circle effects on politics, religious divisions, or Jewish communities. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Martin Luther criticize, and how did his ideas challenge traditional religious authority?	Luther challenged indulgence preaching and fundraising abuses, later rejecting papal authority and arguing for justification by faith alone.
2	Identify two ways Catholic leaders responded to the Reformation.	The Council of Trent clarified teaching and ordered reforms. The Jesuits promoted Catholic learning and faith through schools and missions.
3	How does Elizabeth I's action in England show that religious choices had become political choices?	Elizabeth's settlement restored Protestant royal government of the Church, showing how rulers' decisions shaped official religious institutions.
4	According to the passage, how did the Reformation era affect Jewish communities?	It did not end their marginalization. Jewish communities continued to face limits from Christian rulers and local authorities, and religious conflict could make minorities more vulnerable.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Martin Luther's criticism of church practices challenged the Catholic Church's authority, and Protestant ideas spread. Catholic leaders responded through the Counter-Reformation, including the Council of Trent and the Jesuit order founded by Ignatius Loyola. As official churches differed, Europe became religiously divided, and disputes over belief helped fuel wars. Jewish communities remained under limits from Christian rulers and local authorities during this upheaval.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect explanations that accurately connect a Protestant challenge, a Catholic response, religious fragmentation or conflict, and continued discrimination against Jews. Students may use Luther, Calvin, Elizabeth I, or Loyola when their statements match the passage.