

Protestant Reformation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Martin Luther started the Reformation in 1517 by pounding his 95 Theses onto a church door in Wittenberg, Germany.• He insisted that the Bible alone was authoritative, as opposed to the teachings of men.• Placed under the papal ban in 1521, he sought out protection of German princes, and was able to survive by converting many German people (and rulers) to withdraw from Rome with him.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Calvin emphasized the covenantal nature of God's relationship with Israel (such as the covenants with Noah after the Flood, and Moses at Mt. Sinai).• Calvinists saw political relations (between government officials and the people) as contracts, with the officials having an obligation to protect the rights of the people—lest the people renounce the contract and create a new government.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Henry VIII as a Catholic king, was awarded the title <i>Defender of the Faith</i> after writing a short book against Martin Luther.• He broke with Rome in 1533 when Rome refused to approve his divorce from Catherine of Aragon and then a marriage to Anne Boleyn.• The Anglican Church (Episcopalian in the United States) retained more of the Catholic religious symbols and rituals, than the Lutheran or Calvinist churches.• From 1559 onward, the Anglican church was enforced on England, and Dissenters were imprisoned.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Baptist preachers such as John Bunyan, the author of the <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i>, were imprisoned because they were leading church services, but were not Anglicans.• Baptists from the 1500s, became an early voice for what we now call freedom of religion, arguing that the government should not imprison or persecute people in any way, because of any religious activities.• Eventually these ideas filtered to the rest of society, with philosophers like John Locke and deists like Voltaire.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some of these Nonconformists (or Dissenters) as they were called, wanted to create a society where they would not be persecuted.• John Winthrop was a governor of the Plymouth Colony (later to become Massachusetts) who helped establish self-government by the American colonies in the early 1600s.• These Puritan Calvinists predominated in the northern colonies, where they insisted on government by the consent of the governed, and carried with them traditions dating back to the Magna Carta.