

Name: _____

The Birth of New Ideas: Social Unrest

Key Terms and People

Heresy denial of Church teachings

Huguenots followers of Calvinism in France

Inquisition Catholic court that investigated and punished people thought to be against the Church

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL IMPACT

How did the decline of the Catholic Church's authority affect life in Europe?

Although the authority of the Catholic Church declined because of the Reformation, its actions still had a tremendous effect.

To fight the spread of Protestantism, the Church formed the [1]. This was a court that used harsh methods to punish [2], or a denial of Church teachings. Many Protestants and Jews were tortured and even put to death. In time, the Inquisition came to be seen as an abuse of the Church's power.

Religious turmoil also led to a belief in the presence of witches. Fear of witchcraft resulted in many people, most of them women or poor, being executed. The decline of the Catholic Church also led to a rise in national identity. New nation-states with independent governments emerged. Political power became separated from churches, although nations and churches remained aligned.

RELIGIOUS WARS AND UNREST

How did the Protestant and Catholic Reformations lead to religious wars and unrest?

The Protestant Reformation and the Catholic response led to a series of religious wars. These wars contributed to a great deal of social unrest.

In Italy, France and Spain fought for control. Over time, England became involved, as did the Catholic Church. One result of the Italian wars was the spread of Renaissance ideas from Italy to across Europe.

In Germany, Reformation ideas spurred ordinary people to revolt. The rebellion became known as the Peasants' War. Although the peasants were inspired by Protestant ideas of freedom, Martin Luther refused to support the uprising. Luther's actions prevented the Reformation from becoming a social revolution encouraging social equality.

In France, Protestant followers of Calvin called [3] clashed with Catholics. Years of violence resulted in political stability that ended in Catholic rule but religious freedom for Protestants.

4. What was the Inquisition?

5. What was important about Luther's reaction to the Peasants' War?

Directions: After you read about the social unrest produced by the Reformation, fill out the web diagram below.

