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AP Euro Per. 2

11 October 2016

LEQ 3 Outline

**Question 3: Compare and contrast how the Lutheran Reformation and the Catholic Reformation viewed women, and how that view did or did not impact women’s place in society.**

**Intro:** The Lutheran and Catholic Reformation was movement that divided European Christianity into two religious views. Although the Catholic Reformation focused on internal reform within the church’s practices, the Lutheran was effectively questioning Catholic beliefs and practices of the holy institution. The Reformation between the two sides differed in many aspects such as indulgences and transubstantiation, but were similar in views on particular matters.(Contextualization) The Lutheran Reformation and the Catholic Reformation were similar yet different in their views of women and the allowance of change to occur in women’s place in society.(Restatement) One way that the Catholic and Lutheran Reformation were similar in terms of women was due to the common belief that women were meant to be chaste, silent, and obedient.(X) The two differed because the Lutheran Reformation inspired women to educate themselves in order to further the Protestant teachings.(Y) With the Lutheran and Catholic Reformation, the transformation in women’s role in society was left impacted.

**Body #1:**

(Topic sentence) The Lutheran and Catholic Reformation were similar in their views of women due to the common belief that women were subordinate to men.

* (Evidence) The Lutheran movement continued to agree with patristic tradition and with scholastic and humanistic teachings that women’s subjection was inherently present since the beginning of creation.
  + (Analysis) Due to this agreement, Lutherans and many other Protestants continued viewing women as Eve, a foolish temptress. Both Catholics and Lutherans continually taught that women were were frail and weak minded, objects meant for husbands to continue the bloodline.This misogynistic belief would continue forcing women to remain demure instead of elevating their own education and role in society.
* (Evidence) The Lutheran movement forced the belief that women were meant to be a submissive and pious housewife while the Catholic Reformation cloistered women into convents. This similarity between the two is that women were meant to fulfill God’s “wish” by following their husband or clergy members.
  + (Analysis) Due to the forced roles women were forced to follow in order to fulfill God’s wish, they were not allowed to form their own active orders in society, The two movements blocked all women’s efforts for reform because ,as Martin Luther stated, “Let them bear children to death; they are created for that.”This imposed order would would cause women to obey the religion of their husbands even if it went against their own beliefs.

**Body #2**

(Topic Sentence) Though the Catholic and Lutheran Reformation were similar, the Lutheran Reformation differed in forms of education that women were appealed to.

* (Evidence) Women were able to communicate with reformers ideas through reading Luther’s manuals, writing to the reformers themselves, attending sermons, and watching vernacular dramas.
  + (Analysis) Due to the various ways women were able to communicate with Luther’s teachings, women were able to learn the protestant teachings and ultimately agree with them, For example, one teaching that many women during the Reformation agreed with was that they are equal to men spiritually, the two could be saved by faith. The impact of the teachings on women would cause them to try and create their own active orders in order to support the Reform, but would unfortunately be stopped by both by Catholic and Lutheran Reformers.
* (Evidence) Lutheran reformers began placing the importance of reading the Bible in the vernacular for everyone. From high nobles to the common people.
  + (Analysis) Due to reformers placing importance on reading the Bible in the vernacular, this caused schools to be opened for girls and boys. The schools opened would glorify skills ,such as sewing, reading, and singing, needed to be a successful housewife. This would later cause women to educate their children in the teachings of the Protestants and strengthen the Reformation. The convents would also teach women with the education given by the Catholics while Protestant schools would inspire women to begin preaching and publish works during the Reformation though both the Catholic and Lutherans reformers would not allow it. Women were allowed to be educated, a major progress during that time that left the impact on the importance on women’s education today.

**Conclusion:** In conclusion, there were key similarities and differences between the Catholic and Lutheran Reformation during the sixteenth century. The two were similar in their beliefs that women were subordinate to men in every other aspect except spiritually, but differed because the Protestant reformers allowed women to become educated in basic skills such as reading and writing. This would later cause women to challenge the stereotypes that they were only used for reproduction and being the perfect housewife.(Restatement) The Reformation can connect to the Women’s Suffrage Movement in twentieth century because women were oppressed for belief that they are weak and frail. The educated women were able to voice their opinions and their critics even though reformers and government officials tried to cast them aside.(Synthesis)