

III. The Reformation Elsewhere

***Switzerland had its own independent church reform movement almost simultaneously with Germany's...**

A. The Swiss Reformation

***The desire for church reform existed in Switzerland as it existed in Germany. There was also a growth of national sentiment in the area. A break from the archaic Catholic Church would be a good way of establishing some sort of national identity.**

1. Ulrich Zwingli and Zwinglianism
 - a. centered in Zurich
 - b. main criticisms of the Catholic Church
 - 1) indulgences
 - 2) religious superstition and ceremony
 - a) celibate clergy (He had an affair with a barber's daughter!)
 - b) fasting
 - c) worship of saints
 - d) pilgrimages
 - e) purgatory
 - c. reform guideline: Whatever lacked support in Scripture was to be neither believed nor practiced (Scripture Test)
 - d. basic beliefs were eventually embodied in the *Tetrapolitan Confession*
 - e. imposed harsh discipline and rules that made Zurich one of the first examples of puritanical Protestantism

***Marburg Colloquy: In October of 1529, Landgrave Philip of Hess attempted to unite the Swiss and German Protestants in a mutual defense pact against the Catholic rulers (namely Charles V) and the Catholic Church. The alliance failed because of theological disagreements. The dispute centered around each religion's interpretation of Transubstantiation (Christ's presence in the Eucharist). Luther insisted that Christ was present both spiritually and bodily. Zwingli maintained that Christ was only spiritually present (more symbolic).**

***As in Germany, the Swiss cantons divided between Protestantism and Catholicism. This led to a civil war that eventually ended with a treaty that gave each canton the right to determine its own religion.**

B. Other, More Radical Protestant Movements

***Why were these other movements considered "radical?"
--they deviated more from the Catholic religion**

--they sometimes advocated violent revolution because they felt that Luther and Zwingli were too slow and conceded too much...they wanted greater and faster reform

1. Anabaptists
 - a. originated from Conrad Grebel and the Swiss Brethren
 - b. believed that adult baptism better conformed to Scripture and was more respectful of human freedom
 - c. their beliefs were embodied in the *Schleitheim Confession*
 - 1) refused to go to war
 - 2) refused to swear oaths
 - 3) refused to participate in the offices of secular government

***Anabaptists physically separated from society to form a more perfect community in imitation of what they believed to be the example of the first Christians. Political authorities viewed such separatism as a threat to basic social bonds.**

- d. Anabaptists were persecuted by Lutherans and Zwinglians, as well as Catholics...it is estimated that between 1525 and 1618 at least 1,000 and perhaps as many as 5,000 men and women were executed for “re-baptizing” themselves.
 - e. ancestors of the modern Mennonites and Amish
2. Spiritualists
 - a. held all religious traditions and institutions in disdain
 - b. believed that the only religious authority was God’s spirit, which spoke here and now to every individual
3. Antitrinitarians
 - a. believed in a commonsense, rational, and ethical religion
 - b. strongest opponents of Calvinism (original sin and predestination)
 - c. had a deserved reputation as defenders of religious toleration