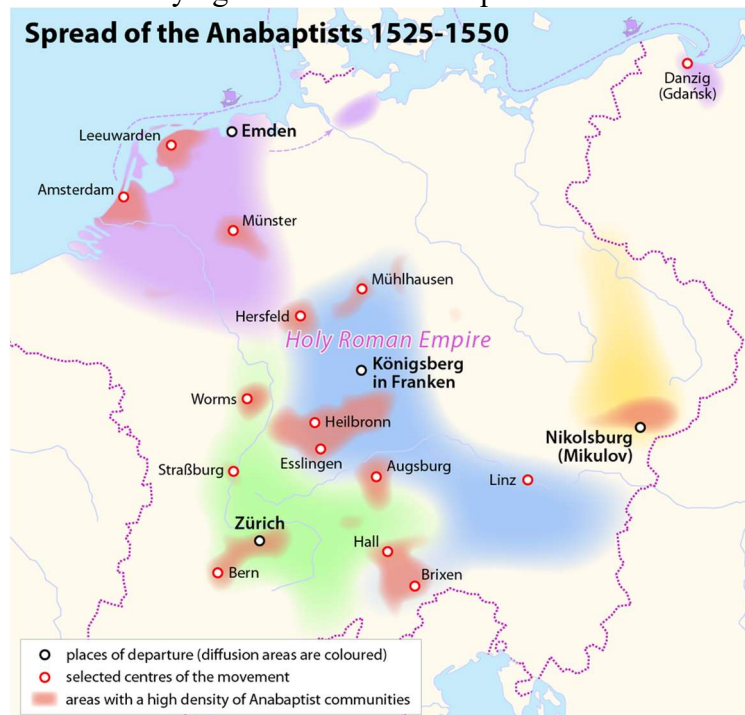


# History of the Reformation

## The Radical Reformation

- Background
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Reform
    - Germany
      - Martin Luther 1484 - 1546
    - Switzerland (Zurich)
      - Huldrych Zwingli 1484 - 1531
    - England
      - William Tyndale 1494 – 1536
      - Thomas Cranmer 1489 - 1556
    - Western Germany (Strassburg)
      - Martin Bucer 1491 - 1551
  - Wings of the Reformation
    - Lutheran
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Gen – Luther
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen - Melancton
    - Calvinistic or Reformed
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Gen – Zwingli
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Gen - Calvin
    - Radical Reformation
      - The Anabaptists
- Radical Reformation
  - Named “Anabaptists” –
    - pejorative term given by enemies, both Catholic and Protestant
  - The primary issue was baptism
    - To baptize again implies a 2<sup>nd</sup> baptism
    - “I have never taught Anabaptism.... But the right baptism of Christ, which is preceded by teaching and oral confession of faith, I teach, and say that infant baptism is a robbery of the right baptism of Christ.— *Hubmaier, Balthasar (1526)*,
  - Secondary was the Eucharist
  - Many other doctrines
    - Definition of the Church
    - Relationship of the Church to the State
    - Oaths
    - Going to war/Pacifism
    - Freedom of conscience
    - Millennialism/Eschatology
- Church and State
  - Flourishing of the Reformation depended on the protection of the secular rulers
    - Luther and Lutheranism - Fredrick the Wise
    - Zwingli - the City of Zurich
    - Calvin – the City of Geneva
  - Protection from the Holy Roman Emperor
  - Roman Catholic Church

- Wedded to the secular control of the nation/land
    - Since Constantine
  - The Anabaptists
    - Flourished where there was local governmental support
    - Persecuted where the rulers disagreed with their teachings
    - Even in Protestant areas
- Sola Scriptura
  - The bedrock of the Protestant Reformation
    - “What saith the Scriptures?”
  - The Anabaptists examined the Bible and found no support for the baptism of those who had not professed faith in Jesus Christ, repented of their sins, purposed to live a holy life because of that Christ had done for them
    - Baptism is for those who have committed their lives to Christ
    - No infant baptism
    - “I have never taught Anabaptism.... But the right baptism of Christ— *Hubmaier, Balthasar (1526)*,
  - They found that the Eucharist (Mass) was not a physical re-crucifying of Christ, but a reminder of Christ’s one-time sacrifice
    - The Church was a voluntary association of fellow believers
- Beginnings
  - Difficult to pinpoint because it was not centrally located
    - Southwestern Germany – Hans Denk, Hans Hut
    - Zurich – Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, George Blaurock
    - Moravia – Nicholsburg – Balthazar Hubmaier
    - Netherlands – Melchoir Hoffman
  - Popular – “it all started in Zurich”
    - Varying groups all categorized as Anabaptists
    - One unifying theme – “Infant Baptism is not biblical”



- Balthazar Hubmaier
  - Theologian of Anabaptism
  - Unknown today because he was martyred early in his life (about age 48)
  - Educated under Dr. John Eck (great debater with Luther)
  - PhD at same time as Luther
  - Pastor at Waldshut (NW of Zurich) in 1521
    - Began embracing Reformation ideas, particularly Zwinglian
    - Early 1523 – Discussions with Zwingli
    - "Then Zwingli agreed with me, that children should not be baptized before they are instructed in the faith."
    - Began to implement changes in the mass.
    - “the Bible alone must decide such questions; the Mass is not a sacrifice, but a proclamation of Christ's testament”
    - Great pulpit orator
- Zurich Anabaptists
  - Conrad Grebel, Felix Manz, Georg Blaurock and Wilhelm Reublin
  - Found a champion in Hubmaier
  - Self baptized each other and then Grebel baptized others
  - Jan 1525 – Disputation in Zurich to “settle the issue”
    - Directed by the City Council
  - Hubmaier dropped infant baptism at Waldshut
  - Zwingli became a champion of infant baptism
  - Zwingli began writing pamphlets supporting infant baptism
    - *Von der Taufe, der Wiedertaufe und Kindertaufe* (From Baptism, Rebaptism and Infant Baptism)
  - Hubmaier responded, *Vom christlichen Tauf der Gläubigen* (From the Christian Baptism of the Faithful)
  - Anabaptists ordered to cease and desist or be arrested
- Problems with the Austrian Government
  - Hubmaier – If the people of Waldshut would only be granted religious liberty, they would be ready to fulfill all their obligations as Austrian subjects
  - Austria – sent a military force to “subdue the rebel peasants”
  - Dec 1525 - Hubmaier flees to Zurich
    - Arrested, but not turned over to the Austrian authorities
    - City council demanded he recant his position on baptism
    - Tortured him until April 1526, he recants
  - Secretly left Zurich
    - To Constance, Augsburg
      - Baptized Hans Denck
    - Arrived in Nikolsburg (Moravia) in July 1526
    - Nikolsburg became a center of the Anabaptist movement
      - Under the protection of Leonard von Liechtenstein
- Peasant's/Revolt War in Germany
  - Opposed by Luther and German princes



- Thomas Muntzer – Anabaptist leader
  - Captured and executed May 1525
- Anabaptists blamed for peasants acting on their consciences
- Socialists claim this as proof of the need of Communism
- Hans Hut (upper and lower Austria)
  - Hut became an advocate of Chiliaism
  - Believed that the return of Christ would be Pentecost 1528
  - Muntzer was one of the two witnesses of Rev 11:3
  - Advocated pacifism
  - Arrested and died in prison Dec 1527
- New issues among Anabaptists
  - Hut’s Pacifism – Christians are not to take up the sword for any reason
  - Community of Goods – Christians are to be like the NT church, and “have all things in common”
  - Payment of taxes to support war
- Hubmaier published many pamphlets
  - Complaining of Zwingli’s execution of Anabaptists
  - On the Freedom of the Will
    - Hubmaier felt that Luther’s doctrine of the Inability of Man to repent stifled the proclamation of the Gospel
  - The importance of church discipline
  - Hubmaier would have been much more influential had he lived
- Arrest, Imprisonment, and Martyrdom
  - Ferdinand I becomes king of Hungary and Bohemia
  - Aug 1527 – issues a mandate to eliminate “sectarians and heretics”
    - Hans Hut seized in Freistadt (Upper Austria)
  - Von Liechtenstein “called on the carpet”
  - Hubmaier a “bigger fish”
    - The old enemy of the state from Waldshut
    - More because of his political activity than his theology
  - Arrested and taken to Kreuzenstein castle in Austria
  - Published pamphlet to Ferdinand I showing that he was a loyal Austrian citizen, but would not repent of beliefs on baptism and the mass
  - Burned at the stake March 24, 1528
    - Wife drowned in the river 3 days later
- Summary
  - Hubmaier lived less than a ½ dozen years after his conversion
  - His writings about baptism are considered the simplest and plainest understandings of believer’s baptism
  - Hubmaier did not have the benefits of Luther and Calvin to mature his theological positions
    - He was incorrect on many theological issues (free will, Mary, etc)
  - Yet his defense of Believer’s Baptism and Freedom of Religious Conscience remain to this day



- It is in opposition to his biblical defense that Heinrich Bullinger, successor to Zwingli, invented what is today known as Covenant Theology
  - The reason that infants are baptized is that Abraham circumcised his children
  - There had to be some overarching covenant which both Abraham and we are a part – Covenant of Grace
- Other Anabaptists
  - In 1529 Melchior Hoffman became an Anabaptist in Strassburg and he traveled into the Netherlands and Northern Germany
    - Chiliast who believed that Christ would return to judge Strassburg in 1533
    - Returned and arrested
    - Died in prison after 10 years
  - Munster in NW Germany
    - Became an Anabaptist community through the preaching of Bernhard Rothmann in 1535
    - Jan Matthis and Jan van Leyden seized control of the city
    - Forced all citizens to be baptized or leave the city
    - Thousands came to Muenster waiting for Christ's return
    - John of Leyden had crowned himself as King David, instituted polygamy
    - Munster reconquered by the former Prince-bishop
    - Inhabitants were slaughtered
    - Muenster gave opponents of Anabaptists justification that they were wrong
  - Menno Simons 1496 – 1561
    - In reaction to the disaster at Munster
    - Travelled around advocating Anabaptist principles
      - Community of believers
      - Adult baptism
      - Pacifism and nonviolence
  - Eventually settled in very northern Germany (almost Denmark)
  - Died a natural death in 1561
  - Today's Mennonites find their roots in his theology
- Anabaptist Beliefs
  - The Scriptures are the sole authority for faith and practice
    - Ultimately, it is the local disciple-community to rectify disagreements of individual interpretation
  - The nature of the Church
    - Voluntary association of those who trust and rely in Jesus Christ
    - Church members are voluntarily baptized after a changed heart
  - Christians should have the liberty to follow their consciences, not be under the compulsion to follow the religion of the region
    - Rejected by Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli
  - Baptism is for those who understand the sacrifice of Christ
  - The Lord's Supper is only for those baptized
    - Communion is closed to non-baptized
  - There is to be separation between the secular State and the believing community
    - Believers are under Christ's Lordship and therefore cannot participate in the government of the State
    - It is wrong for Christians to take oaths, particularly to a secular state
  - Differing views on pacifism

- “of the Sword” (Hubmaier) believers have a right and responsibility to defend their families
- “of the Staff” (Menno Simons) – it is wrong to do anything but “love your enemies”