

ZURICH REFORMATION

Swiss confederation

- part of the German empire, striving for independency, neutrality in European politics → balancing between the Habsburgs and France
- 13 estates (Orte): Zurich, Bern, Luzern, Glarus, Zug, Freiburg, Solothurn, Basel, Schaffhausen, Uri, Schwyz, Unterwalden, Appenzell
- allied estates (zugewandte Orte)
- no central government, no majority decision at the conferences of the 13 estates (Tagsatzung), tensions between urban and rural estates, administrators (Vögte) for the dependent dominions (Gemeine Herrschaften)
- in the 16th century approx. 800,000 inhabitants, a third of them in the territories of Zurich and Bern, the city of Zurich has approx. 5,000 inhabitants, Basel approx. 10,000

Sacral topography of Zurich

- Grossmünster collegiate church (regulated canons/Chorherren), Fraumünster Abbey (Benedictine nuns), parish church of St. Felix and Regula (incorporated into the Grossmünster), parish church of St. Peter
- Dominicans, Franciscans, Augustinian Hermits, two houses of Dominican nuns

Switzerland before the Reformation

- Church life: flowering of piety, anticlericalism
- Humanism: Erasmus of Rotterdam, humanist circles 1510–20

Reformation in Switzerland

1522–29 Basel (Konrad Pellikan, Wolfgang Capito, Kaspar Hedio, Johannes Oekolampad, Oswald Myconius)
1524–29 St. Gallen (Joachim Vadian, Johannes Kessler), Schaffhausen (Sebastian Hofmeister)
1528 Bern (Niklaus Manuel, Peter Cyro, Wolfgang Capito)
1529/30 'Christliches Burgrecht' → coalition of Zurich, Constance, Bern, St. Gallen, Biel, Mulhouse, Basel, Schaffhausen, Strasbourg
1530 Neuchâtel (Guillaume Farel)
[1536 Geneva (Guillaume Farel, John Calvin)]
Catholic estates and dominions: Uri, Schwyz, Obwalden/Nidwalden, Luzern, Zug, Freiburg/Uechtland, Solothurn, Wallis, Ennetbirgische Vogteien

Huldrych Zwingli (1484–1531)

1498–1506 academic studies (Vienna, Basel) → scholasticism
1506–16 Glarus → humanism, bible
1516–18 Einsiedeln → church fathers
1519–31 Zurich → influence from Luther, church reform

1519–25: Beginnings of the Zurich Reformation

1519 Zwingli becomes people's priest at the Zurich Grossmuenster → explanation of biblical books in sermons → biblicism, church criticism
1520–22 formation of an evangelical movement under influence from the Wittenberg Reformation
1522 breaking of the fast (March 9) → Zwingli on Christian freedom → conflict between supporters and critics of Zwingli → the Zurich city authorities confirm the existing order of the church, but do not silence Zwingli and call Leo Jud as pastor of St. Peter, the Swiss confederation takes measures against the Reformation
1523 First Zurich disputation (Zwingli's 67 Theses) → Zurich city authorities approve of Zwingli's teaching and order further preaching according to scripture; Zwingli's commentary on the 67 Theses (program of the Zurich Reformation) and his 'On divine and human righteousness' (religion and politics)
1523 Second Zurich disputation → criticism of religious images and mass, approval of the religious responsibility of the secular authority → no immediate changes, but further preaching of scripture, split of the evangelical movement in moderate majority and radical minority. Leo Jud is made pastor of St. Peter's.
1523/24 first changes in church life by the city authorities (removal of images, monks and nuns leaving the monasteries, reform of clerical institutions, abolition of processions etc.) and the evangelical preachers (Zwingli's suggestions for reforming the mass, Jud's vernacular baptismal liturgy); outside of Zurich countermeasures of secular authorities loyal to the Pope; the Zurich Reformation influences evangelical movements in other Swiss cities and in Southwest Germany
1524/25 rural unrest in connection with the Reformation
1525 introduction of Zwingli's liturgy, new church order, local church court (church discipline), theological school, reordering of poor supply, Zwingli's 'Commentarius de vera ac falsa religione'

1525–31: Securing the Reformation

1526–30 reorganization of the church (disputations, synods, social disciplining in cooperation with the secular authority); campaign against traditionalists and supporters of mercenary services (1526 execution of Konrad von Grebel, 1529 limitations for the Constaftel, the guild of the Zurich nobility)
1526 Disputation of Baden → Swiss confederation against the Reformation → split between the traditionalist and reformist estates → Zurich prepares for war and seeks for allies
1526–29 controversy with the Wittenberg reformers about the Lord's Supper, Marburg colloquy with Luther (1529)
1528 Disputation of Bern → presence of the leaders of the Reformation from Switzerland and southwest Germany (Zurich, Strasbourg, Basel, Constance etc.) → church reforms in Bern following the Zurich model → Zurich no longer isolated and coalition of supporters of the Reformation in Switzerland and Germany. Zurich and Bern offer support to the evangelical movement in Catholic regions and advocate free choice of religion by the local population (Christliches Burgrecht/Protestant Alliance) → spread of the Reformation.
1529 Zurich bible translation (1531 publication in one volume). Coalition of Catholic estates with the Habsburgs against the Reformation → First Kappel War between supporters of the Reformation and of the Papal church → no military encounter, instead peace treaty (erster Kappeler Landfriede) → limitation of evangelical preaching, right of the local congregations in the dependent dominions to choose the Reformation
1530 Augsburg Diet → Zwingli's 'Fidei Ratio' → political negotiations between Protestants in Switzerland and Germany; Morality Ordinance → marriage court supervises morality
1531 Second Kappel War → after lost battle and lack of solidarity among Protestants peace treaty (zweiter Kappeler Landfriede) → every estate decides on religion, in dependent dominions the local congregations choose, Zurich stops the support of the evangelical movement outside its dominion, no Protestant coalition within the confederation and with external powers

Anabaptism

1523 split of the evangelical movement in Zurich → radicals advocate quick and thorough change, criticism of infant baptism, formation of separate groups
1524 contact with the radicals from Germany (Andreas Karlstadt, Thomas Müntzer), spread of nonconformists group in neighboring regions
1525 disputation → city authorities and church confirm infant baptism and take measures against the radicals → the radicals start baptizing adults and separating them from the church
1526ff violent suppression of the Anabaptist movement, theological criticism of Anabaptist ideas and practices
1527 Schleithem articles

1531–66: Establishing a Protestant church

1531 Heinrich Bullinger pastor at the Grossmünster → focus on the establishing of the Protestant church and deepening evangelical piety, not on Protestant politics → the Zurich Reformation remains a model for evangelicals in Europe and Bullinger is at the center of a wide network of evangelicals
1532 Zurich church order (ecclesiastica auctoritas in sacris)
1536 Confessio Helvetica prior. No interest in the Wittenberg Concord.
1549 Consensus Tigurinus
1549–51 Bullinger's 'Decades'
1553–58 Marian exiles in Zurich (Hooper, Parkhurst, Jewel, Cole and others)
1563 Heidelberg Catechism
1566 Confessio Helvetica posterior
1575 death of Bullinger

Professors of the Zurich School of Theology (Prophezei):
Conrad Pellicanus, Theodor Bibliander, Rudolf Gualther, Peter Martyr Vermigli