

Turning Points in Christian History

*The Council of Trent and Global
Missionary Movement*

Opening Question

- How do you respond to criticism?
- How do you evaluate whether criticism is valid and worth accepting?

A Question of Terminology

- Counter-Reformation – A Catholic reaction to a Protestant challenge.
 - The term was developed by Protestant historians and assumed the correctness of Protestant views.
- Catholic Reformation – A description of renewal movements and reforms within the Catholic Church – some of which preceded the Protestant Reformation.
 - A more neutral (and accurate) approach

Precursors

- Fifth Lateran Council (1512-1517)
 - “Unless . . . we place a limit on our morals, unless we force our greedy desires for human things, the source of evils, to yield to the love of divine things, it is all over with Christendom.” Giles of Viterbo to Pope Julius II
- Emphasis on reform of self not of church.
 - Catholics emphasized greater personal piety for salvation, Luther emphasized faith alone.
- Formation of Confraternities or Oratories of Divine Love in Genoa and Rome (pre 1517) – emphasis on works of charity.

Catholic Reformers

- Formation of Capuchins - (1525) – Attempted to more faithfully follow the Franciscan rule – emphasized preaching and care for the sick and poor – Stress on Scripture offended Church hierarchy – some took refuge in Geneva.
- Formation of the Ursulines – 1535 – focused on Christian education of girls for moral reform of families.
- Theresa of Avila – and others led female reform, charitable, and educational groups, but placed under male episcopal control.
- In 1522 Pope Adrian VI Calls for through going reform – but sale of offices funded the papacy and many Italians rejected the outsider. He soon sickened and died.

Bernini – *Ecstasy of St Theresa*



Reform under Later Popes

- Leo X (1523-1534)
 - More concerned with patronizing the arts than reform.
 - Never called promised ecumenical council.
- Paul III (1534-1549)
 - Made his teenage sons Cardinals
 - Attempted to reach out to Melanchthon and Bucer
 - Called the Council of Mantua (1537) – Criticized nepotism, simony, plural benefices, clerical immorality, venality, excessive papal power.
 - Proposed better discipline and management of the church
 - Some Catholic leaders accepted Protestant theological points and sought a Middle Way.

Tools of Counter-Reformation

- Index – A list of banned books (and authors) to be burned
 - Protestant Works, Boccaccio's Decameron, some of Erasmus' works. (Some latitude allowed.)
- Inquisition – had roots back to the thirteenth century to suppress heresy.
 - Expanded in Spain in 1478 after forced conversion of Jews. Persecuted *Conversos* and *Moriscos*, Protestants and Mystics illuminated by the Spirit of God.
 - Utilized physical and psychological torture (water boarding and the rack), rarely used, typical of secular justice.
 - Expanded to Italy in the 1530s.
 - Franciscans applied it in Mexico.
 - Primarily relied on fear of public shame.



The Council of Trent (1545-1563)

- Most important Council since Nicea (325)
- Met in three separate sessions (1545-47) (1551-2) (1561-3)
- Trent is in Northern Italy
- Gives name to “tridentine” also creates the oxymoronic term “Roman Catholicism”
- Decision Making — delegates voted as individuals, not by nations.
- Large Spanish and Italian attendance.
- Some delegates wanted significant reform of the Church

Reaffirming Catholic Theology

- *Sola Scriptura* – rebutted with Scripture and Tradition as interpreted by the Magisterium (teaching authority)
- The Vulgate is accepted as the only authoritative translation, more authority than Greek or Hebrew originals (includes the apocryphal books.)
- Instead of Grace Alone – humans freely cooperate with God's grace in salvation. (almsgiving a crucial example)
- Prayers for the dead are an individual and communal responsibility.
- Seripando's middle ground Christians transformed by the Gift of Christ and saved by God's mercy – was rejected.

Reaffirming Catholic Theology II

- Reaffirmed seven sacraments (baptism, confirmation, eucharist, penance, extreme unction, holy orders, matrimony) effect *ex opere operato* not by faith.
- Continued transubstantiation and receiving only the host
- In later sessions:
 - Bishops must reside in their sees
 - Power of pope reaffirmed over national churches
- The decrees were confirmed by the Pope helping to lead to papal infallibility in 1870

Results

- Led to a renewal in theological scholarship, education, moral reform, and spiritual growth.
- Increased emphasis on clerical celibacy and chastity
- Personal vision for reform –
 - Elite leaders would provide the model of faith
 - Members were to follow their model of personal holiness
 - Confessional box introduced at this time
 - Emphasis on reading lives of the saints – focus on bishops, missionaries, and founders of monastic orders (deemphasized female religious leaders)
 - Instead of renewing corporate worship emphasized individual “spirituality” which was ascetic, subjective, and mystical.

Considering a Source

- What do you notice from this excerpt from the Council of Trent?
- Do you believe this is an adequate reform for the challenges facing the Catholic Church?
- Is there anything that specifically bothers you about the document?

Ignatius of Loyola – Early Life

- Raised as the youngest son in a Basque noble family.
- Reputed to have had a wild early life.
- At 30 he volunteered to defend Pamplona against an invading French army.
- His leg was shattered by a cannonball – requiring painful convalescence and ending his career as a knight.
- Began reading devotional works. He believed God called him to become a spiritual knight and defend the church.

Knight for God

- March 1522 – Loyola offered his sword to the Virgin Mary, exchanged clothes with a beggar, and started a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
- Stopped by a plague outbreak he spent almost a year in a cave on an ascetic retreat:
 - Intense Prayer, extreme mortification, rigorous introspection.
- Began writing the Spiritual Exercises.
 1. Systematic consideration of sin and consequences
 2. Significance of life and Kingdom of Christ
 3. The Passion Story
 4. Reflection on risen and glorified Christ.

Individual Transformation

- Reformation through personal change – not institutional or theological modification.
- Master individual will.
- Focused development of virtues or attacks on vices.
- Would these types of exercises be valuable for Protestants?

The Jesuits

- 1537 – Loyola and companions swore a medieval oath to travel to Jerusalem and convert Muslims. Prevented by war.
- In 1540 the Jesuits were recognized by Pope Paul III
- Emphasized active life in the world – not retreat and contemplation.
- 4 Vows – poverty, chastity, obedience **to the Pope** and missions
- “If we wish to proceed securely in all things, we must hold fast the following principle: What seems to me white, I will believe black, if the hierarchical church so defines. For I must be convinced that in Christ our Lord, the bridegroom, and in his spouse, the church, only one Spirit holds sway, which governs and rules for the salvation of souls.” Loyola *Spiritual Exercises*

Importance of Education

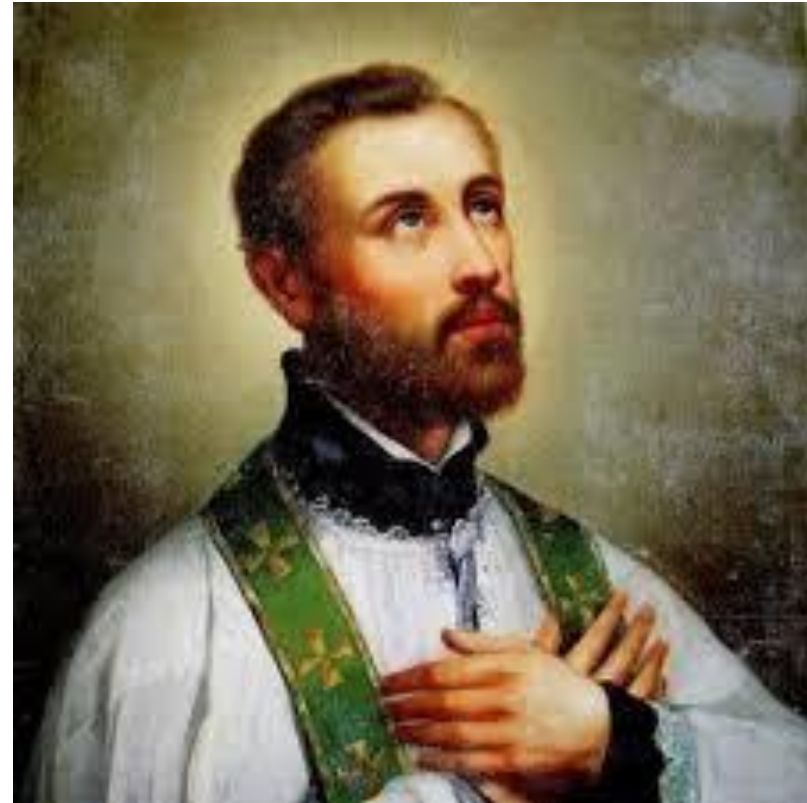
- Loyola established grammar schools and the Roman College and German College in Rome.
- Schools were used to train the next generation of scholars and Jesuits.
- By 1556 1,000 Jesuits
- By 1626 15,000 Jesuits and 440 colleges.
- In the United States today: Boston College, Holy Cross, Fordham, Georgetown, Loyola, Marquette, Xavier etc.

Missionary Orders

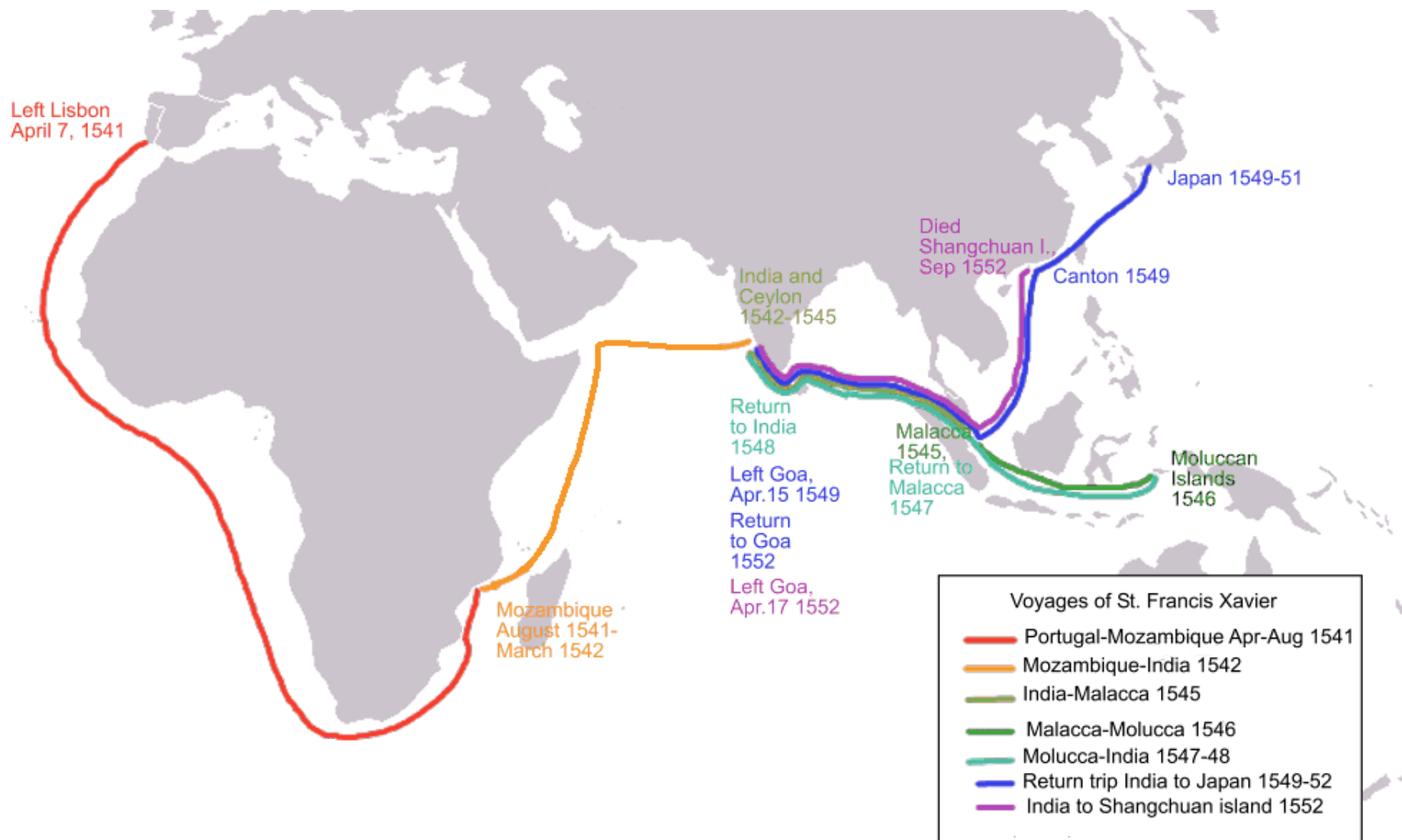
- Augustinians – Martin Luther's Order – focus on strict observance of Gospel Message
 - Sent Missionaries to Mexico, Peru, Columbia, Chile, India, China, Japan, Philippines, Kenya, and Arabia
- Dominicans – Tradition of teaching and theology
 - Especially important for missions in the New World.
 - Bartolomé de Las Casas and others taught that Native Americans were human and deserved more respect.

Francis Xavier

- Led Missionary Journeys to:
- India – began by instructing lapsed Portuguese settlers. 3 years preaching in Sothern India, founded 40 churches.
- Japan – Xavier the first western Missionary – used Japanese words and concepts for God.
- Converted up to 30,000.
- Realized the contrast of embedding evangelism in colonial exploitation, but still some cultural insensitivity.



Voyages of Francis Xavier



Saint Matteo Ricci (1552-1610)

- Started with 4 year mission in India (1578-1582)
- On Maccau mastered Chinese Script and Classical Chinese
- Lived for six years in Zaoqing and created a western map of China and Chinese Portuguese Dictionary
- 1601 became an advisor to the emperor based on his scientific skills and converted a number of top Chinese officials.
- Borrowed Confucian Concepts to explain Christianity – his approach was later outlawed by Pope.



St. Jean de Brébeuf

- Converted large numbers of Hurons to Christianity.
- Ordered his subordinates to adopt the Native American Lifestyle.

Within a lodge of broken bark

The tender Babe was found,

A ragged robe of rabbit skin

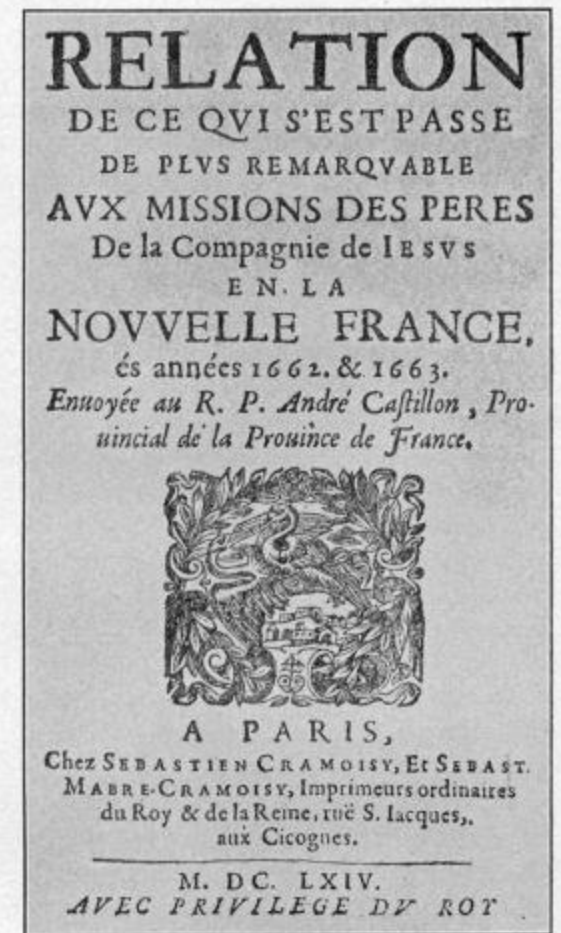
Enwrapped His beauty round.

- Captured, tortured, and killed with eight other Jesuits.



The Jesuit Relations

- Account of Missionary Activities in Canada.
- Published from 1635-1673.
- Provides important ethnographical information about Native Americans.
- Also designed as a fund raising tool and an adventure story.



TITLE-PAGE — JESUIT RELATION OF 1662-1663

Backlash

- Gradually European and Colonial States kicked the Jesuits out of their territories.
- Many people viewed them as political schemers and economic exploiters.
- Royal officials resented their loyalty to the Pope.
- 1759 – banned from Portugal.
- 1764 – banned from France and French territories.
- 1767 – banned from Spain and their colonies.
- Restored after the Napoleonic Wars – 1815.

Discussion Questions

- How do we evaluate the positive and negative legacies of missionary activity during this time period?
- How much cultural accommodation of the Gospel is too much?