

CHAPTER  
**17**

GUIDED READING *Luther Leads the Reformation*

Section 3

**A. Analyzing Causes and Recognizing Effects** As you read this section, note some of the causes and effects of the events identified.

Causes	Event or Situation	Effects
	1. In 1517, Luther posts his 95 theses on the church door at Wittenberg.	
	2. In 1520, Luther is excommunicated. In 1521, he is declared an outlaw and a heretic.	
	3. The German peasants revolt in 1524.	
	4. The Peace of Augsburg is signed in 1555.	
	5. The English Parliament approves the Act of Supremacy in 1534.	
	6. Parliament establishes the Anglican Church in 1559.	

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**B. Clarifying** On the back of this paper, define each term: **indulgence**, **Lutheran**, **Protestant**, and **annul**.

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**SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE** *Synthesizing*

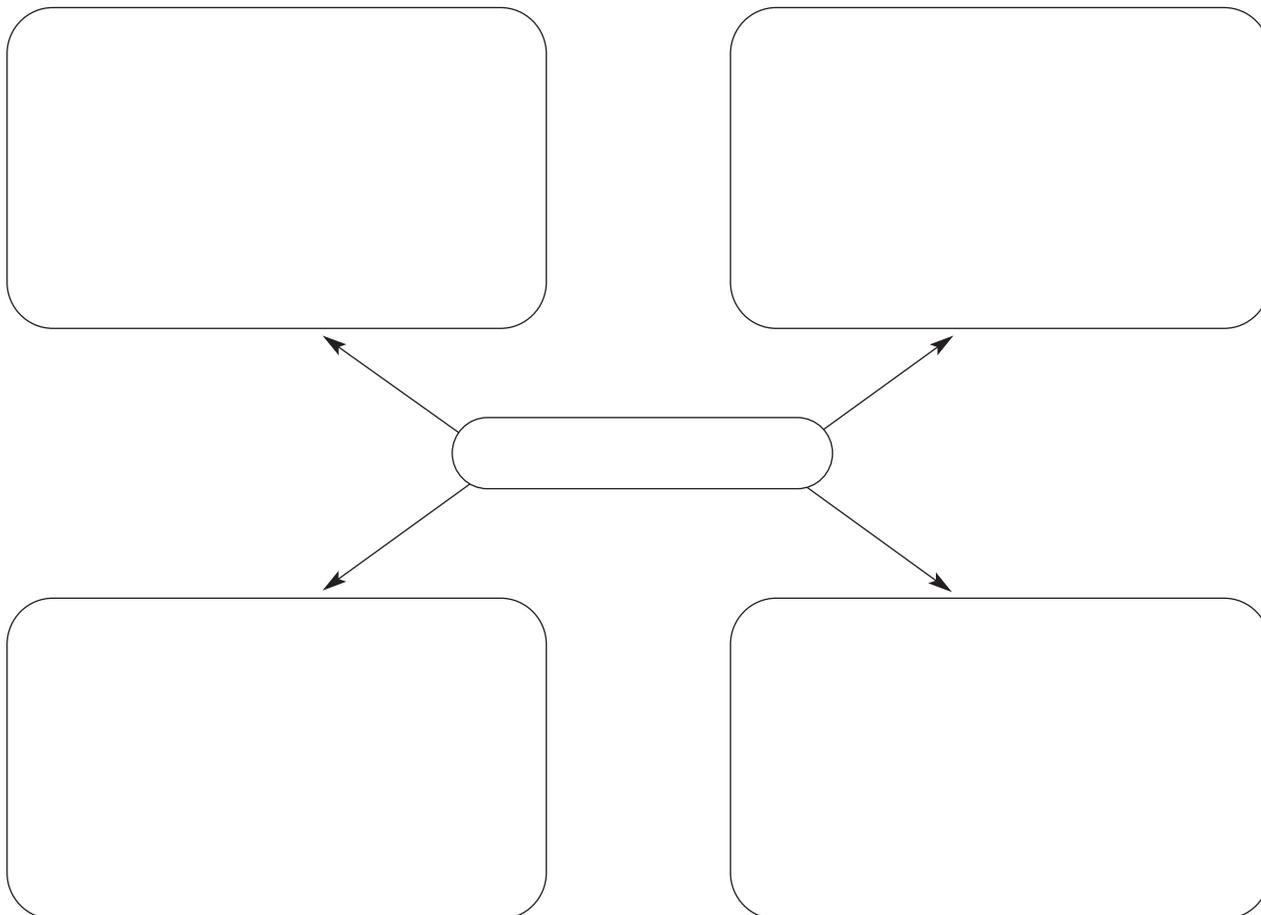
*Synthesizing involves putting together different pieces of information to form an overall picture of a historical event. Like detectives, historians piece together historical clues to arrive at an understanding of past events. As you read the passage below, form a synthesis about the impact of the printing press on European society. Then fill in the cluster diagram to show information you used to form the synthesis. (See Skillbuilder Handbook)*

The first Europeans to use movable type were printers in Mainz, Germany, the most famous of whom was Johann Gutenberg. From Germany, printing spread quickly to other European cities. By 1500, presses in about 250 cities had printed between 9 and 10 million books. For the first time, books were affordable enough so that people could buy and read them.

The printing press made the Bible available to all Christians who could read. No longer did worshipers have to depend on their priests to read and interpret the Bible for them. Now they could read and find meaning on their own. And for some, like Martin Luther, their interpretations differed greatly

from those of the Church. For others, religious books beautifully illustrated with woodcuts and engravings rekindled religious feelings and encouraged popular piety.

Printing prepared the way for a religious revolution. Books on religion publicized the corruption of the Renaissance popes and other problems in the Church. New ideas spread more quickly than ever before. Many of Luther's ideas were drawn from the writings of John Wycliffe and John Huss, earlier critics of the Church. In turn, printing presses quickly spread Luther's 95 theses throughout Europe, drawing many followers to his teachings. The pen was proving to be mightier than the sword.



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PRIMARY SOURCE **A Conference with Elizabeth I**  
by André Hurault

*Elizabeth I (1533–1603) was the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. She became queen of England in 1558. In the following passage, the French ambassador to England records his impressions of a private meeting that he had with Elizabeth I on December 8, 1597. As you read his account, think about the queen’s appearance and behavior.*

On the 8th of December I did not think to be given an audience for that day and was resolved to make my complaint; but about one hour after noon there came a gentleman from the Queen who said to me that her Majesty was much grieved that she had not given me audience sooner, and that she prayed me to come to her that very hour. He brought me in a coach to take me down to the river where one of the barges awaited me, and we went thence to the gate of the Queen’s palace. . . .

She was strangely attired in a dress of silver cloth, white and crimson, or silver ‘gauze’, as they call it. This dress had slashed sleeves lined with red taffeta, and was girt about with other little sleeves that hung down to the ground, which she was for ever twisting and untwisting. She kept the front of her dress open . . . and often she would open the front of this robe with her hands as if she was too hot. The collar of the robe was very high, and the lining of the inner part all adorned with little pendants of rubies and pearls, very many, but quite small. She had also a chain of rubies and pearls about her neck. On her head she wore a garland of the same material and beneath it a great reddish-coloured wig, with a great number of spangles of gold and silver, and hanging down over her forehead some pearls, but of no great worth. On either side of her ears hung two great curls of hair, almost down to her shoulders and within the collar of her robe, spangled as the top of her head. . . .

As for her face, it is and appears to be very aged. It is long and thin, and her teeth are very yellow and unequal, compared with what they were formerly, so they say, and on the left side less than on the right. Many of them are missing so that one cannot understand her easily when she speaks quickly. Her figure is fair and tall and graceful in whatever she does; so far as may be she keeps her dignity, yet humbly and graciously withal.

All the time she spoke she would often rise from her chair, and appear to be very impatient with what I was saying. She would complain that the fire was hurting her eyes, though there was a great screen before it and she six or seven feet away; yet did she give orders to have it extinguished, making them bring water to pour upon it. She told me that she was well pleased to stand up, and that she used to speak thus with the ambassadors who came to seek her, and used sometimes to tire them, of which they would on occasion complain. I begged her not to overtire herself in any way, and I rose when she did; and then she sat down again, and so did I. At my departure she rose and conducted me to that same place where she had come to receive me, and again began to say that she was grieved that all the gentlemen I had brought should see her in that condition, and she called to see them. They made their reverence before her, one after the other, and she embraced them all with great charm and smiling countenance.

*from André Hurault, Journal of an Embassy from Henry IV to Queen Elizabeth, 1597, trans. by G. B. Harrison and R. A. Jones (Nonesuch Press, 1931). Reprinted in John Carey, ed., Eyewitness to History (New York: Avon Books, 1987), 156-159.*

## Research Options

1. **Writing Expository Paragraphs** Use print or on-line resources to find out more about the life and reign of Elizabeth I. Then write a brief biographical sketch and share it with your classmates.
2. **Making Judgments** André Hurault provides a detailed description of the queen’s attire. Research fashions of the Renaissance. Then sketch costume designs for a film set during this time period and display them in class.



## Section 3

## PRIMARY SOURCE Report on the English Reformation

*Thomas Cromwell (1485?–1540) was an English statesman who served under Henry VIII. Cromwell devised the policy that separated England from the Roman Catholic Church and was responsible for establishing the Reformation in England. The following excerpt comes from a report by Cromwell's agents—John London, Roger Townshend, Richard Layton, and Geoffrey Chamber—on the progress of the English Reformation from 1537 to 1538. According to the report, what steps were taken to break with the Roman Catholic Church during the Reformation?*

In my most humble manner I have me commend-  
ed unto your good lordship, ascertaining the  
same that I have pulled down the image of Our  
Lady at Caversham, whereunto was great pilgrim-  
age. The image is plated over with silver, and I  
have put it in a chest fast locked and nailed up, and  
by the next barge that cometh from Reading to  
London it shall be brought to your lordship. I have  
also pulled down the place she stood in, with all  
other ceremonies, as lights, shrowds, crosses, and  
images of wax hanging about the chapel, and have  
defaced the same thoroughly in eschewing of any  
further resort thither. This chapel did belong to  
Notley Abbey, and there always was a canon of that  
monastery which was called the Warden of  
Caversham, and he sung in this chapel and had the  
offerings for his living. He was accustomed to show  
many pretty relics, among the which were (as he  
made report) the holy dagger that killed King  
Henry, and the holy knife that killed St. Edward.  
All these with many other, with the coats of this  
image, her cap and hair, my servants shall bring  
unto your lordship this week, with the surrender of  
the friars under their convent seal, and their seal  
also. I have sent the canon home again to Notley,  
and have made fast the doors of the chapel, which  
is thoroughly well covered with lead, and if it be  
your lordship's pleasure I shall see it made sure to  
the King's grace's use. And if it be not so ordered,  
the chapel standeth so wildly that the lead will be  
stolen by night. . . . At Caversham is a proper lodg-  
ing where the canon lay, with a fair garden and an  
orchard, meet to be bestowed upon some friend of  
your lordship's in these parts. . . .

Please it your good lordship to be advertised  
that there was a poor woman of Wells, beside  
Walsingham, that imagined a false tale of a miracle  
to be done by the image of Our Lady that was at  
Walsingham, since the same was brought from  
thence to London. And upon the trial thereof, by

my examination from one person to another, to the  
number of six persons, and at last came to hear that  
she was the reporter thereof, and to be the very  
author of the same, as far forth as my conscience  
and perceiving could lead me, I committed her  
therefore to the ward of the constable at  
Walsingham. The next day after, being market day,  
there I caused her to be set in stocks in the morn-  
ing, and about 9.00 of the clock when the said mar-  
ket was fullest of people, with a paper set about her  
head, written with these words upon the same A  
REPORTER OF FALSE TALES, was set in a cart  
and so carried about the market stead and other  
streets in the town, staying in divers places where  
most people assembled, young people and boys of  
the town casting snowballs at her. This done and  
executed, was brought to the stocks again, and  
there set till the market was ended. This was her  
penance; for I knew no law otherwise to punish her  
but by discretion, trusting it shall be a warning to  
other light persons in such wise to order themself.  
Howbeit, I cannot perceive but the said image is  
not yet out of some of their heads, I thought it con-  
venient to advertise your lordship of the truth of  
this matter. . . .

from H. Ellis, *Original Letters*, 1824–46. Reprinted in John  
Carey, ed., *Eyewitness to History* (New York: Avon Books,  
1987), 89–91.

### Discussion Questions

#### Summarizing

1. What property did Cromwell's agents seize from English monasteries?
2. How did Cromwell's agents punish a woman who attributed a miracle to the image of Our Lady at Walsingham?
3. **Recognizing Effects** According to this report, what changes occurred in England as a result of the Reformation?

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HISTORYMAKERS

# Elizabeth I

## *Gloriana*

*"It is my desire to live nor reign no longer than my life and reign shall be for your good. And though you have had, and may have, many princes more mighty and wise sitting in this seat, yet you never had, nor shall have, any that will be more careful and loving."—Elizabeth, addressing Parliament (1601)*

Called "Gloriana," Elizabeth I, the new queen of England in 1558, ushered in a period of unmatched artistic growth and political achievements. She survived a difficult childhood to reach the throne at age 25. She patched over religious differences, skillfully manipulated other rulers who sought her hand in marriage, helped guide England past a serious foreign threat, and presided over a period of intellectual and artistic flowering. She became a magnificent symbol of England's rise.

The daughter of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII, Elizabeth was forced to grow up fast in an unstable and dangerous court. When she was not yet three years old, her father accused her mother of conspiracy and had Anne Boleyn executed. Elizabeth, like her older half-sister Mary, was declared illegitimate. In 1544, Elizabeth was named third in line to the throne, but her troubles did not go away. She was suspected of being involved in a plot against her half-brother Edward when he became king. She responded well to tough questions, though, and her innocence was accepted.

After Edward's death, Mary became queen. She was Catholic, and became suspicious of Elizabeth, who was Protestant. Once again, Elizabeth was wrongly accused of plotting against the crown. She was arrested and placed in the Tower of London but was released two months later. In 1558, Mary died, and Elizabeth was crowned queen.

Elizabeth inherited a miserable situation in England. One contemporary described the state in hopeless terms: "The queen poor. The realm exhausted. The nobility poor and decayed. . . . The people out of order. Justice not executed." However, her reign reversed these trends and revived the English spirit.

In the first decades of Elizabeth's rule, she played a skillful game of cat-and-mouse with the powerful nobles of Europe, who wanted to marry her and win control of England. She entertained several possible husbands, changing her course as she believed was best for English policy. In the

end, she frustrated all suitors and never married. While her policy ensured the independence of England, it was risky. If she died unexpectedly, a struggle for the throne was bound to result.

Elizabeth also attempted to heal the religious differences that plagued England. In 1559, she persuaded Parliament to approve a law that made England Protestant but that also gave some concessions to Catholics. Though laws against Catholic practices grew stricter under her rule, she managed to lighten them in practice.

In the 1580s, England drifted toward war with Spain. Elizabeth allowed English sea captains to plunder Spanish ships bringing gold and silver from the New World. She also sent aid and English troops to the areas of the Netherlands that were fighting to win independence from Spain. In 1588, Philip II of Spain launched a huge fleet, the Armada, against England. England's faster ships outsailed the Spanish fleet and inflicted heavy damage on them. A severe storm destroyed many Spanish ships and helped defeat the Armada.

In Elizabeth's later years, England suffered other problems. The Irish, encouraged by Spain, rebelled against English control. These wars and the defeat of the Armada drained the treasury. The economy weakened. Nobles and government officials jockeyed for power and influence. During this time, however, English writers produced an outpouring of poems, plays, and other works that showed great creativity and skill. The queen, now 70, finally weakened and died in 1603.

## Questions

1. **Making Inferences** What actions do you think demonstrated that Elizabeth was both a clever and fair ruler? Explain.
2. **Drawing Conclusions** Why was Elizabeth such a desirable match in marriage?
3. **Clarifying** What policies led to conflict with Spain?

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RETEACHING ACTIVITY

*Luther Leads  
the Reformation*

**Determining Main Ideas** Choose the word that most accurately completes each sentence below. Write that word in the blank provided.

Reformation  
Peace of Augsburg  
indulgence

Lutherans  
Protestant  
annul

Anglican  
heretic

1. Christians who were members of non-Catholic churches were considered \_\_\_\_\_.
2. An \_\_\_\_\_, otherwise known as a pardon, released a sinner from the penalty that a priest imposed for sins.
3. Luther was declared a \_\_\_\_\_, or a person who holds beliefs that differ from official Church teachings.
4. Henry VIII asked the pope to \_\_\_\_\_ his marriage to Catherine Howard so that he could take a younger wife.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ Church was created by Parliament and Elizabeth I to return England to Protestantism.
6. Luther's 95 Theses began the \_\_\_\_\_, a movement for religious reform.
7. Luther and his followers became a separate religious group from the Catholic Church, known as \_\_\_\_\_.
8. A religious settlement known as the \_\_\_\_\_ declared that each ruler would decide the religion of their state.