

HY26520 / HY36520 The European Reformation

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Historians now tend to look at the Reformation as a process rather than an event. The idea of Europe's Long Reformation, stretching from the early sixteenth century until at least the end of the seventeenth, if not beyond, has become increasingly accepted. This module adopts this perspective, and looks at the Protestant and Catholic Reformations throughout Europe, and in North America. The module, therefore, deals with a series of inter-related questions and themes. It looks at the magisterial reformers in some detail, and examines the different 'reformations' which they advocated. It then looks at how those different 'reformations' became entwined with larger dynastic and political concerns throughout Europe. Adopting a series of case studies, varying both chronologically and geographically, the module tries to do justice to the nature and variety of Protestant belief and spirituality, and looks at what it actually meant in real terms to be a Protestant in this period. The Reformation revolutionized not only theology and worship, but also popular belief, political engagements and domestic relationship. The module also examines some of the debates about the relationship between the Reformation and the emergence of modernity, with a particular focus on, individualism, democracy, capitalism and even secularization.

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