

# World History Series

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## The Protestant Threat

The appeal of Protestantism was not confined to northern Europe; Protestants initially made inroads in France, although the kingdom remained primarily Catholic because a strong Catholic monarch managed to contain and eventually expel most of the Protestants.

Additionally, French rulers had help from Rome in stamping out Protestantism. In 1542, to root out heresy in the church and to deal with Protestants and other dissenters in Catholic-dominated lands, Pope Paul III established the Inquisition. Made up of six cardinals, the Inquisition questioned suspects, sometimes

Both Catholic and Protestant authorities often condemned those they deemed heretics to be burned alive. Here, the condemned is led away.



32 ■ The Renaissance



Ignatius of Loyola kneels before the pope. Loyola founded the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, a missionary order aimed at restoring and reviving the Catholic Church.

under torture, to determine their guilt or innocence. Those found guilty of heresy could be imprisoned or executed by hanging or burning alive.

**The Counter-Reformation**  
Still, church officials realized that more was needed to protect the church than the Inquisition, for even in Italy, the heartland of Catholicism, there was a growing demand for church reform. Unlike northern Europe, as Durand points out, “the Italian argument was all for reform with-

in the church. And indeed, loyal churchmen had for centuries admitted the need for reform. The outbreak and progress of the Protestant Reformation gave new urgency to the need and the demand.”

The answer was a Catholic Counter-Reformation, and it came in the form of the Council of Trent, an assembly of church leaders convened by Pope Paul in 1545. Over the next eighteen years the council met three times and hammered out policies for directing and protecting the church. Above all else, the council

Belgian Reform ■ 33

- **For More Information** – an annotated bibliography of age-appropriate resources, including Web sites
- **End Notes, Glossary and Index**

Grades: 7-10  
Book Size: 7”x9”  
Page Count: 96-128

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