



# **The Protestant Reformation: Early Modern History (Early Modern History Series Book 4)**

*Andrew Alexander*

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The Protestant Reformation was an early sixteenth century movement which aimed initially at reforming the archaic beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church.

However, the movement's religious aspects were supplemented by the political ambitions of the local secular rulers who wanted to expand their power and authority at the expense of the Catholic Church.

The Reformation was born out of the Renaissance's critical thinking, Papal abuses and over a hundred years of festering religious arguments. The Reformation shattered the myth of Christian unity and initiated the introduction of the early modern era.

The movement quickly gained followers in the German states, the Burgundian Netherlands, regions of France and Scandinavia.

As any hope of reforming the Catholic Church faded, the Protestants separated from Rome, resulting in Lutheran Churches in Germany and Scandinavia and Reformed Churches in Switzerland and the Netherlands.

This 9,900-word study gives the reader a fundamental understanding of the weakness of the Catholic Church, the Protestant reformers, their beliefs and the expansion of their teachings.

The main areas covered in this work are:

- The weaknesses of Catholic Church in the early sixteenth century.
- Why did the Reformation transpire in the early sixteenth century?
- Political Factors in the Spread of Lutheranism in Germany: 1517-1555.
- Martin Luther; his life, writings and influence.
- Ulrich Zwingli and the 67 Articles.
- John Calvin; his Genevan church, his religious beliefs and the spread of Calvinism.

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