

### Princes: Positive agents of Reform?

- The relationship between the Pope and the Council of Trent was a tense one; but so too was the relationship between both of these organisations and the Princes.
- In 1564 The Pope issued a Bull declaring the Tridentine Decrees obligatory in all Catholic lands. However, the Princes regard this decree with suspicion.
- In this exercise, we are therefore moving away from a face-value consideration of how progressive the reforms were on paper, and towards an assessment of how effective they were in practice.

The Prince of...	Before Trent	After Trent
<b>Spain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cisneros</b> carries out a number of reforms (of monasteries etc.)</li> <li>• But of limited importance – limited to lands of the <b>Reconquista</b>, although they suggest willingness of Princes to reform.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spain agreed to the Tridentine Decrees as it tied in with his Reconquista tradition, on the condition that it did not infringe Royal Prerogatives.</li> </ul>
<b>France</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• French Kings had gained control of appointments in the <b>Concordat of Bologna</b>.</li> <li>▪ Some monasteries had been dissolved, but it was widely felt that this had been done not for religious reasons, but merely to generate revenue for the Italian Wars.</li> <li>▪ Genuine reformers such as <b>Cardinal d'Amboise</b> were of little real influence.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tridentine Decrees not initially adopted; country plunges into the <b>Wars of Religion</b>, symbolized most clearly by the <b>St. Bartholemew's Day Massacre</b>.</li> <li>▪ <b>Henry IV</b>: cynical Catholic. The 1598 <b>Edict of Nantes</b> saw him convert to Catholicism and embrace the Tridentine Decrees to secure his position ("Paris is worth a Mass"). At the same time, he allows near independence to large Protestant areas in France, but these are denied any financial support and so they eventually return to the Catholic fold.</li> <li>▪ <b>Louis XIV</b>: reactionary. He rejected the Edict of Nantes in 1685 and crushed the new Catholic Orders of the Jansenists and oversaw the <b>Massacre of the Huguenots</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Germany</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very hard to organise reform here due to federal nature of the HRE and the distraction of the Ottoman Empire.</li> <li>▪ CV tried, but met with resistance e.g. (a) at Deddingen the monks broke the reformer's carriage to pieces, and (b) in Tyrol a reformer was put in jail for a fortnight.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Catholic Princes accept the Tridentine Decrees in 1556 after the <b>Peace of Augsburg</b>, and take <b>Canisius</b> (a key reformer) to their hearts.</li> <li>▪ Pope gratefully grants 10% of clergy income to the Princes.</li> <li>▪ Clearly secular as well as religious motives.</li> <li>▪ Emperor Ferdinand is more cautious in the Habsburg Lands due to political reasons, but his great-grandson</li> </ul>

		Ferdinand enjoys great victories over the Protestants in the <b>30 Years War</b> (1618-48).
<b>Other:</b>	<p><b>England:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HVIII did befriend reformist figures like <b>Sir Thomas More</b> and Erasmus, but more obviously patronised <b>Cardinal Wolsey</b> (arch pluralist) and was happy to behead More for questioning his headship of the Church.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Netherlands:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Too repressive, leads to <b>Dutch Revolt</b>; Northern Netherlands become Calvinist but Southern States are vigorously reclaimed; by time of Spanish-Dutch settlement in 1648 even Brussels and Antwerp had returned to the fold.</li> </ul>

**Main Task**

1. Use the information in this worksheet to complete the following sentences using a Word Processor:

**A. “Catholic Reformation?”**

There is evidence that some countries were already engaged in a process of reform before Trent...???

There is also evidence that Trent accelerated this process...???

**B. “Counter Reformation?”**

Nevertheless, there is also evidence that countries were more reactionary than they might at first appear...???

Moreover, there is evidence that Trent merely encouraged these trends or at least failed to stop them...???

**C. Conclusion**

In conclusion, ...???

2. Now go back to each paragraph and add some interesting narrative detail by researching some of the key events and individuals which are underlined this document.

**Discussion Point:**

- What were the respective roles played by the Papacy, the Princes and the Council of Trent in the Catholic reform movement?