

**CHAPTER 1 Section 3 (pages 48–52)**

# Luther Starts the Reformation

## BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you saw how the Renaissance spread to Northern Europe.

In this section, you will see how Renaissance ideas helped bring about the Reformation.

## AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on the responses to Luther's challenge.

### TERMS AND NAMES

**indulgence** Release from punishments due for a sin

**Reformation** 16th-century movement for religious reform, leading to the founding of new Christian churches

**Lutheran** Member of a Protestant church founded on the teachings of Martin Luther

**Protestant** Member of a Christian church founded on the principles of the Reformation

**Peace of Augsburg** Agreement in 1555 declaring that the religion of each German state would be decided by its ruler

**annul** Cancel or put an end to

**Anglican** Relating to the Church of England

BATTLE / POLITICAL ISSUE	EFFECT
Responses to Luther's Challenge	The Pope threatens Luther with excommunication.

## Causes of the Reformation (page 48)

### Why was the Church criticized?

By 1500, the influence of the Church on the lives of people had weakened. Some people resented paying taxes to support the Church in Rome. Others sharply criticized the Church for some of its practices. Popes seemed more concerned with luxury and political power than with spiritual matters. The lower *clergy* had faults too. Many local priests lacked education and were not able to teach people. Some lived immoral lives.

Reformers urged the Church to change its ways to become more spiritual and humble. Christian humanists such as Erasmus and Thomas More added their voices to calls for change. In the early 1500s, the calls grew louder.

1. What kinds of changes did Church critics want to make?

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