

#920 The Woman is also the John Calvin Church/State – A brief overview of how John Calvin and the Calvinists fit into the Protestant Reformation

Key Understanding #1: *The Protestant Reformation centered around four major reform movements.* The Protestant Reformation began with Martin Luther on October 31, 1517. From there it can be said that the Protestant Reformation centered around four major reform movements:

- (i) **Lutheranism** – Its central figure was/is **Martin Luther**.
- (ii) **Anglicanism** – Its initial central figures were **King Henry VIII and his wives**.
- (iii) **Anabaptists**
- (iv) **Calvinist Reformed Churches** – Their central figure was/is **John Calvin**.

Let's briefly expand upon each with our focus being on each one's relationship to the *kingdoms/nations of this world*.

- (i) **Lutheranism** – Lutheranism was formed out of the life and work of Martin Luther in Germany, beginning in 1517. *Lutheran kingdoms/nations of this world* were centered in Scandinavia, with Lutheranism becoming the official church in **Sweden**, **Finland**, **Norway**, and **Denmark**. [Reference Unsealing [#841](#).]



Martin Luther

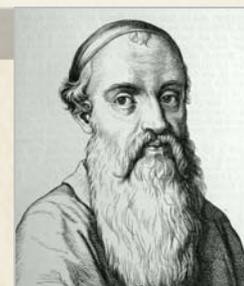
- (ii) **Anglicanism (Church of England)** – In 1534, King Henry VIII declared himself head of the Church of England in direct defiance of the papacy. **England** would become an official *Anglican kingdom/nation of this world*. The King and Queen of England today must belong to the Anglican faith.

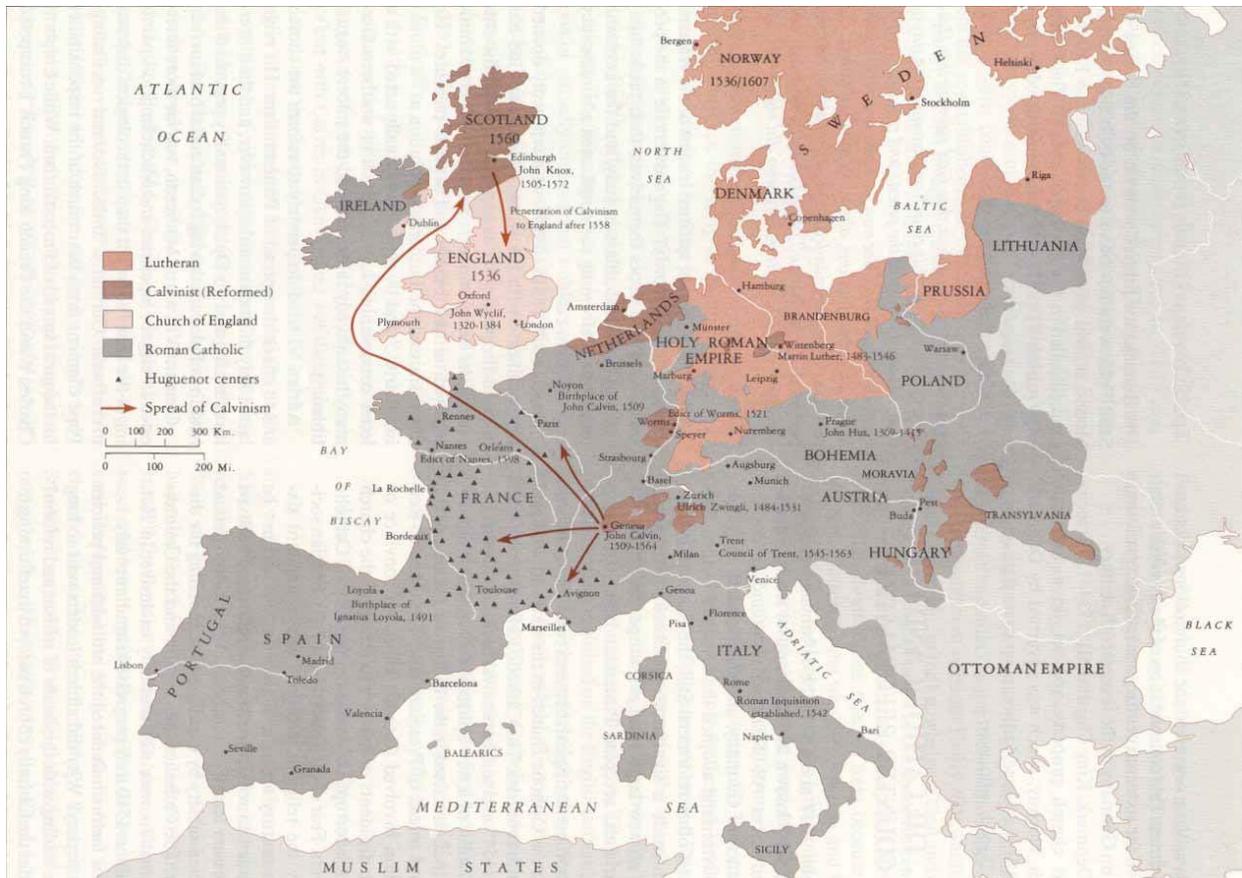


King Henry VIII

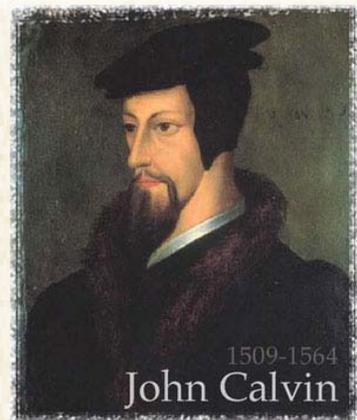
- (iii) **Anabaptists** – There are **no Anabaptist kingdoms/nations of this world**, for their doctrine was/is that the Lord's kingdom is not of this world. Anabaptists condemned government involvement in religion, which eventually led to the idea of the true genuine separation of church and state. The rise of the Anabaptists was prominent in the mid-1520's. Many Anabaptists were persecuted in both sword-bearing Protestant and sword-bearing Roman Catholic countries.

Menno Simons





(iv) **Calvinist Reformed Churches** – John Calvin’s work *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, written in 1536, systematically presented a Protestant response to Roman Catholic doctrine. Starting in the late 1530’s, under the leadership of John Calvin, the city of Geneva, Switzerland, was transformed and became a center of Protestantism. Calvin’s French followers became known as *Huguenots*. English Protestants whom he influenced were called *Puritans*. Major denominations that came out of Calvinism are the Presbyterian Church, the Reformed Churches (such as the Dutch Reformed Church), and Congregationalists. **Scotland** became a *Calvinist kingdom/nation of this world* as was basically the **Netherlands**, beginning with its founding by William I of Orange. Members of the Dutch royal family have always been members of the (Calvinist) Dutch Reformed Church (even if nominally so), though it is not constitutionally required, and, similarly, though the Dutch Reformed Church is not the official state church, it has long been at a minimum the “privileged church” in the land. Finally, of course, Britain’s history – and America’s history – were enormously influenced by the Calvinist faith, through the English Puritans, the Scottish Presbyterians, and the House of Orange of the Netherlands.



Key Understanding #2: Calvinism and “One Nation Under God”. Similar to Lutheranism, the followers of John Calvin believed it possible to establish ‘nations under God’ in this age through the doctrines of Calvinism.

*John 18:36 (KJV) Jesus answered, **MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD**: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

*Revelation 17:18 (KJV) And **THE WOMAN** which thou sawest **IS THAT GREAT CITY** [Babylon the Great], *which reigneth over the kings of the earth.**

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