

A. The Creation of the Society of Jesus- “The Jesuits” (1540AD)

1. Who are the Jesuits?- They are often touted as perhaps the most educated and one of the most intellectual groups of people on the planet
 - a. There are an estimated 178 Jesuit colleges and universities worldwide that and some 28 colleges and universities in the United States alone
 - Some of the more prominent schools include- Boston College (main school), Holy Cross, Fordham, Gonzaga, Marquette, Rockhurst, and the four Loyola Universities (Marymount in LA, Chicago, Maryland, New Orleans)
 - b. The most significant and impactful is Georgetown in Washington DC
 - College programs in Georgetown include- The School of Public Policy, Walsh School of Foreign Service; Georgetown University- Qatar
2. Ignatius Loyola- (1491-1556)- The Founder
 - a. Ignatius Loyola was born and raised a devout Roman Catholic and grew up in the court of King Ferdinand of Spain
 - He was severely wounded in a battle with the French in 1521 at the age of 30
 - During his long recovery he read the works of Francis of Assisi and Saint Dominic, founders of the Franciscan and Dominican order of priests. They inspired him to devote his life to the eradication of heresies throughout Europe through intellectual infiltration
 - On August 15th, 1534 (anniversary of the assumption of Mary) Loyola and six others formed a society and entered into a mutual vow of missionary work to go anywhere without question wherever the Pope sends them
 - Their first mission was to take whatever means necessary to “counter the reformation”
 - b. Facts about the Jesuit Order-
 - To become a Jesuit means making an absolute vow for life to go anywhere without question or hesitation,
 - Jesuits sign a pledge to devote their lives to the society unto death if necessary
 - They are by far “the few and the proud” they are the marines of the Roman church
 - During the initiation to become a Jesuit they must take an oath. The Jesuits believe that any nation that is not Catholic is accursed (Council of Trent) and is fair game to subvert by any means.
 - Their Oath speaks volumes to the strategy used during the Reformation up until today
 - The impact of Georgetown University
3. Prominent Former Jesuit- Adam Weishaupt (1748-1811) founder of the “The Illuminati” in 1776, a professor of canon law at the University of Ingolstadt. He created the secret society, originally called the "Perfectibilists," to promote Enlightenment ideals, such as secularism, reason, and liberty, and to oppose religious influence over public life.
 - a. Key Facts About Adam Weishaupt and the Illuminati-
 - Goal:** Weishaupt sought to combat religious influence in education and state affairs, aiming for a society based on reason and moral equality.
 - Establishment:** The group was founded with five members, growing to an estimated 2,000 members throughout Bavaria, France, Italy, and Poland.
 - Infiltration Strategy:**

- b. To expand influence, Weishaupt joined the Freemasons in 1777 to study their structure and encouraged his members to infiltrate Masonic lodges to recruit intellectual and political elites.

B. The Council of Trent- “Reaffirming Catholic Doctrine”- (1545AD-1563AD)

1. The Term Council in the Bible- Occurs 22X- Only 1 occurrence is positive.
 - a. Councils of the Sanhedrin/Pharisees
 - b. Their goal in the New Testament was to counter the words of Christ (6X in the Gospels and the teachings of the Apostle Paul (15X in the book of Acts)
 - c. There have been 21 Roman Church councils with three of them, having a huge impact on the church- Nicaea, Trent and Vatican II
2. The Council of Trent was held specifically to Counter the Reformation-
 - a. Held in Trento, Italy in 1545AD – 1563AD; Trento, Italy- 110 miles NW of Venice
 - b. The Purpose- To reaffirm Roman Catholic doctrine and curse anyone who didn’t follow their teachings.
 - The council took all of 18 years consisting of 25 sessions which allowed the church to redefine their theology and identify roughly 125 “curses” or “anathemas”.
 - Anathema Defined- refers to something vehemently disliked, detested, or formally cursed and excommunicated. The Council of Trent definition- “damned to hell”
 - c. A Few Main Anathemas-
 - **The Word of God**- But if anyone received not as sacred and canonical the said books entire with all their parts as they have been used to be read in the Catholic Church and as they are contained in the old Latin vulgate edition and knowingly deliberately condemned the traditions aforesaid; **let him be anathema**
 - **Infant Baptism**- If anyone denies that infants newly born from their mother's wombs even though they be sprung from baptized parents are to be baptized **let him be an anathema**
 - **The Gospel**- If anyone sayeth that nothing besides faith is commanded in the gospel; that other things are indifferent neither commanded nor prohibited but free or that the ten commandments no wise appertain to Christians **let him and anathema**
 - If anyone sayeth, that the man who is justified and how perfect soever is now bound to observe the commandments of God and of the church but only to believe as if indeed the gospel were a bear an absolute promise of eternal life without the condition of observing the commandments **let him be anathema**
 - **The Finished Work of Christ**- If anyone sayeth that after the grace of justification has been received to every penitent sinner that guilt is remitted and the debt of eternal punishment is blotted out in such wise, that there remains not any debt of temporal punishment to be discharged either in this life or in the next in purgatory before the entrance to the kingdom of heaven can be opened to him
 - **The Sacraments**- If anyone sayeth that the sacraments of the new law were not all instituted by Jesus Christ our Lord or that they are more or less than seven, to wit, Baptism, Confirmation, the Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Order and Matrimony or even that any of one of these seven is not truly and improperly a sacrament **let him be anathema**
 - **Baptism**- If anyone saith, that baptism is free, that is, not necessary unto salvation, **let him be an anathema**

C. The Chaos on the Continent- “The 30 Years War” (1618-1648)

1. Background- The **Thirty Years' War**, fought primarily in Central Europe between 1618 and 1648, was one of the most destructive conflicts in European history.
 - a. An estimated 10 million soldiers and civilians died from the effects of battle, famine, or disease, with parts of Germany reporting population declines of over 50% (Germany's population went from 16 million to 6 million)
 - b. Related conflicts include the Franco-Spanish War, the Torstenson War, the Dutch/Portuguese War.
2. Cause- Its causes derived from religious conflict within the Holy Roman Empire, sparked by the 16th-century Reformation.
 - a. The 1555 Peace of Augsburg attempted to resolve this by dividing the Empire into Catholic and Lutheran states but was later destabilized by the expansion of Protestantism beyond these boundaries.
 - b. Disagreements over religion was the main factor in starting the war.
3. Book Recommendation- “The Secret History of the Jesuits”- Edmund Paris