

The Reformation and Its Impact on Politics and the Christian Worldview

The Protestant Reformation dramatically transformed the sixteenth century world in ways that continue to greatly shape our world today. The Reformation brought foundational theological changes which led to a dramatically different view of God and the world. This worldview shift in turn significantly changed the social, political, cultural, and economic life of much of Europe. These changes continue to shape and impact our politics, our worldview, our economics and our view of humanity today.

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- I. Theological Changes Which Changed the World
 - A. The Reformation changed the view of salvation.
 - B. The Reformation changed the view of the Bible.
 - C. The Reformation changed the view of the Church.
 - D. The Reformation changed evangelism.
- II. The Reformation Changes Worldview, Politics, and Society
 - A. The Reformation tried to erase the sacred/secular dichotomy.
 - B. The Reformation sparked a global transformation of education.
 - C. The Reformation transformed our view of work and money.

- D. The Reformation brought economic development with free enterprise.
- E. The Reformers encouraged Protestants to engage in politics and society.
- F. The Reformation empowered the individual.
- G. The Reformation laid the groundwork for freedom of religion.
- H. The Reformation provided a foundation for democracy and civil liberty.
- I. The Reformation called for the separation of church and state.
- J. The Reformation recognized the rights of the individual (human rights).

Suggested Readings:

- Hall, D.W. *The Genevan Reformation and the American Founding*. Lexington Books, 2003.
- McGrath, Alister E. *Reformation Thought : An Introduction*. 2nd ed. Oxford, UK ; Cambridge, USA: Blackwell, 1993, especially chapters 10-11.
- Witte, John. *The Reformation of Rights : Law, Religion, and Human Rights in Early Modern Calvinism*. Cambridge ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2007.