

# LESSONS FROM CHURCH HISTORY

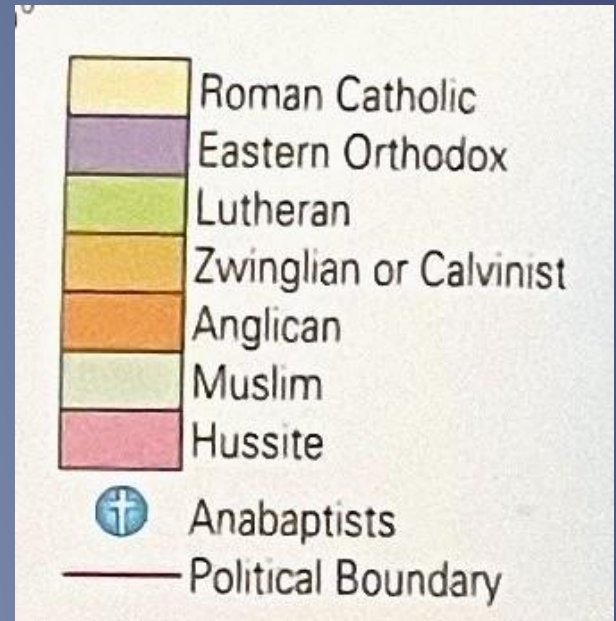


Week 9: Lessons from the Protestant Reformation

# LESSONS FROM THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

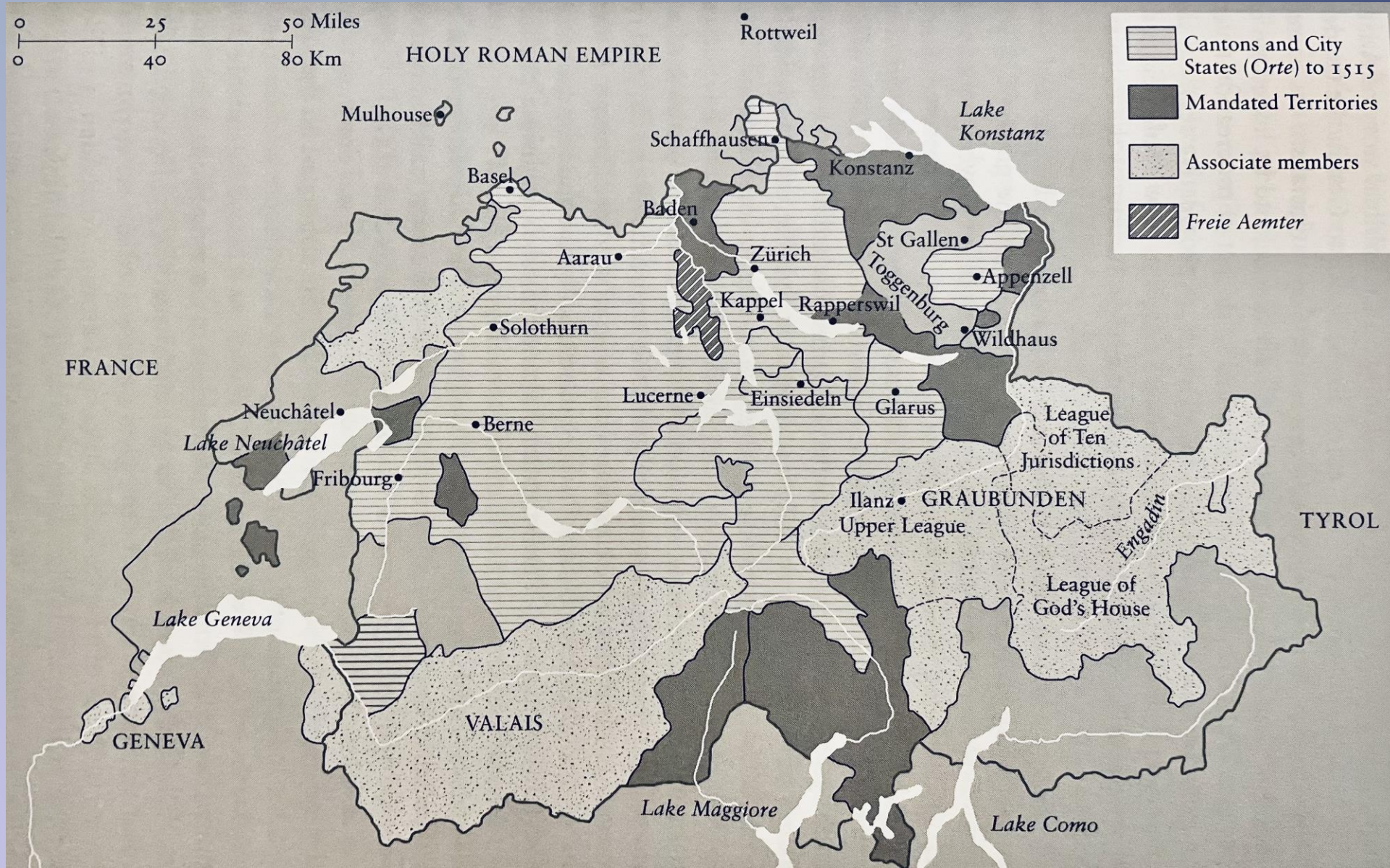


Map of the Protestant Reformation in 1560





# LESSONS FROM THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION



Map of Swiss Confederation in early 16<sup>th</sup> century



# LESSONS FROM ULRICH ZWINGLI (1484-1531)



- Born in Wildhaus, Switzerland between Zurich and Lichtenstein (NE Switzerland). He was the third of eleven children. Attended the University of Vienna then the University of Basel, graduating with a Masters in Arts in 1506.
- Ordained into the priesthood in September of 1506, Zwingli twice served as chaplain to young Swiss mercenaries. This turned him against the practice and he spoke out against it.
- From 1516-1518 he served as priest at Einsiedeln where he was strongly influenced by Erasmus and the Greek New Testament.
- In 1519 he became the pastor at the main church in Zurich and there separated from preaching the prescribed texts and instead preached through the Gospel of Matthew. *Lectio continua*, “continuous reading” - sequential expository preaching.

# LESSONS FROM ULRICH ZWINGLI (1484-1531)

- In that same year of 1519 the plague came to Zurich and almost 1/3rd of the city's population fell victim to it.
- Through ministering to his flock, Zwingli caught the plague himself and nearly died. His three-month recovery taught him life-changing lessons in dependence on God.



- Zwingli continued to preach what he found in the Bible even when it differed from the rituals and doctrines of the church.
- It came to a head, his first rift, in 1522 with “the sausage supper” and his subsequent sermon.



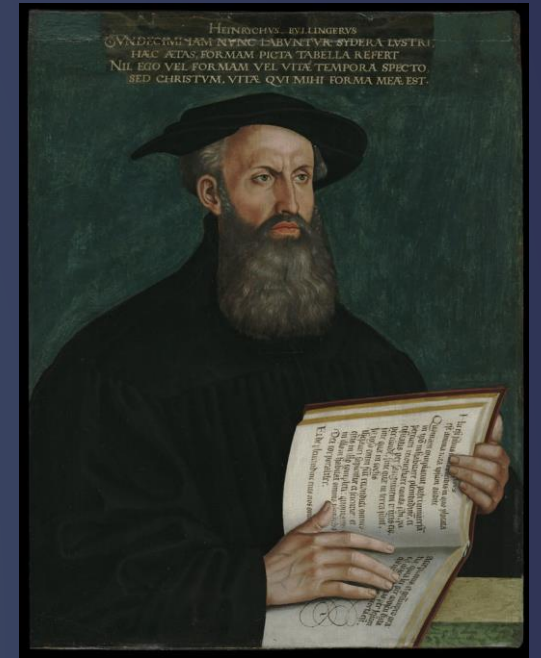
# LESSONS FROM ULRICH ZWINGLI (1484-1531)



- Debates over reforms continued over the next few years in Zurich. Priests and nuns married, Catholic images and icons were removed from the churches, and mass was replaced by a simple service which focused on preaching.
  - Rift with the Anabaptists (1524-1527). A more aggressive reform group, the Anabaptists didn't want to see Rome simply replaced with a Zurich council. Child baptism brought this conflict to a head. (Anabaptist literally means "rebaptizer"). Felix Manz, George Blaurock, and Conrad Grebel.
  - In 1529, Zwingli was brought to a meeting with Martin Luther and several other reformers at the Marburg Colloquy. They agreed on 14 of 15 doctrinal issues, but not on the Lord's Supper. The meeting aimed at bringing unity actually widened the split.

# LESSONS FROM ULRICH ZWINGLI (1484-1531)

- Zwingli's reform movement took hold in German-speaking areas of the north and French-speaking Geneva, but still faced Catholic opposition in the rural cantons (states). Zwingli died in the Battle of Kapel on October 11, 1531.
- His body was hacked to pieces, mixed with manure, burned, and the ashes scattered. In December of 1531 the Zurich council installed Heinrich Bullinger as his successor, who consolidated and refined the reforms initiated by Zwingli.



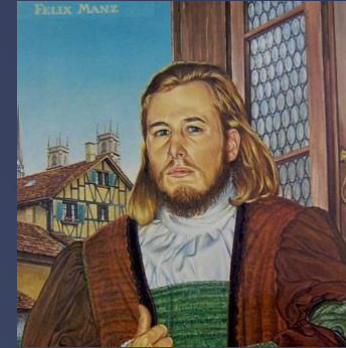


# LESSONS FROM THE ANABAPTISTS

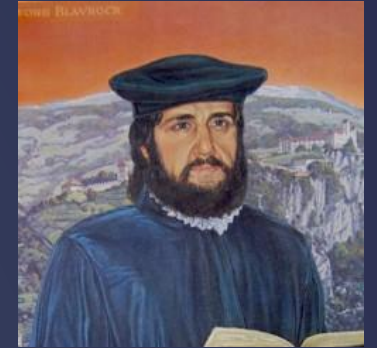
Conrad Grebel  
(1498-1526)



Felix Manz  
(1498-1527)



George Blaurock  
(1491-1529)



- All 3 studied under Zwingli starting in 1521. He taught them to develop their doctrine from the original Greek and Hebrew Scriptures.
- By 1523, they started having misgivings about how true he was to his teaching. After the 'October Disputation' of 1523, they felt betrayed by Zwingli.
- A final disputation on baptism took place in 1525 in which the city council of Zurich favored Zwingli (and Heinrich Bullinger) and condemned Grebel (who was emerging as the leader) and the others.



# LESSONS FROM THE ANABAPTISTS



Manz drowned in the Limmat River

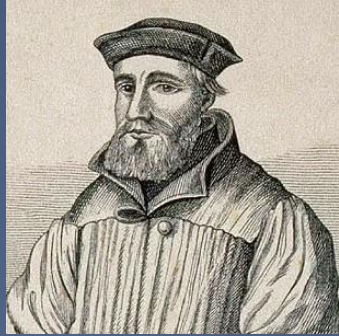
- Afterwards, a remarkable moment in the Reformation happened. 16 men met in Felix Manz' home. George Blaurock asked Grebel to baptize him, then Blaurock baptized the rest. The growing community became known as the Swiss Brethren.
- Grebel died of the plague in 1526. Manz and Blaurock preached widely between 1525-27. They returned to Zurich in 1527. They were arrested and stood trial before the city council.
- Manz was condemned and drowned (due to a law passed in 1526) in the Limmat River while his mother and brother encouraged him to stand firm. Blaurock was severely beaten and banished from the city. The ordeal ignited more followers.
- Blaurock continued to preach until he and a co-laborer were burned at the stake by Roman Catholic authorities in 1529 in Klausen, Tyrol (Italy).



# LESSONS FROM THE ANABAPTISTS



BUCER

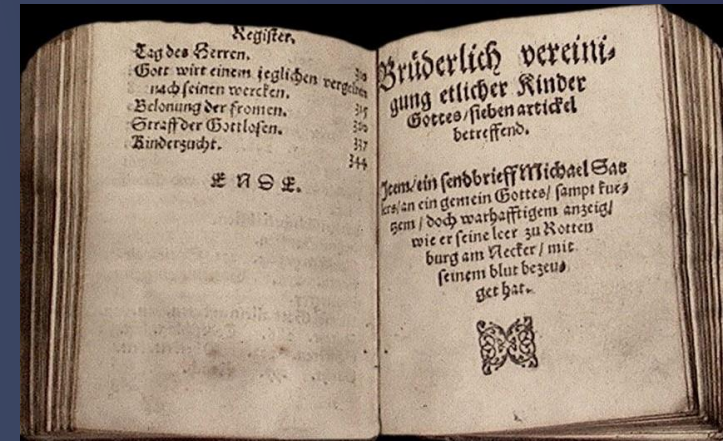


CAPITO



## Michael Sattler (1490-1527)

- In 1526, Michael Sattler emerged as the next leader of the Swiss Brethren. He was respected by Martin Bucer and Wolfgang Capito in Basel. He was condemned by Roman Catholic authorities in Austria and executed.
- Sattler met with a small group of Anabaptists in Schleithem and produced the Schleithem Articles outlining their distinctive beliefs:
  - 1) Baptism is for believers only, not infants.
  - 2) Discipline should be according to Matthew 18.
  - 3) View of Lord's Supper same as Zwingli.
  - 4) Christians must live separate from the world.
  - 5) Pastors to be elected by the congregation.
  - 6) Christians are forbidden to take up the sword & serve as magistrates.
  - 7) Christians are forbidden to take oaths.





# LESSONS FROM THE ANABAPTISTS



## Balthasar Hubmaier (1480-1528)

- The most brilliant leader of the Anabaptists was the German Reformer Balthasar Hubmaier. He studied under Johann Eck (who famously debated Luther).
- Hubmaier wrote *The Christian Baptism of Believers* in 1526 in response to Zwingli's defense of infant baptism. Some regard it as one of the best defenses of believer's baptism.
- After being banished from Zurich and forced to recant his views, he went to Nickolsburg in Moravia (where Jan Huss ministered). He saw upwards of 6000 converts.
- Hubmaier and his wife were arrested in Moravia and imprisoned by Roman Catholic authorities in the Kreuzenstein Castle near Vienna, Austria. He was tortured and then burned at the stake. Three days later his wife was drowned in the Danube River.