

**DOC A:** Excerpts from Martin Luther's *95 Theses*, 1517

32. Those who believe that they can be certain of their salvation because they have indulgence letters (letters from the church that pardons a person from all sins) will be eternally damned, together with their teachers.
36. Every truly repentant Christian has a right to full remission of penalty and guilt, even without letters of pardon.
43. Christians are to be taught that he who gives to the poor or lends to the needy does a better work than buying pardons;
45. Christians are to be taught that he who sees a man in need, and passes him by, and gives his money for pardons, purchases not the indulgences of the pope, but the indignation of God.
54. Injury is done to the Word of God when, in the same sermon, an equal or a longer time is spent on pardons than on this word.
62. The true treasure of the Church is the Most Holy Gospel of the glory and the grace of God.
66. The treasures of the indulgences are nets with which they now fish for the riches of men.
67. The indulgences which the preachers cry as the "greatest graces" are known to be truly such, in so far as they promote gain.
75. To think the papal pardons so great that they could absolve a man even if he had committed an impossible sin and violated the Mother of God -- this is madness.
76. We say, on the contrary, that the papal pardons are not able to remove the very least of venial sins, so far as its guilt is concerned.

**ANALYSIS:**

**1. What is Luther's opinion on the selling of indulgences [pardons]? Support your response by using at least one specific example above.**

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**2. What is Luther's opinion on the position of the pope? Support your response by using at least one specific example above.**

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**3. What do you think Luther's motivation was in writing this text?**

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**4. After reading these, do you think that the pope was justified in excommunicating Luther from the Catholic Church? Explain.**

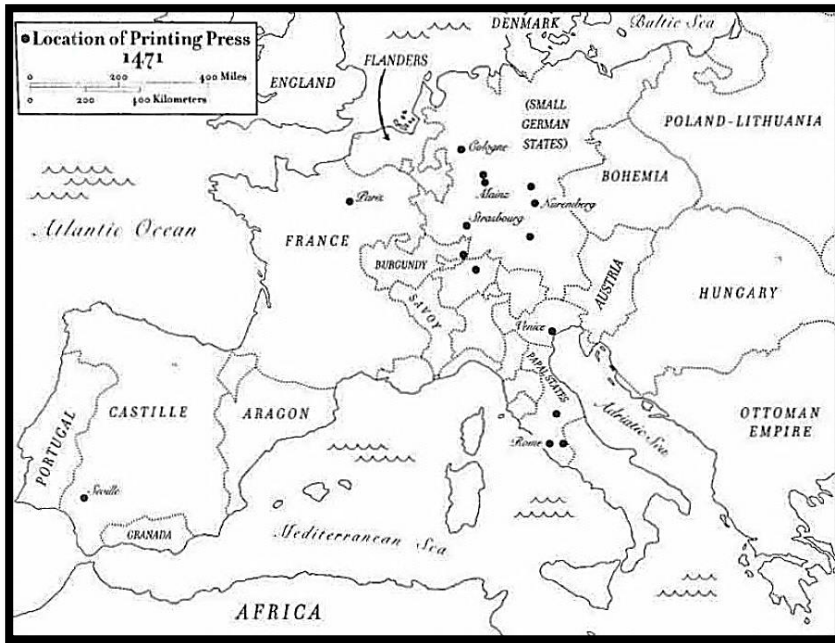
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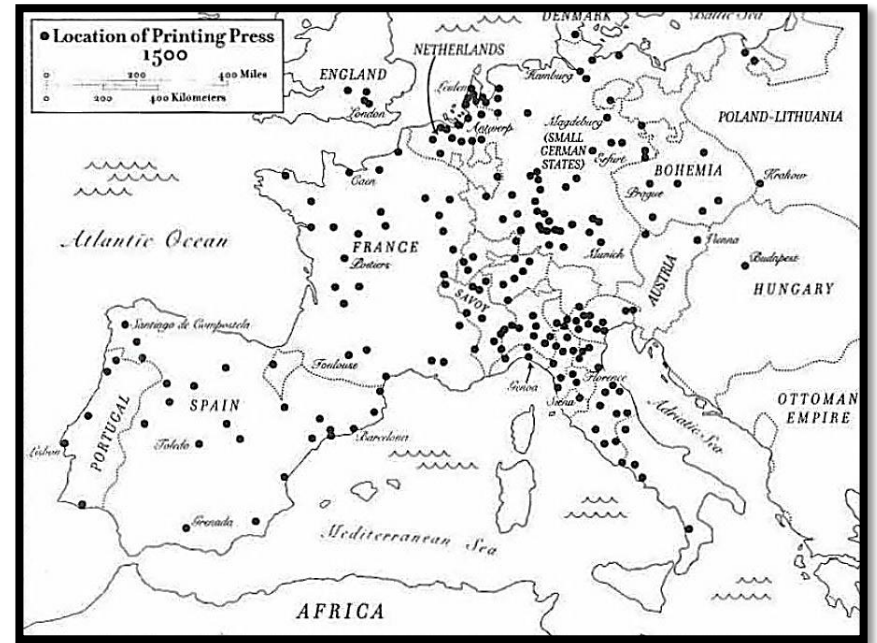
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**Map 1: Locations of Printing Presses (1471)**



**Map 2: Locations of Printing Presses (1500)**



5. What change is being exhibited on the maps above?

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6. According to the timeline below, how did the Catholic Church respond to this change?

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7. How might this change (in Question #5) lead to a decline in the power of the Catholic Church across Europe?

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