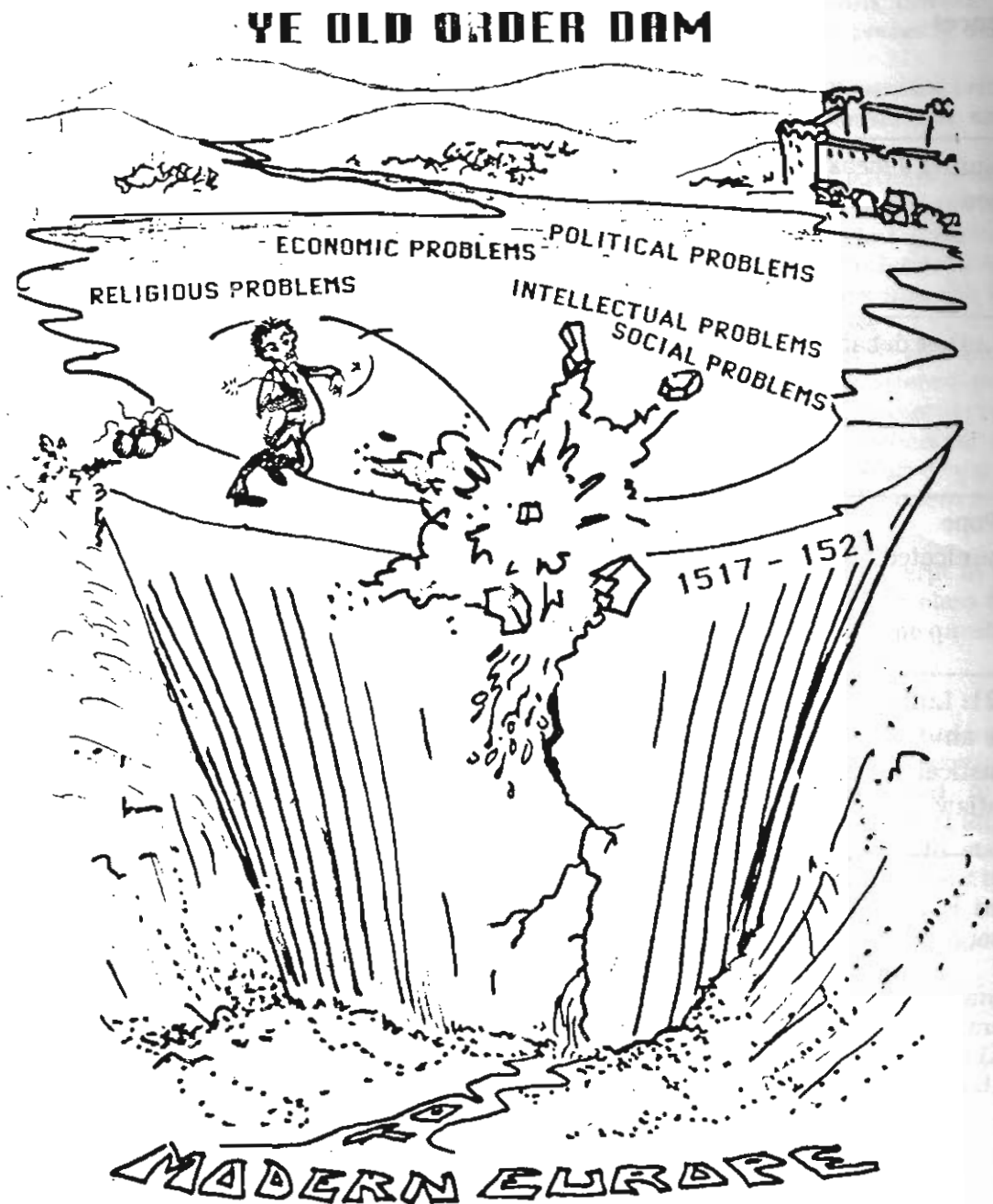


The Protestant Revolt: A Move Towards the Unknown

Part A. For homework, complete the chart below by explaining each set of events and the rationale for both the actions and reactions.

ACTION	RATIONALE	REACTION	RATIONALE
1515: Selling of indulgences		1517: Luther's 95 Theses	
1518: Luther's ideas discussed		1518: The Elector of Saxony protected Luther	
1519: Luther debated Eck		1519: Luther rallied public opinion	
1520: Pope excommunicated Luther		1520: Luther burned the excommunication decree	
1520-21: Luther became an ecclesiastical and civil outlaw		1521: Diet of Worms	

Part B. List specific political, economic, social, religious, and intellectual problems on the eve of the Protestant Revolt. Write a one-sentence summary of the main idea of the visual. Finally, develop a one-sentence thesis on the nature of the Protestant Revolt. Write both sentences at the bottom of the visual.



Part C. To conclude the lesson, read the excerpt that follows on the causes of the Reformation and answer the questions at the end.

. . . if we, without having any notion of the Reformation, were suddenly to be placed bodily into the religious churchly conditions of the year 1500, what would we see? A Catholic world with a rich, very rich churchly life, numerous clergy and numerous monasteries. The church and no one else is the unchallenged leader of life in all sectors of public and private life. And this world collapses in an inconceivably sudden catastrophe. Until yesterday the mothers of Nuremberg had brought their daughters to the Clarissa convent so that they would as nuns lead a life of perfection. And "today" the same mothers appear with horse and wagon, crying out and scolding, in order to lead their daughters with force out of a convent full of idolatry. Thousands of monks overnight forget their vows, marry and with Luther rail at "monkishness" in a way which could not be worse. What happened? Life had long since changed fundamentally, only one did not yet know it. Life was in its outward appearance still Catholic, but it was a deceptive picture.

Revolutions are not made by propaganda. Even the ever so powerful, ever so earnest sounding call of a single great man is not able to bring it about. The totality, a large part of the general public must be basically prepared for it. Revolutions are not freely created, they are set loose.

And precisely the frighteningly extensive and surprisingly quick revolt is best proof that the time had become ripe.

Joseph Lortz, "Why Did the Reformation Happen?" in *The Reformation: Material or Spiritual?* ed. by Lewis W. Spitz (Boston: D. C. Heath, 1962), p. 67.

1. To what extent does your thesis on the Protestant Revolt mirror this excerpt?
2. To what extent was Luther responsible for the Protestant Revolt?
3. How could the Protestant Revolt have been avoided?