

## Chapter 4 – Reformation & Counter-Reformation

### Video Transcript

The Reformation was a very pivotal period in the development of Western culture. It was huge for how churches and denominations developed, but it also had a radical impact on how government developed, how styles in art developed, and even how science and the economy developed. Whether you live in the Americas or Europe, your culture is indebted to either the Reformation or the Counter-Reformation.

And as you've probably noticed, our four Greeks keep coming back, and they had a lot to do with the way things played out. In the case of the Reformation, it was some Plato, and a little Aristotle. In the case of the Counter-Reformation, it was mostly Aristotle, with the exception of the Inquisitions in Spain, and that was mostly Plotinus with a little Plato.

Like all periods governed by certain ideas, seeds of change are planted before they sprout and grow, and it was only 50 years after the Reformation that interest in Democritus sprouted up. That particular weed ended up overtaking most of the West down the road, but it started small, and even disguised itself with Christian trimmings at first.

Democracy was a direct result of the Reformation, the Consumer Revolution was a direct result of the Reformation, the form of government in the United States was a direct result of the Reformation, sprinkled with Greek and Roman ideas, of course.

The Counter-Reformation gave us a brand-new style of painting, due to the followers of Aristotle finally taking over the Vatican and deciding realistic, non-mystical paintings were what the church needed to start purchasing. They were to be dramatic, yet something the commoners could relate to.

The Reformation and the Counter-Reformation were both paradigm shifts, Black Swans of gigantic proportions. It was messy, it was a war of ideas, and the results in a particular country depended on what ideas won. I find it fascinating how it happened, and hope you will, too.

Read on.