**Wheels of Change in the Modern Age**

Around 1500, Europe began to experience profound changes in its political, religious, social, economic and intellectual life.

Until 1517, all Christian Europeans belonged to the Roman Catholic Church. By the early 16th century, the Catholic Church had become wealthy, powerful, and corrupt. Martin Luther in 1517 nailed his 95 theses on a catholic church and Protestant Reformation was born.

European Kings began to make themselves the supreme authority in their kingdoms through three methods; (1) claiming religious control, (2) undermined the power of nobles by appointing people from the middle class to the administration that were loyal to them, (3) and to pay for professional armies.

The economy of Europe was strong in 1500. Population was on the rise due to improvements in agricultural production. A dramatic increase in trade following overseas exploration made a huge impact. Trade and industry saw the growth of the middle class.

A new view of humanity and their role in the world changed. Humans were capable of doing almost anything. Arts and literature grew. The invention of the printing press led to new ideas being spread to the masses.

Huge advances in science changed the way people viewed the world around them. These new advancements in science also created conflict with the church. Developments in science led to new inventions (microscope, telescope, and navigation tools), which would lead to the Industrial Revolution, which in turn helped to lead to the modern world.