

Footstep #13 - Luther's World of 1517!

What was Luther's world of central Germany like in the first 20 years of the 16th century. The time was eight years after Columbus discovered America. The Roman Catholic Church had significant power and was the broker for the Treaty of Tordesillas in 1494 that divided the territories of the New World between Spain and Portugal. Portugal received Brazil and all the lands to the east and Spain received most of the Americas and the lands to the west.

Some key events are:

1507 – **Martin Luther** is ordained as a priest.

1508 - **Maximilian** becomes the Holy Roman Emperor by a decree of Pope Julius II.

1509 – Constantinople is destroyed by an earthquake. Portugal and Spain begin the slave trade to fill the need for labor in the New World. **John Calvin** (founder of the Reformed Church) is born.

1510 – **Martin Luther's** first visit to Rome as a monk.

1511 – **King Henry VIII** begins to reform the Royal Navy (with double decks and guns), which will eventually defeat the Spanish Armada in 1588.

1512 – **Copernicus** discovers the heliocentric theory of the universe. **Martin Luther** receives his Doctorate of Divinity degree,

1513 – **Ponce deLeon** discovers Florida for Spain.

1514 – Portuguese ships sail to China (Ming Dynasty) for the first time. Pineapples arrive in Europe.

1515 – The Roman Catholic Church requires its approval of all books to be printed.

1516 – **Erasmus** publishes the *New Testament* in Latin and Greek. **Thomas More** publishes *Utopia*, **Michelangelo** completes his statue of *Moses*.

1517 – Coffee and porcelain are introduced to Europe. Evil May Day (May 1) in London protests against foreigners and **Cardinal Wolsey** orders 60 rioters hanged. **Martin Luther** posts the Ninety-five Theses on October 31.



Michelangelo's sculpture of Moses.