

b. John Wycliffe (1384)

Most of the life of Wycliffe was spent in English church/politics and scholarly pursuits. Nationalistic in spirit he championed the idea of the English monarchy being superior to the ecclesiastical courts. To that end he published "On Civil Lordship" in 1376 and with this appealed for a reform in the church towards apostolic levels of life and behaviour. He soon began to promote the idea that the Bible was the only rule for the church and in 1382 published a Bible translated from the Vulgate. His disciples went through England on a two by two basis and were known as Lollards.

brief note on his work: determinate but with influence on the continent.

and a note on the Law of Praemunire...a big item in the English reformation.

c. John Hus (1415)

Hus served in the new university of Prague and came under Wycliffian ideology through students who had studied in England. By 1409 he was rector of the university and with the support of King Wenceslaus was teaching Wycliffite doctrines and defying church authorities on several points..the most notable being the mass and papal authority. He had a great nationalistic following in Bohemia and in 1415 went to the council of Constance under imperial safe-conduct to present his views..but he was imprisoned and burned at the stake.

The Hussite movement took root in a definitive way and established a Bohemian church that withstood many efforts of Rome and the Empire to overcome it. Its present day descendent is the Moravian church and the heroics of its warfare with the empire as well as struggles within itself are tales of which I will talk a bit but not write up in this skeletal syllabus. But this was a continuing work from that time onward.