

today as the Roman Catholic church is a reformation (or counter-reformation) product. The Greek church was, of course, much less affected but even there, between the Muslim conquest of 1453 and the division into national bodies, many changes came to pass during this time.

Any transition age produces a set of its own problems and answers. These latter are often not acceptable when normalcy returns. But many of the answers of the Reformation period are still in force and it is undoubtedly the closest age of study in regards to our setting.

### The World Setting for the Reformation

#### II.2 The World Setting

The historical background for the age is vast and we have divided it into political, religious, and cultural segments.

#### II.2.a Political Order

### The Political Order

#### The Holy Roman Empire

The Emperors during the Reformation period were Maximilian, Charles I, Ferdinand, etc. At the outset of the Reformation...the imperial title successful marriage treaties had brought a bond between the Austrian and Spanish monarchies and the heir to the throne of Spain (Charles V) was also heir to the throne of Austria, and Charles would bring great family and national strength to the imperial title.

The Imperial title was secure in the Hapsburg family, the ruling house of Austria. The strength will often not be used well as political intrigue and personal greed become increasingly dominant factors.

It is ironic that in the Reformation period the Holy Roman Empire had the strongest leadership it had known in centuries and the major catholic countries had the strongest kings. (England, France, Spain) That all of the responsible persons tended to be bent on their own careers was the "saving" factor. Charles V seems to have had some moral fibre and some love for the church but no one else was interested to the degree that he was in preserving the establishment. Thus at a time when the politi-