

## **What historically significant events helped develop our worldview?**

In the Renaissance and Middle Ages, Catholicism was the main religion in Europe. Catholicism is still the largest branch of Christianity to this day.

Back in the Middle Ages, the church ruled over everyone's life. People who were important members of the church (abbots, bishops, priests) were revered members of the community and had a lot of power. People believed that the entire goal of life was to live sin-free and get to heaven. Obviously it is impossible to live a completely sin-free life and therefore people would always be praying for forgiveness. In order to gain more money and power, the churches started selling indulgences. Indulgences were when you would pay the church and then they gave you a one-time permission for that sin. Rich people could afford to buy tons of indulgences and therefore could do very sinful things and get away with it. Martin Luther saw this and decided that he would call upon the catholic church to reform from its ways. The Catholics didn't like this and then proceeded to excommunicate him. Luther then created his own church called the Protestant (or Lutheran) church. The Protestant church didn't have as many strict rules as the Catholic church did and soon many people converted over. This started many religious wars between the Protestants and the Catholics.

In the Renaissance, people started learning more about science and the universe. The new discoveries sometimes went against the beliefs of the church and lots of people were arrested for heresy. Galileo Galilei and Nicolaus Copernicus had the theory that our universe is heliocentric and has the sun at the centre but that was heresy and therefore ended up with Galileo being on house arrest for the rest of his life.

Nowadays Catholicism has evolved with the times and is no longer as controlling because it doesn't have as much power. Christianity now has many branches of different churches which are all unique. I myself am a united Christian which I would say is the most accepting branch of Christianity. Because there are so many religions today, there are not as many religious wars. I live in a very diverse part of the world and because of that I have always been taught that no belief of mine is better than anyone else's, which was definitely not the case back in the Middle Ages and Renaissance.

In my worldview, this is my belief. Both the Catholics of the Middle Ages + Renaissance and I believe in the same god even though we practise our religion in different ways.

Is important to remember what can happen when one religion gets too powerful because we don't want history to repeat itself.