



Name: _____ Date: _____

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

In 1517 AD, a German monk named Martin Luther posted his **Ninety-Five Theses** (statements) on a church door in the German town of Wittenberg. That event would mark the beginning of hundreds of years of wars and fighting between the followers of Martin Luther (Protestants) and the Roman Catholic Church.

Benjamins: Get your Indulgences! Get your red-hot Indulgences!! Sir, you look like a terrible sinner. Are you?

Joe Unholy: It's true. I do beat my cat. I don't do my Global History homework and I show up late for class almost everyday. So you could say that I am a horrible sinner who does not deserve any human kindness or understanding

Benjamins: Well, sir, you won't have to burn in hell for the rest of your miserable life. For just a few coins, I, as a priest in the Church will sell you an Indulgence. This piece of paper will erase all of your sins, and you do have a lot of sins, as well as guarantee that you will go to Heaven after you die.

Joe Unholy: Hhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh Hold up...Just buying this piece of paper from you will get me into Heaven. There must be a catch. Do I have to go to Church?

Benjamins: Of course not!

Joe Unholy: Do I have to go to confession?

Benjamins: Of course not!

Joe Unholy: Do I have to stop sinning?

Benjamins: Of course not!! But you should try not to get the teacher too angry. They are very smart and powerful people.

Joe Unholy: Bet. Here is your money. I'll take two indulgences, just in case one is not enough for my lazy, don't do Global homework's self.

Benjamins: Enjoy your trip to Heaven. Sir, how about an INDULGENCE for you?

Martin Luther: Listen, I'm a monk and no one can sell me forgiveness for my sins. Only God, not the Church, can forgive me for my sins and allow me to enter Heaven.

NAME _____

Global Studies II

Benjamins: Sounds like a lot of work to me. Buying indulgences is much faster and more convenient.

Martin Luther: I cannot and I will not be a part of this terrible crime committed in the name of God. I can and I will protest.

Benjamins: Well, Peace out then, my brother.

Two Months Later

Martin Luther: My fellow believers in Christ, the Church is ripping all of you people off. The buying and selling of INDULGENCES is only the tip of the iceberg. The Church is corrupt and must be reformed. I nail these NINETY-FIVE THESES here for everyone to read.

German monk is _____.

Church priest is _____.

Indulgence buyer is _____.

1. What are indulgences?
2. Who was selling indulgences?
3. Why do you think people were buying them?
4. Why would the Church sell them?
5. Why did Martin Luther object to the practice of selling indulgences?
6. Why were Martin Luther's followers called **Protestants**?
7. How do you think the Church reacted to Martin Luther's challenge?
8. Martin Luther risked death by challenging the Church's authority. Was Martin Luther a hero or a fool? Why?