

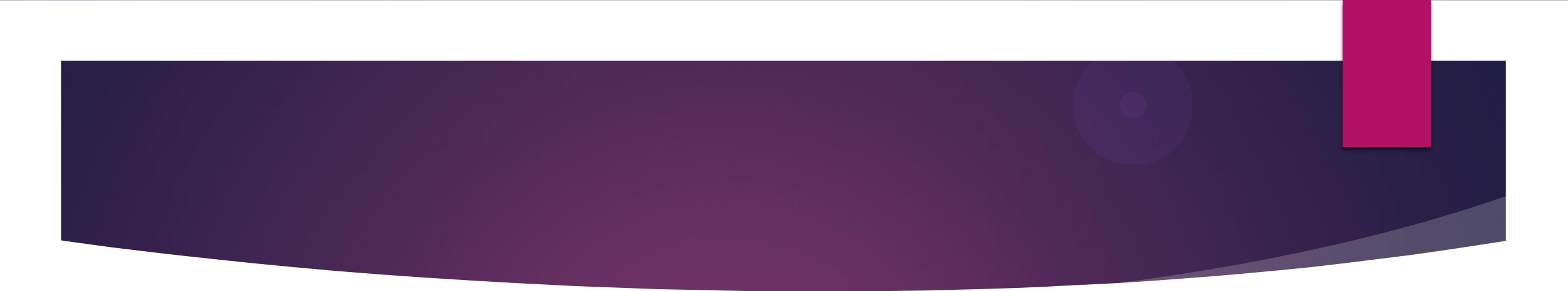
The Jesuits


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Background Info



- ▶ Founded in 1540 by St. Ignatius Loyola
- ▶ Roman Catholic order
- ▶ Ignatius was a Spanish soldier that underwent a conversion when he broke his leg in battle
- ▶ Spent a year in seclusion for prayer and personal mortification (subdue desires)
- ▶ He wrote his experiences down which he called "Spiritual Exercise" (a guidebook to become closer connected to Jesus)

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- ▶ In 1493, Ignatius and 6 other men-including Francis Xavier and Peter Faber- gathered and founded the Society of Jesus with Pope Paul III's approval
 - ▶ First Jesuits were recruited from wealthy merchants and professional classes and were mostly focused on spiritual condition as opposed to doctrinal issues.
 - ▶ Goal was to “help souls”
 - ▶ Developed into a tightly knit, highly centralized organization
 - ▶ Made vows to poverty, chastity, and obedience to the Pope
 - ▶ Promised to live at monastery

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- ▶ Achieved success for papacy and the reformed Catholic Church
 - ▶ Contributed to late Renaissance as the first order to operate colleges and universities
 - ▶ Precursor to liberal education
 - ▶ Incorporated classical teachings of Renaissance humanism and Scholastic structure of Catholic thought
 - ▶ First taught poor children, later educated sons of nobility
 - ▶ Confessors and spiritual directors of King
 - ▶ gained great political influence

Emphasized:


- Discipline
- Obedience
- Serving Pope

Goals:

- Train priests
- Educate priests
- Convert non-Christians to Catholicism
- Stop spread of Protestantism

Education:

- Schools to become priests
- Schools throughout Europe to teach theology and classics

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- Education and scholarship was important to the society
 - Also trained preachers that cared for the young, sick, prisoners, prostitutes, and soldiers
 - Became involved in missionary work across Europe, Asia, Africa, and the New World

- Played a prominent role in the Counter-Reformation
 - AKA the Catholic Reformation
 - Was the Catholic actions against the Protestant Reformation
 - Attempt to reform Catholic Church
- Introduced several innovations including the discontinuance of several medieval practices in the interest of greater mobility and flexibility
- Brought southern Germany and much of eastern Europe back to Catholicism