

p. 280: 1,2 Answers: Introduction & the Protestant Reformation

1. What made the church such an important institution in Europe in the early 16th century?

1. Catholic Church was largest organization in the world; almost everyone in Western Europe was Catholic; there were thousands of churches, monasteries, cathedrals in Europe.

2. Identify 3 criticisms people had of the Church.

2. Church continued to collect taxes even when the church's demands were driving people into poverty; church leaders bought positions in the church (simony), but they didn't perform religious ceremonies that went along with the position and they practiced nepotism: gave jobs to often unqualified relatives; Renaissance popes led scandalous lives, had illegitimate children & then, gave them powerful church positions; parish priests were poorly educated & knew little about the Bible, drank & did no work