

## 1 **Post-Reformation Anabaptism**

### 2 **Migration**

- Dutch and North German Mennonites migrated across northern Europe to parts of what is now Poland.
- Anabaptists from all over Europe migrated to Alsace in modern France and the Palatinate in southern Germany.
- Much of this migration was due to invitations by rulers to promote agriculture or settle areas depopulated by war or disease.

### 3 **Schism**

- Several divisions took place among the Mennonites of North Germany and the Netherlands, often over cultural differences and issues related to excommunication.

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- A schism occurred in the 1690s among the Swiss Brethren who had migrated to Alsace.
  - Jacob Ammann promoted strict shunning, foot washing, simple clothing, and beards for men.
  - An acrimonious split ensued with Swiss Brethren who did not share Ammann's concerns.
  - Ammann and his followers—the Amish—were refused forgiveness when they sought reconciliation.
- Many other schisms occurred, usually because of failure to accommodate differences in emphasis.

### 5 **Toleration**

- Severe persecution gradually ceased over much of Europe.
- Rulers continued to place restrictions on Anabaptists, often forbidding missionary activity, for example.
- Anabaptists continued to live under constant pressure, living in peace only at the whim of their rulers.

### 6 **Prosperity**

- Increased toleration gave Anabaptists new security.
- They were able to pursue economic opportunities, in some cases becoming very wealthy.

### 7 **Assimilation**

- With increased acceptance by the societies in which they lived, lifestyle differences between Anabaptists and non-Anabaptists began to diminish.
- In some areas, religious differences began to break down as well as doctrines such as nonresistance were de-emphasized and even abandoned.
- Some Anabaptists responded to the threat of assimilation by intentionally maintaining differences between themselves and the surrounding society.

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**8  Reunion**

- By the early 1800s, many of the groups that had divided in the past 200 years had been reunited.