Guided Reading Questions for “The West Torn Apart” pgs. 4-20

Use these questions to guide and direct your reading through this (take notes as you read on these questions), but make sure you also enjoy Prof. Barzun’s narrative!

1. Barzun focuses in this chapter on the definition and idea of a Revolution. What is a revolution, how does it occur, and what course do revolutions commonly take? (pgs. 1-2, 7-9)
2. Why was Luther’s call to reform uniquely positioned to succeed in 1517 when so many others had failed over the previous 200 years? (Consider not only changes in technology, but why the surrounding culture was so receptive to Luther’s ideas.) (pgs. 2-7, 9-10)
3. In what ways was Erasmus’ *Praise of Folly* a true picture of the times? (Folly preferred to common sense, the god of riches Plutus, governing the world)
4. In what ways and to what extent could the 1500s and first half of the 1600s be defined as “An Age of Violence”? (14-16, 19 after break)
5. What sort of man was Martin Luther? (16-20)