

**Volume 1**

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**The Suppression of Galileo - Part II**

**Lead: Condemned in 1632, the Italian scientist was not given reprieve until 1993.**

**Intro.: "A Moment in Time" with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: Galileo, the Italian mathematician and astronomer, believed along with the Polish scholar Copernicus' that the earth revolved around the sun. The Roman Catholic Church disagreed. It taught that the earth was the center of the universe and in 1616 told Galileo to cease and disist his teachings on the subject. In**

**1624 there was a new pope, he was a long time friend and protector of Galileo and the scientist thought that perhaps a personal appeal would bring him some relief. He felt that it was dangerous for the church to champion a position so vulnerable to scientific evidence, that if people found themselves convinced by proof of something that it was made a sin to believe, they would reject the church's teachings in other areas and perhaps even attracted to the new Protestant ideas coming from Martin Luther in northern Germany.**

**At first his friend the pope, told him he could discuss both the older and the new theories as long as he was non-committal and came to no conclusion.**

**Galileo returned to his teaching in Florence and over the next several years produced his greatest work, A Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems. It was printed with the full authority and commission of the Roman Catholic church and was well received accept within the church itself. A firestorm of criticism from churchmen greeted his new book. Galileo's enemies correctly pointed out that despite his seeming lack of bias, his work was an unashamed plea for Copernicus' ideas. The Pope, thinking he had been misled, ordered a trial and in February 1633, Galileo was tried by the Inquisition and forced to recant. He recited a formula in which he "cursed and detested" his past errors. The legend soon arose that**

**after denying his belief that the earth moved around the sun, muttered under his breath, "It does move." So convinced were the authorities of the danger of his views that not until last decade of the twentieth century did the church officially withdraw its condemnation.**

**At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

### Resources

**De Santillana, Giorgio. *The Crime of Galileo*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1955.**

**Langford, Jerome J. *Galileo, Science, and the Church*. New York, NY: Desclee Publishing Company, 1966.**

**Ronan, Colin A. *Galileo*. New York, NY: Putnam and Company, 1974.**