

Effects of the Reformation DBQ

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1-12. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. Your teacher may provide additional instructions and advice to use when answering the question below.

Prompt: Analyze the various effects of the Protestant Reformation on the people of Europe.

Historical Background: The Ninety-Five Theses were published in 1517 ushering in the era of the Protestant Reformation. Western European religious unity was shattered and several new Christian religions were formed.

Document 1

Source: Martin Luther, response at the Diet of Worms, 1521

Unless I am refuted by scripture and plain reason, I do not accept the authority of Popes and councils for they have contradicted each other. My conscience is captive to the word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe.

Document 2

Source: Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, response at the Diet of Worms, 1521

I am determined to stake on this cause my kingdoms, my friends, my blood and my body, my life and my soul. A single monk who goes counter to all Christianity for a thousand years must be wrong. I am determined to proceed against him as a notorious heretic.

Document 3

Source: Martin Luther, response to the German Peasant Rebellions, 1524

I had no occasion to condemn the peasants, because they promised to yield to law and better instruction, as Christ also demands. But before I can turn around, they go out and appeal to force, in spite of their promises, and rob and pillage and act like mad dogs. From this it is quite apparent what they put forth under the name of the gospel in the "Twelve Articles"* was all vain pretense.

*Twelve Articles were a list of peasant demands

Document 4

Source: Thomas Müntzer, radical reformer, preacher, and theologian, *A Highly Provoked Defense and Answer to the Spiritless, Soft-living Flesh at Wittenberg who has Most Lamentably Befouled Pitiable Christianity in a Perverted Way by His Theft of Holy Scripture**, 1524.

Does he not realize that men whose every moment is consumed in earning a living have no time to read the word of God? The princes bleed the people and count as their own the fish in the streams, the birds in the air, and the grass in the fields. Dr. Martin Liar says amen to all of this.

*referring to the doctrine of Martin Luther

Document 5

Source: Martin Luther, *Sermon on Keeping Children in School*, 1530

Therefore let everyone be on his guard who can. Let the government, when it sees a promising boy, have him kept in school; if the father is poor, let it help him with church property. Let the rich make their wills with this work in view, as some have done who have endowed stipends; that is the right way to bequeath your money to the church.

Document 6

Source: Catholic Interrogation of Elizabeth Dirks, Protestant Dissenter Official, *What do you think of our mass?* (Elizabeth Dirks was an Anabaptist deaconess, who was tortured and eventually drowned in 1549 at the orders of the authorities in the town of Leeuwarden).

Elizabeth: My Lord, I have no faith in your mass but only in that which is the word of God.

Official: What do you think of the Holy Sacrament?

Elizabeth: I have never in my life read in Scripture about a Holy Sacrament, but only of the Supper of the Lord.

Official: Shut your mouth; you speak with a haughty tongue.

Elizabeth: No, my Lord, I speak with a free tongue.

Official: Do priests have the power to forgive sins?

Elizabeth: No, my Lord, how should I believe that? I say that Christ is the only priest through whom sins are forgiven.

Official: So far we have treated you gently. Since you won't confess, we will put you to torture. Take hold of her.

Document 7

Source: Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Catholic Society of Jesus (The Jesuits), referring to the founding of the Collegio Romano, the first Jesuit university, 1551.

Each one should strive to make progress in learning and in helping others, studying and teaching what is assigned him by the rector. Care must be taken that the lessons are accommodated to the students and that the latter get a thorough grounding in grammar along with training in composition, with careful corrections by the masters. They should engage in discussions and debates.

Document 8

Source: Sebastian Castellio, 16th century humanist, 1554.

To kill a heretic is not to crush a doctrine. It is to kill a man.

Document 9

Source: Wurttemberg City Council, 1559.

At least twice a year, once in spring and again on the approach of winter, each pastor shall make in his sermons serious admonition to his parishioners that they must be diligent in sending their children to school. And let him stress the great benefit bound to come from this, schools being necessary not only for learning the liberal arts, but also the fear of God, virtue, and discipline. Where the young are neglected and kept out of school, permanent harm, both eternal and temporal, must result, as children grow up without fear and knowledge of God, without discipline, like the dumb beasts of the field, learning nothing about what is needed for their salvation, nor what is useful to them and their neighbors in worldly life.

Document 10

Source: Theodore Beza, Calvinist preacher and successor to John Calvin as spiritual leader of the town of Geneva—magistrate, *Rights of Magistrates Over Their Subjects*, 1574

Therefore, to express all these things in a few words: in each assembly or Republic of the Christian Church, Magistrates are constituted as representatives of God, to serve as examples to the faithful in the declaring of glory and praise to God.

Document 11

Source: Michel de Montaigne, French author associated with modern skepticism during the French wars of religion, 1580.

Our faith does wonders when it encourages our leaning toward hatred, cruelty, ambition, avarice, slander, rebellion. Against that inclination, and toward goodness, kindness, moderation it neither walks nor flies, except by a miracle, when some rare nature appears. Our religion is supposed to destroy vices; in fact, it covers them, fosters them, and provokes them.

Document 12

Source: John Milton, English author and poet who lived through the Puritan Revolution, 1644.

A wise man can gather gold out of the drossest* volume, and a fool will be a fool with the best book. Where there is much desire to learn, there will be much arguing many opinions. What some lament, we should rejoice at.

*material left from smelting metal