

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 3 ☒ Question 4 ☒ Question 5 ☒

Question 6 ☒ Question 7 ☒ Question 8 ☒

PLAN: ✓ - Restricted movement: Melancthon

✓ - Decrease in popularity: Peasants' War, Philip of Hesse, Zwingli, ^{Monburg}

x - Peasants War also gained allies → Albert, Philip ^{break with} ^{Crossing}

x - Further clarification of Luther's ideas ¹⁵²⁹ ¹⁵²²⁺³⁴ ¹⁵²⁶ ^{penetration}

From 1525, Luther was established as an iconic figure, known across Western Europe and had amassed thousands of followers from his very first move against the Catholic Church in 1517. The Peasants' War of 1525 helped Luther gain more followers in his reaction to it, particularly among the higher orders, and further clarified his ideas as Luther released and published more pamphlets, publicising Lutheranism. However, by 1546, whilst Lutheranism had grown steadily over the years, the influence of Luther himself became much more redundant as his supporters and followers began to take on bigger roles, notably Melancthon.

The 1521 Edict of Worms had vastly restricted Luther's movement across the country, thus leading to a decline in his influence. Luther began to increasingly rely on others to spread his message, and one representative often sent was Melancthon who soon became recognised as the systematic



mouthpiece for Luther. Drawing up a compilation of all Luther's ideas and doctrine in 1521 - named *Loco Communes* - Melancthon soon went on to write several more those of Lutheranism. One particular example would be the *Augsburg Confession* of 1530, where a collection of articles were drawn up to establish the basis of Lutheranism, without Luther himself writing it as he was under imperial ban. However, Melancthon excluded discussion of predestination - which had been a prominent idea of Luther's - indicating a divergence from Luther's ideas, and so demonstrating ^{increased redundancy} the decline of Luther's influence.

Furthermore, the reputation of Luther himself had been in a steady decline from this point onwards. Whilst previously seen as a figure of liberation and social equality, particularly among the lower orders, Luther's controversial reaction against the *Peasants' War* caused much upset over the German people's view of him as a hero now dashed. Publishing a pamphlet in April 1525 entitled 'An Admonition to Peace', this was soon followed by 'Against the Thieving, Rething, Herds of peasants' a month later, where Luther told the secular rulers to put down the peasants by any means necessary. This contrast to his previous stance and harsh condemnation was particularly shocking to the people and many lost faith in him, indicating a decline in his influence. ~~Luther~~ The establishment of separate friars had only



began by the point: whilst the common differences were Lutheranism and the Catholic Church beforeshand, there were new new faiths such as Zwinglian who had broken away from Lutheranism. The Marburg Colloquy of 1529 demonstrates the decline of Luther's influence as he and Zwingli could not come to a compromise on the Real Presence in the Eucharist, signifying that Lutheranism had also broken up into different fragments and that the influence of Luther was not as strong as it was before.

Another prominent factor on the tarnishment of Luther's reputation was the bigamous marriage of Philip of Hesse in 1540. Luther had given permission to Philip, allowing him to have a second marriage and when news of this leaked out, Luther, who had traditionally been seen as a defender of family values and protection, was ruined. Catholic opponents pounced on this opportunity to denounce Luther, and again, the people lost faith in Luther as they could no longer trust him, leading to a decline in his influence. However, this is not to say Luther's influence had been diminishing since 1525, but only in his latter years. Luther's reaction against the Peasants' War also polarised him from social radicalism and as he was seen as a social-hierarchy supporter, this gained him lots of important followers in secular leaders. The first to be converted was Albert of Hohenzollern, who acted as



a catalyst for other princes and imperial knights. Formally a grand master of the Teutonic knights and the Duke of Prussia, Albert helped Luther regain popularity as many other princes followed suit, notably Philip of Hesse. Although Philip was to limit Luther later on, he was also a great asset as he would essentially act as the political leader of the Lutheran princes for the rest of his life, as well as establishing the first ever Lutheran university in 1527. However, it is difficult to tell whether this shows a growth of influence in Luther, or of Lutheranism, as his ideas were increasingly adopted all over Germany and protected by the princes.

One defining factor indicating the growth of Luther was the increasing amounts of works he published. Although he was physically restricted by the Edict of Worms, the use of the printing press allowed him to spread his messages directly in an extremely short amount of time. In 1522 and 1534, he released his German translations of the New and Old Testament respectively, and further clarified Lutheran rites by publishing a Deutsche Messe in 1526, which was essentially a revised vernacular liturgy. In 1529, he wrote and released the Large and Small Catechisms, which explained the Lutheran faith by way of question and



answer; ~~which~~ with the 'Large Catechism' aimed for adults and the 'Small' aimed for children. The popularity of these pamphlets were great, it was in this interim of time (the late 1520s) that Luther's works exceeded the amounts sold by seventeen of the other most prolific German writers of the time altogether, and each work went on to be published in several more editions. This demonstrates the increase in Luther's influence and popularity as his works would not have been so well-read otherwise, and proves that his reputation was not in complete decline ~~in the period 1525-1546~~ from 1525.

The period 1525-1546 is a broad one in terms of Luther's life: from when he amassed national recognition after the Peasants' War to his death, it seems natural that there are both increases and decreases of his popularity in that interim. The Peasants' War of 1525 gave Luther an increase in influence, as it catalysed the support of the secular rulers of the Holy Roman Empire and allowed a further clarification of his core ideas as demonstrated by the works published in the late 1520s.

However, his reaction also caused him some unpopularity with the lower orders of society and served to tarnish his reputation, which was only further limited in his refusal to compromise with Zwingli and the Catholic Church. His virtual incarnation also caused him to remain



in Saxony until the end of his lifetime, which prompted others such as Melancthon to take his place and establish several key doctrines of Lutheranism, showing a decline in Luther's personal influence. Although it would be unfair to say Luther's influence was negligible by the time of his death, it had certainly declined & Lutheranism had already been long established and he, remembered predominantly as the man who started it all.

