

The Forty-Six Players in the Lutheran Reformation: A Brief Guide

Adrian VI (or Hadrian VI, 1459–1523). Adrian Floriszoon reigned as pope in 1522 and 1523. He was the tutor to Charles V when the future emperor was a child.

Agricola, Johannes (1491–1566). Friend of Luther's and fellow reformer in Wittenberg (also called Johannes Bauer). He later broke with Luther and developed an "antinomian" theology.

Albrecht of Brandenburg (1490–1545). Bishop of Magdeburg from 1513, archbishop of Mainz and elector from 1514. His attempts to solidify power by being named bishop of multiple places were funded by John Tetzel's selling of indulgences.

Albrecht III of Mansfeld (1486–1560). Count of Mansfeld, near Saxony, and sympathetic political figure to Luther's changes.

Aleander, Jerome (1480–1542). Papal delegate who tried to force Luther to recant his views on the reform of the church.

von Amsdorf, Nicholas (1483–1565). Pastor and later first bishop consecrated in the Reformation. A confirmed bachelor, he was the other man Katie Luther said she would marry if Martin would not marry her.

Brück, Gregor (1484–1557). Chancellor to the electors of Saxony from 1525 and intermediary for Luther on many political issues.

Bucer, Martin (1491–1551). Statesman and informal mediator between many Reformation factions. Centered in Strasbourg, a town on the border between French and German lands, Bucer had personal relationships with Luther, Calvin, and Zwingli.

Bugenhagen, Johannes (1485–1558). Pastor of the Reformation, leader of the town church in Wittenberg, and Luther's confidant. Also known as "Pommern," as he was from the region of Pomerania.

Cajetan, Thomas (Jacobus de Vio, 1469–1534). Cardinal from 1517, scholar of Thomas Aquinas's theology. Cajetan "examined" Luther at Augsburg in 1518 while dressed in fabulous clothes that revealed to Luther the opulence of the Italian church in contrast to its German counterpart.

Carlstadt, Andreas Bodenstein von (ca. 1480–1541). Formerly Luther's professor, Carlstadt became friends with Luther as colleagues on the Wittenberg faculty. Carlstadt "radicalized" certain of Luther's

teachings in very extreme ways. For instance, he believed many church traditions like ordaining ministers and wearing clergy vestments, should be discarded). Luther and Carlstadt later had a falling out.

Charles V (1500–1558). Duke of Burgundy and king of Castile from 1507, king of Spain (1516–56), king of Germany and emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (1519–1556).

Clement VII (Giulio de' Medici, 1478–1534). Frequent opponent of Charles the V, he served as pope from 1523 to 1534.

Cranach, Lucas the Elder (1472–1553). Luther's neighbor and friend, Cranach had a workshop in Wittenberg where he was a jack-of-all-trades, specializing in painting. He made numerous paintings of key Reformation figures and also illustrated many printed materials with woodcuts.

Cruciger, Casper (1504–1548). Theologian sympathetic to the Reformation and friend of Luther.

Dürer, Albrecht (1471–1528). Painter, artist and “Renaissance Man” very much impressed by Luther. German cultural hero.

Eck, Johann (1486–1543). Papal delegate sent to “deal” with the Luther situation. Eck debated Luther in a highly anticipated contest at Leipzig in 1519. Their debate centered on the question of which authority was higher—the Bible or the church.

Erasmus of Rotterdam (1469–1536). “Humanist” scholar and worldly man. Living in Holland, Erasmus was sympathetic in principle with Luther but never officially sided with the Reformation. His “The Freedom of the Will” was lambasted by Luther. In producing a better edition of the New Testament in Greek and in writing “In Praise of Folly,” which ridiculed the sad state of the church, Erasmus was viewed as having “laid the egg of the Reformation, which Luther hatched.”

Frederick III (Frederick the Wise, 1465–1525). Elector of Saxony, gifted statesman and prince in Saxony. Frederick, his nephew John, and his son John Frederick were all protective of Luther and resisted on both theological and political grounds Rome's attempts to confine the Reformation.

George of Saxony (1471–1539). Duke of Saxony who was at first tolerant of Luther's reforms but then became greatly opposed to them. George was very theologically aware and hoped for a council to be convened that would “decide” the Lutheran question. He ruled the part of Saxony not controlled by the Electors.

Grumbach, Argula von (1492–1554). German noblewoman who read Luther’s translation of the Bible and became a coworker with him in the Reformation. She wrote a letter to Catholic authorities in Bavaria (a strongly Catholic land), using passages from Scripture to defend the cause of reform.

Hausmann, Nicholas (1478–1538). Friend of Luther, pastor in Zwickau from 1521, court chaplain in Dessau from 1532, and pastor in Freiburg from 1538.

Hus, John (c. 1369–1415). Bohemian priest and reformer of the church burned at the stake at the Council of Constance for his views. Luther had assumed he was a heretic but came to see him as a forerunner in objecting to abuses in the church.

Hutten, Ulrich von (1488–1523). Frequently attempted mediation between Rome and Wittenberg.

John, Duke of Saxony (1468–1532). Elector (1525–1532), brother of Frederick the Wise, and supporter of Luther throughout his reign as elector. Cautious in developing further, John oversaw the production of the Augsburg Confession at the Imperial Diet in Augsburg in 1530.

John Frederick, Duke of Saxony (1503–1554). Elector (1532–1547), not as gifted as his predecessors, but committed to Reformation cause. Called “The Magnanimous.”

Jonas, Justus (1493–1555). Lutheran theologian and leader in Wittenberg.

Julius II (1443–1513). The “fearsome pope” from 1503 to 1513 who campaigned militarily across Europe, patronized the arts, and began the building of Saint Peter’s in Rome.

Lang, John. Luther’s childhood friend and companion, later prior of the monastery in Erfurt.

Leo X (1475–1521). Pope from 1513 to 1521, very ardent opponent of Luther who excommunicated Luther and all those sympathetic to his views.

Link, Wenceslas. Luther’s close friend, frequent correspondent, and former prior, he later became an influential evangelical preacher in the important southern German city of Nuremberg.

Luther, Hans. German miner, father of Martin Luther.

Luther, Katherine von Bora (1499–1552). Former nun who married Luther and bore him six children after leaving the convent.

Luther, Margarete Lindemann. Luther’s mother, wife of Hans Luther.

Luther, Martin (1483–1546). By now, you should know this man!

Maximilian I (1459–1519). Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire before Charles V, his grandson. Expanded the influence of the Hapsburg family across Europe, “taking over” Spain and consolidating power in Austria, Hungary, Burgundy, and Holland.

Melanchthon, Philip (1497–1560). Brilliant scholar and professor of New Testament and Greek at Wittenberg. Luther’s “right-hand man” and author of the most important theological statement of the Reformation, the Augsburg Confession (1530). Very cautious and politic, Melanchthon often frustrated Luther by his careful, plodding pace.

Moritz, Duke of Saxony (1521–1553). Elector from 1547 to 53, he turned on the evangelical cause to fight with Charles V in the Schmalkaldic War but then returned to the Protestant cause at the end of his life.

Müntzer, Thomas (ca. 1488–1525). Religious leader in the countryside, Muntzer embraced an experiential theology that led the Holy Spirit to work wonders in people’s hearts. Led peasants in a revolt against nobility and died in battle.

Paul III (1468–1549). Pope from 1534 to 1549, he convened the Council of Trent, called to settle questions raised by the Reformation.

Philip, Landgrave of Hesse (1504–1567). Supporter of the evangelical cause, he was a count situated strategically between Protestant Saxony and Catholic lands to the south. He was a leader of the Schmalkaldic League, a group of Protestant princes united for military self-defense. He was married to Christine of Saxony, forever ill and a heavy drinker, and thus married another woman. When Luther was asked to “bless” Philip’s bigamy, he consented, and the Reformation lost some moral high ground.

Spalatin, George (1484–1545). Lawyer and chancellor for the dukes of Saxony and chief negotiator in many political disputes with Rome.

Staupitz, Johann (1460–1524). Luther’s confessor and friend. Staupitz was in charge of Luther’s monastic order, the Augustinian hermits, and encouraged Luther in biblical study.

Tetzel, John (1465–1519). Dominican monk, famous seller of indulgences, and, by this work, fundraiser for the church.

Walther, Johann (1496–1570). Luther’s friend and the court musician in Torgau.

Zwingli, Ulrich (1484–1531). Leader of reformation in Zurich, disputed with Luther on many issues, especially on sacraments. Died leading his troops in battle against imperial (Catholic) forces.