

-It had some honest concern for the public welfare but it was often limited to theory and not seen in practice.

-It championed simplicity in doctrine as well as practice.

-It favored political independence and the right responsibility of free thought.

-But it showed a large weakness in overestimating man's powers and honors and intrinsic skill. Humanism walks a tight line between pragmatism and idealism...a good humanistic spirit must combine something of both and it is a delicate business of balance.

The Bohemian Lessons

II.3.d
Bohemian Lesson

The Hussite movement in Bohemia, following 1416 and the Council of Constance, had succeeded in maintaining a church "independent" of the Roman See in spite of persecution, argument, etc. Directly or indirectly Luther understood that if the populace is deeply committed, it is almost impossible to destroy a move so founded. We are not saying that Luther studied this and laid a course on this line but that the lesson was known and apparent and what would happen in the moves of Luther was very similar to the developments in Bohemia one hundred years earlier.

MARTIN LUTHER AND THE REFORMATION IN GERMANY

II.4
The German Reformation:

Early life, family

Luther was born in Eisleben (Electoral Saxony) in 1483. He was the son of hard-working peasant parents but his father's energies were sufficiently prodigious that he rose to managerial status in the mines where he served. The family was marked by industry and thrift and while it knew hard times when Luther was young, gained in an easier form of life as time went on. For Luther, his father desired something better than he had known, and the option was to have him educated in law. Luther had a warm person-