

Frederick, a religious man who felt alienated from George and the latter's political aspirations. Frederick was profoundly helped by Luther and he in turn gave Luther much help---but he did it wisely, while protecting him he did not throw the gauntlet at the other Saxon and Germanic nobles. Repression at this time would have looked like a political takeover in Saxony and might have sparked a general Teutonic war...repression, that is, by the Pope.

And in the third place, but not for the last time, the Turks were again posing a threat on the Danube. Their constant menacing of Hungary and the rest of central Europe called for a lot more vigilance on the Danube than on the Rhine and many important things were given a secondary place until all were sure the Turks were not going to run an attack and threaten everyone.

There was, however, an important meeting of the Augustinian Order at Heidelberg in June-August, 1518. As an Augustinian monk and the preacher of the order in the Germanic territories, Luther attended and his views were expressed before the head of the order and the Papal legate. The latter secured a summons for Luther to go to Rome and face charges of heresy. Luther did not go and these charges were never fully aired. At this convention Luther won a larger number of the men of the order and among them was Bucer (Martin Butzer) who eventually proved one of the healthiest spirits of the Reformation.

In the passing of this time, two major attempts were made to dissuade Luther from his position without taking a step of major force. The first of these came at Augsburg in 1518 (summer) with Thomas deVio, Cardinal Cajetan, specially appointed for the occasion. Cajetan treated Luther's objections as less than absurd and was sufficiently cavalier in his treatment of Luther as to lose credibility. The second was a meeting with the papal legate von Miltitz. This ambassador was a German and understood something of the seriousness of the situation. He made special overtures to Frederick and virtually promised Luther freedom to do as he might please in preaching and protesting. Obviously going beyond his limits in a placation event, Miltitz mostly roused up suspicions and did not allay anyone's fears. With each passing thrust Luther was more firm in his commitment to the issues of justification and life.