

trusted guardsmen. The Elector could say with a straight face that he could not find him! During this time he reduced the Germanic dialects to common writing and translated the Bible into rather remarkable Germanic form. He also wrote letters and helps to those who in the rest of Saxony were spreading his teachings. A cell of followers developed and the warmth of his message made an impact in all of Germany. One might think that with the imprisonment of Luther the popular teaching would die but such was not the case. He had already been preaching the essential doctrines, many followers had rallied to his cause, his hero character inspired others, and in some ways his absence, although mysterious, fanned the flame of the evangelical fire. The break with Rome was final.

THE YEARS OF CONSOLIDATION...EVENTS FROM THE  
DIET OF WORMS TO THE DIET OF AUGSBURG, 1530

II.4.c

Consolidation  
of the  
Reformation  
in Germany  
1521-1530

This proved to be a critical period in the history of the Reformation in Germany. The Saxon territories were marked with division and political upheaval. The Emperor likewise had his hands full of war with France and threats from the Turks...to say nothing of intrigue from the Vatican. The decade was crowded with important events of which we are able to sketch only a few.

Religious/  
Political  
Developments

Religious and Political Developments of the Decade

We are able to place these in tabular form with small annotation.

1521 found Ferdinand, brother to Charles, appointed as imperial representative over the Germanic territories. Dealing with the Reformation would have been his special job but the insistence of the Turks on conquering Hungary kept him very busy.

1522 found Adrian VI elected to the papacy. He was tutor to Charles in the Netherlands and had the emperor's support and confidence. He was very strict, academically inclined and not much in favor of fun and games. He asked the Diet of Nuremberg to "hand over" Luther but the Reichstag was non committal at this time and his ideas were treated apathetically. He had a short papacy and did nothing to halt