



## The „12 Articles“

The "Twelve Articles", written by the Memmingen lay preacher Sebastian Lotzer, are a milestone in the struggle for freedom rights. With reference to the Word of God, it is stated that there are principles of law which may not be overridden by any local or other special law. It calls for the legitimation and restriction of sovereign power.

In the holy bible, the farmers read that they „are and ought to be free“. With their message of the dignity of every human being, the "Twelve Articles" are an early proof of the universality of human rights. As monuments to the human struggle for freedom, they are considered a unique document of German constitutional history.

In spring 1525, Sebastian Lotzer anonymously wrote a pamphlet containing the farmers' most important complaints, the so-called "12 Articles". They represent the only and most important programmatic document of the uprising of the "common man" in European history and considered to be a manifesto for a society of freedom and ethical responsibility.