



## The Peasant War

The "Twelve Articles" became the most important programmatic writing of the Peasant War. When revolts and uprisings took place in the German Empire between March and June 1525, 25 prints of the Memmingen text appeared in almost all well-known places from Tyrol to Thuringia. The demands of the Kramerzunft (salesmen guild) were adopted elsewhere and extended by regional complaints. The attention they received was, at best, comparable with the pamphlets of Martin Luther.

The Peasant War as "revolution of the common man" was lost. The peasants' plan to enforce their demands through negotiations did not work out. The first looting of monasteries and castles caused the nobles of the Swabian Union to strike back. In several battles and many punitive actions, thousands of people died. Despite the military defeat of the "common man", new forms of contractual agreements between Lords and Subjects developed in the wake of the Peasant War.