

# Mirwöllerfreisei!



## 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.

„Memminger Freiheitspreis 1525“  
(Memmingen Liberty Prize 1525)

Since 2005, the city of Memmingen and the "Board of Trustees' Twelve Peasant Articles" have awarded the "Memminger Freiheitspreis 1525" for services to freedom, rights and justice.

The prize is a reminder that no success in the history of freedom once acquired is automatically secured forever. The prize is awarded to celebrities of public life who stand up for freedom, law and justice in the name of human dignity. In their efforts to disclose abuse of power, they should be motivational role models in our society.