

Name _____

Date _____

The Reformation

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. As the figurehead of the Reformation, Martin Luther became known for his fiery speeches, provocative writings, and ad hominem attacks on his opponents. While many of his works lambasted the practices of the powerful Catholic Church, others expressed deep-seated bigotry toward minority groups like Jews and Muslims. Luther's antisemitism was particularly notable: In a 60,000-word polemic published in 1543, he advocated burning synagogues, destroying holy texts, banning rabbis from preaching, and seizing assets owned by Jews. His violent rhetoric prompted widespread riots and pogroms, and several German states expelled their Jewish residents. While the extent of his influence on antisemitism is debated, many historians today assert that Nazi ideology was in part informed by Luther's work. Prominent Nazis and Protestant leaders spoke admiringly about his racist writings and sermons, even citing them in support of the policy that forced German Jews to wear a yellow star for identification. When Jewish homes and businesses were destroyed during Kristallnacht, Nazi sympathizers drew parallels between the event and Luther's infamous treatise. Though some scholars believe that the Nazis' references to Luther were simply opportunistic, most agree that his works contributed significantly to the eventual rise of the Third Reich.

Which of the following best describes the connection between Martin Luther and Nazi Germany?

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| A. Nazi politicians were influenced by Luther's antisemitic works. | B. German Protestants sought to distance themselves from Luther's work during World War II. |
| C. Luther's works outlined policies that would later be enacted by the Nazis. | D. Luther's fiery oratorical style inspired the speeches of Nazi leaders. |

- 3.** For centuries, much of Europe was governed by a single entity known as the Holy Roman Empire. It was a Catholic state, with emperors appointed by the Pope. But with the onset of the Reformation in the 16th century, many Protestants began to rise up against their Catholic rulers. At first, they tried to resolve these tensions by dividing the empire into Catholic and Protestant states. However, the continuous expansion of Protestantism led to boundary disputes and social conflict. In 1618, violence broke out when the Catholic king of Bohemia, now a region of the Czech Republic, was deposed and replaced by a Protestant ruler. Though it started as a local religious conflict, the resulting Thirty Years' War quickly became about political control of the continent. Various powers from outside of the Holy Roman Empire intervened on behalf of their political allies, with the Protestants gaining support from countries that viewed the empire as a threat. By the time the war ended in 1648, the balance of power in Europe had shifted dramatically: The Holy Roman Empire had suffered major territorial losses, weaker states like France were poised to become major powers, and Protestantism was recognized as a legitimate religion. To date, it remains one of Europe's most devastating conflicts, with an estimated death toll of eight million.

Which of the following was NOT an outcome of the Thirty Years' War?

- A. The acknowledgement of Protestantism as a legitimate belief system
- B. The weakening of the Holy Roman Empire
- C. A loss of territory for smaller states like France
- D. A high number of human casualties