

Timothy Ryan  
AP Euro  
Period C  
September 9, 2007

### Historical Essay Analysis

**Title:** Luther: Giant of His Time and Ours

**Author:** Richard N. Ostling

**Author's thesis:** Martin Luther had a greater impact on modern Western life than just religion.

**Author's evidence:**

- a) More books have been written about him than about any one person, aside from Jesus Christ.
- b) Luther's protests led to a break in the catholic church
- c) Lutheranism today has 69 million followers
- d) Luther was constantly writing
- e) He greatly impacted German culture
- f) Helped standardize German vernacular
- g) Second Vatican Council helped fix many of Luther's early complaints
- h) Luther had an impact on the Christian Church as well as the Lutheran one

**Author's conclusion about the significance of the topic:**

Martin Luther's ideas of reform had led not only to the start of the Protestant Reformation, but to fundamental changes in the Catholic Church, allowing both to continue into the modern age. His ideas also impacted German society from where he came.

**List below questions you have about the reading.**

1. What aspects of society did Luther affect?
2. Why didn't Luther attempt to enact social change in accordance with the Bible?

**To what extent does your knowledge of the period support or conflict with the author's thesis?**

My knowledge of the protestant reformation largely supports this image of Martin Luther in history as a greatly influential religious reformer.

**Write a paragraph in your own words explaining the gist of the article, the nature of the evidence, and the significance of the topic.**

Martin Luther is the founder of the Lutheran religion, the man who started the Protestant Reformation, and can be credited today as a brilliant theologian. His protests against the Church are today considered to be well-founded, and the Christian Church has actually incorporated many of his reforms into the Church since the Second Vatican Council. His mark on German society, as well as indirect influence on most of northern Europe, is of significant importance as his ideas on a religious culture and society spread. While there are still some issues today with all of Luther's teachings, most can agree that he was influential and critical to the survival of modern religion.