

**ANABAPTISTS AFTER 1525 PEASANT WAR** (see Handout # 8 Anabaptists & #10 Peasant War) **HO #12**  
Pattern of increasing social experiments, radical agendas leading to the Kingdom of Münster

**BALTHASAR HUBMAIER:** Lutheran pastor, most socially “respectable” of Anabaptists --  
Doctorate in Theology, Catholic priest at Regensburg, Germany, then influenced by Swiss  
1525 *On the Christian Baptism of Believers* -- best statement on adult baptism  
arrested in Zurich as Anabaptist, recants after torture, then escapes to Moravia in east  
one of the few Anabaptists to advocate armed resistance to the state  
1528 arrested by Hapsburg authorities, tortured, burned at the stake in Vienna

**HANS HUT:** follower of Thomas Müntzer (see Peasant War Handout #10)  
Millenarian – predicts the return of Christ in 1528, when the “separated Saints” will  
take up the sword and establish Kingdom of God on Earth  
followed Hubmaier to Moravia, arrested, died while attempting escape

**MELCHIOR HOFFMAN:** became a Lutheran, then a Zwinglian, then an Anabaptist  
1530 *Ordinance of God* – treatise on adult baptism  
Millenarian: predicts end of the world for 1533 in Strasbourg (Reformer = Martin Bucer)  
arrested by Strasbourg Reformation authorities, sentenced to life imprisonment  
Melchiorites: his followers move to Münster (see below) and radicalize that city

**JAKOB HUTTER:** Anabaptist leader in Tyrol (Alpine area western Austria) Hutterites now in Canada & US  
**COMMUNITY OF GOODS:** rejects private property, against commerce and moneylending  
**MARRIAGE:** rejects state control of marriage, valid marriages are only between believers,  
“believers’ marriage” is indissoluble, but Hutter supports divorce in other cases  
**DIVORCE** is required when believer is married to a non-believer; women may initiate divorce

#### **CULMINATION OF RADICAL TENDENCIES IN REFORMATION GERMANY:**

**MÜNSTER** (northwest Germany) – see article by Ronnie Hsia, link from course webpage  
Ecclesiastical state (Prince-Bishopric) until urban revolt against the Bishop in 1533  
1533 Lutheran Reformation established, meanwhile Melchiorites gather for Millennium

#### **1534-1535 ANABAPTIST KINGDOM OF MÜNSTER**

Leaders:

**JAN MATTHYS:** Melchiorite preacher, former baker expelled from Netherlands, begins re-baptisms  
urges need to “hasten the end,” the elect must take up the sword against the ungodly;  
exile of all Catholics and Lutherans; Matthys assumes dictatorial powers, executes resisters  
community of property (no cash), no private kitchens, burns all books except Bible  
1534 died during siege, his widow Divora is married by

**JAN BOCKELSON** (John of Leiden) 25 years old, takes power after Jan Matthys’ death  
visions and voices give him instructions on the reform of the city  
1534 declares himself **King John of New Jerusalem:** throne, royal court, Queen Divora  
community of property, communal dining halls (compare Thomas More’s *Utopia*)  
community of women through forced polygamy  
1535 killed in the siege of the city led by the exiled Bishop, who restores Catholicism  
after six month siege (which led to famine and cannibalism in the city)

#### **PACIFIST ANABAPTISTS after Münster**

**MENNO SIMONS** (d. 1561) founder of the **MENNONITES**  
rebuilds Anabaptist after debacle at Münster; rejects violence, no resistance to authority  
pacifism as central doctrine, but withdrawal from mainstream society & established churches  
adapting to Mennonites leads to some degree of toleration, especially in Netherlands  
modern groups such as Amish, Pennsylvania Dutch are in Mennonite tradition