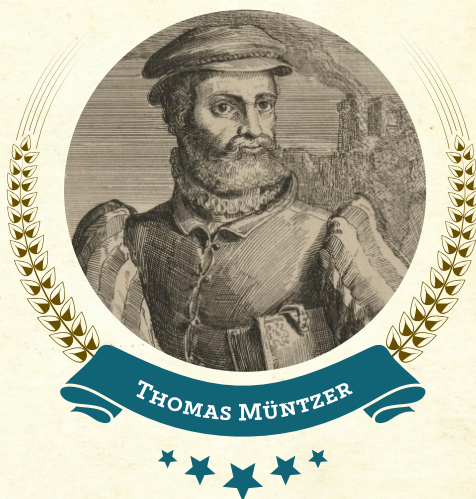


## An early reformer who twisted the Reformation into a violent rebellion



**THOMAS MÜNTZER**  
**Born:** circa 1485 | Stolberg, Germany

**Died:** May 27, 1525 | Camp Görmär (near Eisenach), Germany

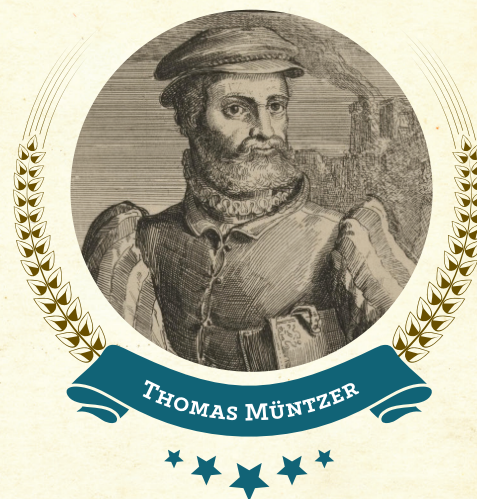
**THOMAS MÜNTZER PRIORITIZED THE CHARISMATIC SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE** over Scriptural and ecclesiastical authority and doctrines. He argued that the only authentic Christians were those who had gone through internal turmoil so that they could discover the real life in the Spirit. He orchestrated a movement of the laity, supposedly directly led by the Holy Spirit. Given this Spiritual enlightenment, he argued, it was the obligation of all real Christians forcibly to purge the world of wickedness. Müntzer claimed this should be done through governmental rule, making him the first Protestant to call for a theocracy. He argued, however, that since the governing authorities were not fulfilling their role in establishing divine justice to defeat evil, it was the right of the people to openly revolt. He therefore inspired the Peasants' Revolt, which was a violent rebellion against the governing authorities. For his involvement, Müntzer was captured and beheaded for treason.



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