

CHAPTER

7

THE REFORMATION AND INTERNATIONALIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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7.1 INTRODUCTION

The concept of internationalization in higher education has gained prominence in recent years and has brought cooperation, solidarity, social justice, and global citizenship to the forefront. As Knight (2004) states, "The internationalization of higher education today is not limited to a geographical interpretation of the concept." He believes that universities' efforts to fulfill their fundamental duties, such as education, research, academic activities, and community service, are part of internationalization. In this context, global education, research, and intercultural service activities in Europe and other continents have reached an all-time high. We observe that these concepts aim to enhance the innovative, competitive, and adaptable nature of the modern education system to global needs through student exchange and the sharing of knowledge, skills, and technology.

The phenomenon currently referred to as modern education is considered one of the oldest concepts known throughout human history. However, it is understood that modern education has reached its current

level by going through certain stages throughout history. This significant change, when traced through its developmental stages, is likely to lead us to the Reformation movement, one of the most significant historical developments thought to have had a major impact on the introduction and institutionalization of education as a concept. The Reformation was a significant event that led to a major transformation in religious and social structures in 16th-century Europe. This movement, particularly directed against the Catholic Church, was initiated by reformist theologians such as Martin Luther (1483–1546), John Calvin (1509–1564), and Huldrych Zwingli (1484–1531). Following the Reformation, Protestantism emerged, leading to radical changes in both religious and educational systems across Europe. It led to the emergence of diverse sects within Western Christianity, the Catholic Church's Counter-Reformation, individualism in education and belief, the foundations of the modern state, the impact of capital accumulation on social and political life, and changes in art and culture.

This movement, which encouraged increased access to education, the translation of sacred texts into local languages, and the secularization of education, led to the establishment of many new universities across Europe and increased knowledge and skill sharing among universities. Pettegree (2021) states that the number of universities across Europe, which was fifty before the Reformation, had risen to seventy by 1600. The newly established universities would become centers of attraction for renowned scholars, sparking fierce competition between institutions. The Reformation's impact on higher education institutions was profound. The freedom of individual interpretation and thought advocated by the Reformation supported today's universities as venues for free knowledge production and critical academic debate on the international stage. Furthermore, the Reformation's advocacy of expanding education, similar to the internationalization of higher education today, highlights cross-border education, online learning, multilingual programs, and intercultural learning. Thus, it can be argued that the Reformation contributed to the foundations of modern higher education by supporting individual

intellectual freedom and advocating for access to education. Today's internationalization processes, in turn, broaden these foundations, fostering access to universal knowledge, cultural pluralism, and a critical academic environment. Therefore, the intellectual legacy of the Reformation can be considered a historical force that paved the way for the internationalization of higher education. All these changes and progress movements increased access to education, encouraged the translation of sacred texts into local languages and the secularization of education, and led to the establishment of many new universities in Europe, increased knowledge and experience sharing between universities, the start of student exchange programs, and thus higher education gained an international dimension.

The individual freedom of interpretation and thought advocated by the Reformation today supports universities as a place for free knowledge production and critical academic discussion in the international arena. In addition, the Reformation advocated the expansion of education. Today, in a similar way to the internationalization of higher education, today's cross-border education, online learning, multilingual programs, and intercultural learning are highlighted. Thus, it can be said that the Reformation movement contributed to the foundations of modern higher education by supporting individual intellectual freedom and advocating access to education. Today's internationalization processes also expand these foundations and support access to universal knowledge, cultural pluralism, and a critical academic environment. Therefore, the intellectual legacy of the Reformation can be evaluated as a historical force that paved the way for the internationalization of higher education. In terms of the necessity of this research, it is thought that the recent increase in internationalization activities in higher education can be attributed to the fact that internationalization in higher education has recently become more on the agenda, and this can be attributed to the high sharing and interaction between university students and academics. At this point, the research conducted within the framework of historical events affecting internationalization in higher education has

made us eager to investigate the impact of the Reformation movement, which had a great impact in all areas in the Middle Ages. It is assumed that this Lutheran movement, which had significant effects on education, directly or indirectly influenced higher education at the international level.

This study examines the aspects of the Reformation process, which Martin Luther put into practice, affecting the internationalization of higher education. After examining the general effects of the Reformation movement, which we believe had a great impact on education in medieval Europe, its spread to Europe and other continents, the establishment of Protestant schools, and the use of the printing press to reproduce and disseminate translations of the Bible are discussed. Although it was initiated for religious purposes, it is evaluated that the Reformation served the birth of secular education. In this context, the order in which the church had the sole say changed, and instead, the view that education was only the right of certain people changed, and the view that education was the right of everyone began to spread. It is seen that these developments evolved into the perspective that education was a public necessity.

The aim of this research is to reveal that the reform movement, which we believe to be of great importance in terms of the history of education, also has a triggering effect on internationalization in higher education, as a result of the literature review and examinations we conducted. In this context, we tried to deepen the subject by touching on the views of Martin Luther and those who followed him, in order of importance, in terms of the spread of education to the masses, reaching higher education, and sharing between countries and continents. After all these examinations, the subject is evaluated in a conclusion section according to the information obtained. For this study, a literature review was chosen, which is one of the qualitative research methods, and it was conducted on the subject from the relevant periods to the present day, especially the most important papers conducted in recent years. After the review, a theoretical evaluation was carried out from among the specified sources.

7.2 THE IMPACT OF REFORMATION MOVEMENT ON EDUCATION

The basic roots and process of education date back to the Reformation (Grimm, 1975). Although the Reformation affected all aspects of society, it would probably not be an exaggeration to say that the area where the Reformation had the greatest impact was education. In addition, Luther's leadership is also clearly acceptable, and he played an important role in bringing about educational reform. These reforms still have initiating effects on general education and higher education. The most important aspect of this is the spread of education to the masses. With the Reformation, education could be provided outside the church, not only to the clergy but to all people. This emphasis made it necessary for every person to learn to read the Bible for themselves. This necessity had a widespread effect on education, reaching every segment of society.

7.2.1 The Spread of Education

Universalization of education has been the dream of many scientists for centuries. One of the main ideas of the Reformation was that a large number of students should be educated at the same time; that not only the children of the rich or powerful but also all boys and girls, rich and poor, should be sent to school in all cities, towns, and villages. This idea supported not only basic education but also the spread of higher education. The first effects of the Reformation on the internationalization of education were manifested in the spread and expansion of education. We believe that it would be useful to consider Luther's thoughts on this subject.

Luther argues that the responsibility for educating children lies with parents. According to him; "God gave you children to educate them in the best possible way," (Grimm, 1975). However, parents alone could not adequately fulfill this duty, and the clergy had no time to devote to this point. Therefore, Luther believed that the establishment and management of schools should be the responsibility of the state, making

Luther among the first educators to articulate the educational responsibilities of administrators in modern societies (Grimm, 1975).

The 95-article treatise brought criticism within the framework of church order, but papal authority was not a subject of discussion here. However, in the detailed commentaries published in 1518, Luther took the subject of criticism one step further and expressed the fundamental issue at stake, what the church was and where it stood (Schorn-Schütte, 2021).

With the Reformation, the unity of sects in Europe was torn apart, the Pope and the clergy lost their prestige (Tracy, 2006) and the Catholic Church had to make new arrangements. As a result, it can be said that education and teaching were taken from the hands of the church, and a secular education approach became widespread.

Thus, the Reformation enabled education to reach a wider audience. Martin Luther, in particular, argued that the Bible should be read in everyone's own language, aiming to increase literacy rates. This encouraged the spread of the education system to the masses outside the clergy. The person responsible for the process was Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk from the district of Mansfeld, currently in the German federal state of Thuringia (Lutz & Klingholz, 2017).

7.2.2 Establishment of Protestant Schools

The Reformation was, in its most general terms, a movement to renew the church. This movement, which affected almost all of Europe, eventually resulted in the separation of Western Christianity into Protestant and Catholic sects. By 1500, the papacy had clearly lost its moral authority in the Christian community (Linder, 2008).

The Reformation led to the establishment of Protestant educational institutions as an alternative to Catholic churches. As an educational reformer, Luther first proposed converting monasteries into schools as an educational reformer, Luther first proposed converting monasteries into schools (Anweting, 2019). These schools contributed to raising standards in general education as well as religious education, producing

a comprehensive circuit encompassing mathematics, nature education, and art education. Luther emphasized the importance of pedagogical education, advocating both severity and perfectionism in the education of children and tolerance. He believed that classroom education and practical on-the-job training should complement each other (Anweting, 2019).

From the beginning of the Reformation, great importance was given to the establishment of schools that provided education based on reading the Bible and religious education. In addition to theological education, these schools included philosophy, humanities, and compulsory technical education. These schools began to be established in Germany and spread to countries such as Austria, Czechia, and France. The establishment of these Protestant schools seems to have paved the way for the internationalization of higher education by spreading higher education and sharing knowledge and experience with different geographies.

Education, which was monopolized by the church, provided society with educational diversity with the establishment and increase of Protestant schools and gave ordinary people the opportunity to learn to read and write. This situation gradually affected all levels of education. Thus, it also made many contributions in the context of higher education and internationalization.

7.2.3 Translation of the Bible and the Impact of the Printing Press

Johannes Gutenberg (1400–1486) invented the technology for mechanically duplicating written works using movable type in Mainz, half a century before Luther (World History Encyclopedia, 2024). Previously, books had to be copied by hand, a laborious and expensive process that made them a luxury few could afford. The printing press made books, including the Bible, more affordable and accessible, which in turn democratized knowledge. Luther, a key figure in the

Reformation, was one of the first to recognize and use the power of the printing press.

Luther made effective use of the new media, printing his pamphlets, posters, and leaflets. Luther called the printing of books "God's highest and greatest gift of grace." His theses, criticizing the practices of the Catholic Church, were quickly printed and widely distributed, reaching an audience far beyond Wittenberg, where he first published them. This would not have been possible without the printing press. Luther's ideas spread rapidly, igniting the debates and discussions that fueled the Reformation.

During the Reformation, the translation of the Bible into local languages and the effective use of the printing press enabled the rapid dissemination of information. This allowed not only religious texts but also scientific and literary works to reach a wider audience. This was an important step towards the internationalization of education. The dissemination of scientific and literary works to wider parts of the world could also mean that it contributed to the internationalization of education.

7.2.4 The Birth of Secular Education

In short, with the Reformation, the unity of sects in Europe was broken up, the pope and the clergy lost their prestige, and the Catholic Church was forced to make new arrangements. As a result, education and training were taken from the hands of the church, and it can be said that a secular education approach (in the use of gaining a freer structure by getting rid of the influence and control of the Church with its French origins) became widespread. When the monopoly of the Catholic Church on education was broken, more secular and individualistic education approaches also began to develop. This process had a significant part in laying the foundations of the modern education system.

Public compulsory education seemed to Luther and Melancthon a pragmatic idea and a necessary precondition for reunifying a nation that

was divided in some respects, such as religion, politics, and social life. Thus, it became clear that this papal Italy had to break away from church authority (Carmen, 1989). The tendency towards regional secular governance could be attributed to communities electing their own priests and the priests' influence on the appointment of teachers. Important contributions to the faith investment of children and youth included the accumulation of knowledge, the order and discipline of education, and the improvement of quality.

7.2.5 The Role of Universities

The fragmentation and separation in Europe under the influence of the Reformation brought about an intense intellectual debate. This separation increased scientific studies and competition. The educational framework in universities expanded, and higher education institutions that provided only medical and law education were also affected by the Reformation process. Due to the limitations of our research, we are trying to evaluate the positive effects of these change processes. Of course, it caused many effects from different perspectives.

In the post-Reformation period, universities became important centers for the education of different denominations and systems of thought. While Protestant universities were established, Catholic universities were reformed. This diversity contributed to the spread of intellectual debate and academic freedom.

Although the increasing number of universities in Lutheran and Reformed regions faced some questions such as the need for trained academic staff and financial resources to meet these numbers, there was an academic momentum in higher education. This academic momentum was also forcing Catholic universities to undergo an educational reform. Thus, it would allow for developments in higher education, which could be called pioneering activities in internationalization.

7.3 THE REFORMATION EFFECTS ON THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF EDUCATION

In an era when women received little or no education, Luther thought that educational opportunities needed to be expanded, and he asked the governance of his time a question that resonates today: "Dear gentlemen, if we must spend such vast sums every year on weapons, roads, bridges, dams, and countless other things to ensure the temporary peace and prosperity of a city, why should not more be devoted to the poor youth who are neglected?" (Brandt, 1962).

According to Luther, the level of development of a society is closely related to the government's education of children and young people. It is also important for them to be raised as responsible and independent thinkers. "The greatest wealth of a society is its educated citizens." It can be argued that Luther's words were a warning to today's leaders as well as the administrators of the period.

Martin Luther's vision proposes universal education, compulsory from primary school to higher education. Luther advocated education for girls as well as boys with a pluralistic perspective. He believed that education was a right for the poor as well as the rich. His visionary stance aimed to create a more educated world. For this reason, multilingual education was among his desires (McKinney, 2017). Luther's vision of inclusive education, it can be argued that the Reformation movement also had some effects on the internationalization of education. We can discuss these effects as follows.

7.3.1 Increasing Cultural Differences and Spread Outside Europe

After the Reformation, different educational systems emerged in Europe due to religious divisions. Protestantism, Catholicism, and other Christian denominations that emerged later established their own educational structures in different countries and regions. This allowed education to develop in different cultural and linguistic contexts.

The Reformation saw universal education as a form of reform. They saw it as a way to break free from the Catholic grip on faith and institutions and to reconnect all people to God in more direct ways, through their ability to read, study, and understand the writings.

For Luther, education was not an end in itself; it was a path to the scriptures and the gospels, all of which led back to spiritual development. Yet the Reformation pushed an agenda that empowered the individual student to read, write, and think. Whatever the means and ends, universal schooling and literacy were advancing. Lutheran influence in schools still exists in its original centers in Northern Europe and, through immigration, in the United States and Australia.

The Reformation movement affected not only Europe but also, with colonization, regions outside Europe. Missionary activities brought European education systems to the Americas, Africa, and Asia, while also interacting with local education systems. Protestants reached North America and settled there. They established various organizations to accelerate the spread of the Bible. The clergy who reached these places were responsible for spreading the Bible. The Netherlands trained priests in Leiden to educate workers in East India, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka, and the people in the region were also affected by this (Marty, 2024). Activities such as these helped spread the influence of the Reformation and its aspects on global education from Europe to other continents.

7.3.2 Competition and Sharing of Knowledge in Education

In this period, also known as the era of knowledge, the importance of sharing knowledge as well as having knowledge is increasing day by day. Since information is inherently in the minds of individuals, it is thought that unless individual knowledge is shared throughout the organization, the limited effect of knowledge on the performance of the organization will be below expectations. In today's extremely competitive environment, the success of an organization ultimately depends on

effective knowledge sharing among employees in order to talk about team success (Cabrera & Cabrera, 2005). The production of knowledge is also among the main activities of higher education institutions. However, the knowledge acquired must be shared and disseminated to the majority. This function is considered to be the building block of the extraordinary performance of higher education institutions. For these reasons, information sharing in higher education constitutes an important development issue, which leads to the formation of a more competitive environment. At this point, the issue of the internationalization of education comes to the agenda. Higher education institutions that want to accelerate their development worldwide resort to internationalization with a more collaborative approach with higher education institutions in other countries. In light of all these reminders, it would be correct to continue by touching on the course of the reformation movement, which we believe has had a devastating effect on the spread of education to large masses and its internationalization.

After Protestant churches accelerated their missionary activities in order to spread the Christian faith, missionaries went to America, Asia, and Africa outside of Europe and carried out educational activities in addition to spreading their own beliefs. These missionaries tried to educate the local people by opening schools in the regions they went to. By providing a Western European style of education in these schools, an interaction began between local cultures and Western education systems.

These missionary schools contributed to the transformation of education into an international structure by spreading European education worldwide. These schools, established in different countries, adopted European education curricula and introduced local people to these curricula. This contributed to the transfer of not only European education but also disciplines such as science, language, mathematics, and history to different parts of the world. This global spread paved the way for education to go beyond the borders of Europe and become a world heritage.

The development of their own educational systems by different denominations and regions encouraged the sharing of knowledge. Students and scientists studying at different universities accelerated the international exchange of information and ideas. This facilitated the rapid spread of knowledge in Europe, especially during the period of scientific revolutions.

7.3.3 International Student Mobility

International student mobility is important in terms of technological and scientific development and cultural change, beyond individuality. In this way, interstate and intercultural information sharing is realized, and it is possible to develop existing ideas, produce new knowledge, and put it into global circulation.

With the spread of international education activities, the increase in the number of students and academics traveling abroad for education and training purposes also expresses the internationalization rate of education. In other words, it is a result of the spread of international education activities. The history of the internationalization of education dates back to ancient times within the scope of education and missionary activities. Namely, throughout history, students and academics have moved towards the important learning, knowledge production, and sharing centers of the period. This tendency existed in previous periods as well, but in this research, we will examine the changes that occurred with the Reformation movement. In addition, we will discuss Luther's effects on higher education students and academic mobility.

Luther supported practical education, such as history, mathematics, and music. Although much of the debate focused on the basic education level, higher education was also important for him. In this context, the Reformation encouraged the establishment of new universities, especially in Protestant areas. Protestant universities, such as Wittenberg University in Germany and the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, became academic centers that supported Reformation ideas. These

universities became attractive centers for students and scholars who shared the Protestant faith and Reformation ideas.

Students and scholars from other countries began to flock to these universities. For example, students from England went to German Protestant universities and students from France went to Protestant universities in Scotland to receive their education. This student mobility provided not only religious interaction but also the sharing of scientific knowledge and academic methodologies. Students from different cultures brought the knowledge they learned to their own countries, contributing to the development of an international understanding of education. This academic mobility helped education gain an international dimension and cultural diversity find a place in education.

Following the Reformation, a student exchange movement began between Protestant and Catholic universities throughout Europe. Protestant students, in particular, escaped from the oppression in their own countries and continued their education in other countries. This situation can be seen as an early example of international student mobility in the modern sense.

7.4 CONCLUSION

In this section, as a result of our literature review and evaluation of the sources obtained, we tried to summarize the effects of the Reformation movement pioneered by Luther on the internationalization of higher education. According to current studies, it is assumed that global education, research, and intercultural service activities in Europe and other continents have reached an all-time high. It is thought that this evaluation can be attributed to the fact that internationalization in higher education has become more on the agenda recently, and this can be attributed to the high sharing and interaction between university students and academics.

First of all, the basic roots and process of education date back to the Reformation, and it had the greatest impact on education, and it can be argued that the establishment of the foundations of the modern

education process happened with the reform movement. In addition, Luther's leadership is also clearly acceptable, and he played an important role in bringing about educational reform. These reforms still have initiating effects generally on education and also higher education.

The Reformation contributed to education and also took education from the monopoly of the church and gave it a more secular structure and increased the schooling rate. The increase in the schooling rate led to an increase in educational institutions in direct proportion. Thus, the increase in educational institutions led to demand for higher education levels. Information sharing in higher education constitutes an important development issue, which leads to the formation of a more competitive environment. At this point, the issue of the internationalization of education comes to the agenda. Higher education institutions that want to accelerate their development worldwide resort to internationalization with a more collaborative approach with higher education institutions in other countries.

Another important effect is that the Reformation made education more accessible and diversified in Europe while also contributing significantly to the development of education internationally. This process, which began with religious reforms, became one of the cornerstones of the globalization of education. With the Reformation, student exchange movements began between Protestant and Catholic universities throughout Europe. Protestant students, in particular, escaped from the oppression in their own countries and continued their education in other countries. This was how we saw the first examples of international student mobility.

According to all these assumptions, it can be argued that Luther was one of the first pioneers for universal education. He advocated for education with equal rights for everyone, regardless of social class and status. Thus, it can be assumed that the Lutheran movement, which had significant effects on education, directly or indirectly influenced higher education at an international level.

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