
Some years ago a group of prominent Reformation scholars, principally those interested in the Lutheran movement, established The Foundation for Reformation Research which has sought to foster studies in the sixteenth century religious revival. Having collected considerable quantities of original sources on microfilm, they have published a library bulletin which gives news of the additions to its collection. Now they have come to the place where they are publishing collections of papers dealing with the sixteenth century, this volume being their first.

The first two papers: Paul Peachey, (Catholic University of America) "Marxist Historiography of the Radical Reformation: Causality or Covariation?" and Abraham Friesen, (University of California) "The Marxist Interpretation of Anabaptism," seek to set up a dialogue between Christian and Marxist interpreters of the Reformation. Peachey believes that the best method would be to have a friendly confrontation between the two groups to compare their methods, their ideas of causality and their results. Friesen follows Peachy's idea by a careful examination of Marxist views of Anabaptism, exposing their philosophical presuppositions and raising questions about their accuracy.

Roger B. Manning of Cleveland State University deals with the question of "The Spread of the Popular Reformation in England," pointing out that the various religious settlements proclaimed by successive governments really had very little influence. It was rather the merchant classes, particularly those of London and the landed gentry and aristocracy who really put the Reformation across. Maria Grossman of Harvard Divinity School takes up the question of printing in Wittenberg before 1517, pointing out that humanism influenced the type of books printed, but that the printers themselves generally did what they could to further the new learning. When Grunenberg became Luther's publisher he turned from purely scholarly to popular publishing that was to be of the greatest importance for the spread of the new doctrines.

The Catholic Reformation receives its treatment in an article by M. W. Anderson of Bethel Theological Seminary who deals with the reform advocated by Cardinal Georgio Cortese. Finally Luther is brought down to date by Carter Lindberg of the College of Holy Cross, who shows how Luther's thinking influenced that of Ludwig Feuerbach, who in turn has wielded an important influence upon modern theological ideas.

Altogether this is a variegated and stimulating collection of papers, which Dr. Carl Meyer has edited with his usual care and efficiency.

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This book challenges the received view that before the 18th century there were no historians "in the sense that Gibbon and Mommsen were historians". Evidence gleaned from the works of a small but lively group of 16th century French rokins leads the author to argue that all the essential components of the modern idea of history as a discipline, at