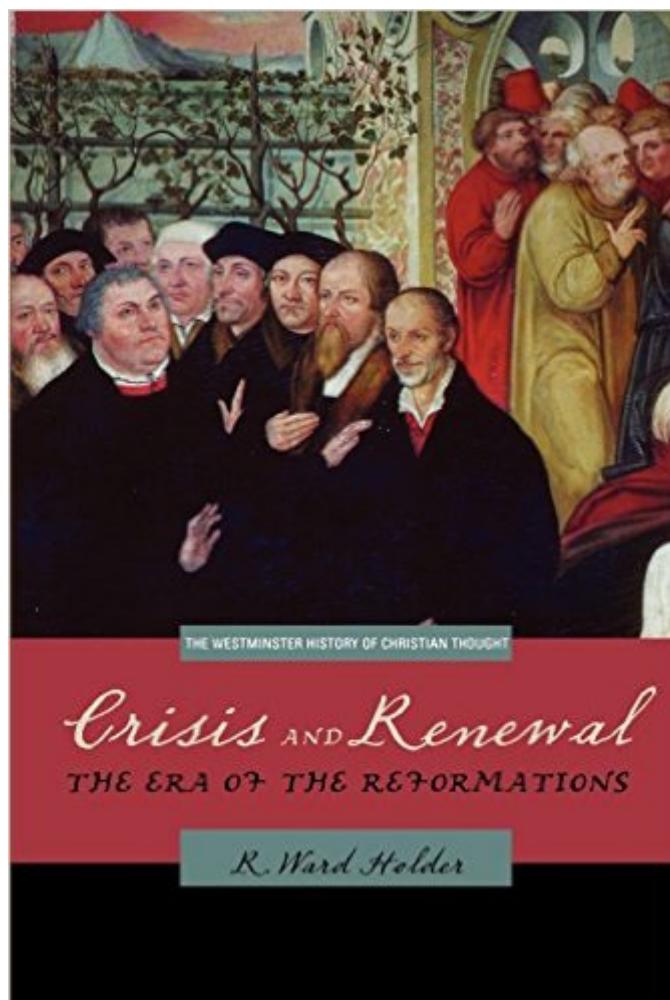


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Crisis And Renewal: The Era Of The Reformation (Westminster History Of Christian Thought) (Westminster Histories Of Christian Thought) (The Westminster History Of Christian Thought)





Synopsis

This latest volume in the Westminster History of Christian Thought series introduces readers to the events and ideas that propelled the various religious reformations of sixteenth-century Europe. A splendid introduction to this momentous period, Crisis and Renewal examines the historical and theological developments that dramatically changed the religious landscape of Europe and continue to have important effects today. Discussion questions and other aids make this an excellent book for classroom use. Designed particularly for undergraduate courses in theology and religion, the Westminster History of Christian Thought series offers reliable and accessible introductions to Christian thought for each major period in Christian history--the early church, the medieval era, the Reformation, the modern age, and the contemporary period--and concludes with a volume on American religious thought.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bottom line up front: a chronologically accurate, if oversimplified and unbalanced, overview of the Reformation era. At pains to represent itself as "non-confessional", it also injures its subject in its clumsy attempts to "simplify academic jargon". The Kindle edition lacks a functioning TOC in the navigation bar, which greatly hampers usability. Crisis and Renewal does provide a correct timeline consisting of events that actually happened, but that is about all I can say in its favor. The author claims in the first chapter that: "this volume will attempt to avoid the confessionalism that has

marred some of the past efforts to understand the time of reform. It has been rather well documented that one of the most significant keys to reading histories of the Reformation in prior times has been knowing the confessional placement of the author... There were 'good guys' and 'bad guys' for such an approach to the history of the time." Without going a page further, the astute reader will ask why, at the very outset, the author is at such pains to disclaim any confessional affiliation? The answer is that he protests too much: knowing that Professor Holder is a Calvin scholar will give readers from diverse theological traditions a much better understanding of this book, and will bring clarity at the moments when the author skirts dangerously close to some of the more egregious Sunday School romanticisms about the era. I would have given this book a much more favorable review (although I probably would not have read it) if its author had stated forthrightly that it was written from a distinctly Calvinist viewpoint. Its false insistence that it is confessionally unbiased leaves a bad taste.

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