
Geography, biography and history

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The Ashgate Research Companion to the Thirty Years' War

Edited by Olaf Asbach and Peter Schröder

Ashgate

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2014

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Ashgate Research Companions

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The Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) was a fairly complex political and military period in European history, one that was really a number of individual conflicts with different political issues, without any clear beginning or end. An overriding theme for this particular time period was a struggle regarding the structure and power of the Holy Roman Empire and its influence on various religious and political situations in Central Europe. The war began as a German one, then Swedish, then religious conflicts arising from the Protestant Reformation. In the middle of these conflicts, the Peace of Augsburg (1555), the Edict of Restitution (1629) and the Peace of Westphalia treaty all played a part. This book brings together, leading scholars to piece together the historical and political complexities of the Thirty Years' War and provide a narrative and analytical evaluation of the surviving evidence.

The book is divided into five parts: The Holy Roman Empire of the German nation; The Great powers, coalitions and conflicting interests; Different stages and theatres of the War; Religion and politics; and Experience and praxis of war. Part I provides a detailed background and pre-history of the conflict, with two chapters on imperial politics from 1555-1618 and an explanation of the Palatinate and its networks throughout the Empire and Europe. Part II examines many of the countries, people and powers involved in the War, including the Emperor, the Spanish monarchy, Denmark, Sweden, France, the papacy and the

Ottoman Empire. Part III is a chronological narrative of the War, divided into the time periods 1618-1629, 1629-1635 and 1635-1648, along with specific chapters on the Dutch-Spanish War in the Low Countries (1621-1648) and the War in Italy (1628-1639). Part IV discusses the religious and political situations of the War, including the Peace of Augsburg (1555), the Edict of Restitution (1629) and how Lutherans and Calvinists united against Catholics during the War, followed by three chapters on various depictions and strategies incorporated during the War, including the material conditions, experiences and conduct of the players. Part V documents the final settlements and treaties at the end of the War, from the Peace of Prague, how the German Empire fared at the end of the War, the Peace of Westphalia and the Peace Treaty of Munster.

Each chapter ends with a selected bibliography; there is not an overall bibliography for the book as a whole. I found this book to be an invaluable resource in understanding and documenting the complex historical, political and religious webs and structures that made up the Thirty Years' War. The various divisions of the content helped to separate out some of the unique roles played by powerful individuals, various countries and religious entities in the timeline of this period within European history. I highly recommend this book for undergraduate and graduate students as well as scholars of late medieval and early renaissance/reformation history and politics.

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The Cambridge Companion to Nelson Mandela

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The Cambridge Companion to Nelson Mandela details in 317 pages, the politics and history of



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