



Calvinists and Libertines: Confession and Community in Utrecht 1578-1620

Benjamin J. Kaplan

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Why did the Netherlands, after the Dutch Reformation, emerge as the most religiously tolerant country in Europe? The causes lie in the struggle between the Calvinist desire to create a highly organized, disciplined church, and the broad-based, nonconformist "Libertine" alternative. Nowhere was this conflict more intense than in Utrecht, a city at the heart of the Dutch Reformation.

In this urban case-study, Ben Kaplan gives us a fascinating microcosm of the European Reformation. There have been similar studies on French and German cities, but *Calvinists and Libertines* is the first to consider the Netherlands, one of the most influential countries of the reformation. The neglected figure of Hubert Druifhus, a pivotal character of the Dutch Reformation, is brought to the attention of English-speaking readers for the first time.

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