

RELIGION IN CONFLICT: FROM MARTIN LUTHER TO THE THIRTY YEARS' WAR (1500-1650)

Larry Axel Memorial Lecture

The Reformation is generally identified as the period from Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses in 1517 to the final resolution of the religious and political conflict with the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 that concluded the Thirty Years' War. The first religious clash occurred between Luther and the Roman Catholic Church, but other dissenting religious groups quickly followed. This talk will address what was at stake for Luther that he was willing to go head to head with a church that had defined religious truth for over a thousand years, why other reform movements found Luther's message wanting, how political leaders tried to solve the religious conflict, and why a resolution became a reality only at the end of a long war over a century later.



Luther and the 95 Theses



The signing of the Peace of Westphalia in 1648



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