

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*The quest for compromise* is an interdisciplinary study of an imperial court in late sixteenth-century Vienna and a detailed examination of a fascinating moment of religious moderation.

Against a backdrop of rising religious and confessional dogmatism, the Emperor Maximilian II (1564–1576) assembled a remarkable cast of courtiers who resisted extremes of both Reformation and Counter-Reformation. This book investigates the rise and fall of an irenic movement through four individuals whose work at the imperial court reflected the ideals of religious compromise and moderation. An Italian artist (Jacopo Strada), a Silesian physician (Johannes Crato), a Dutch librarian (Hugo Blotius) and a German soldier (Lazarus von Schwendi) sought peace and accommodation through a wide range of cultural, intellectual and political activity.

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN EARLY MODERN HISTORY

## The quest for compromise

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE STUDIES IN EARLY MODERN HISTORY

*Edited by Professor Sir John Elliott, University of Oxford*  
*Professor Olwen Hufton, European University Institute, Florence*  
*Professor H.G. Koenigsberger, University of London*  
*Dr H.M. Scott, University of St Andrews*

The idea of an “early modern” period of European history from the fifteenth to the late eighteenth century is now widely accepted among historians. The purpose of Cambridge Studies in Early Modern History is to publish monographs and studies which illuminate the character of the period as a whole, and in particular focus attention on a dominant theme within it, the interplay of continuity and change as they are presented by the continuity of medieval ideas, political and social organization, and by the impact of new ideas, new methods and new demands on the traditional structure.

*For a list of titles published in the series, please see end of book*

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

# The quest for compromise

Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

---

HOWARD LOUTHAN

*University of Notre Dame*



CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo

Cambridge University Press

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9780521580823](http://www.cambridge.org/9780521580823)

© Howard Louthan 1997

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1997

This digitally printed first paperback version 2006

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library**Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data*

Louthan, Howard, 1963–

The quest for compromise : peacemakers in counter-Reformation Vienna / Howard Louthan.

p. cm. – (Cambridge studies in early modern history)

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 0 521 58082 X

1. Maximilian II, Holy Roman Emperor, 1527–1576.

2. Holy Roman Empire – History – Maximilian II, 1564–1576.

3. Austria – Politics and government – 16th century.

4. Reformation. 5. Counter-Reformation. 6. Peace.

I. Title. II. Series.

DB65.4.L68 1997 97–1835 CIP

ISBN-13 978-0-521-58082-3 hardback

ISBN-10 0-521-58082-X hardback

ISBN-13 978-0-521-02712-0 paperback

ISBN-10 0-521-02712-8 paperback

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

To Tony, Timothy and Peter

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	<i>page</i> xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xiii
<i>A political and cultural chronology</i>	xv
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xvi
Introduction	1
 PART I: THE EMERGENCE OF AN IRENIC COURT	
1 From confrontation to conciliation: the conversion of Lazarus von Schwendi	13
2 Jacopo Strada and the transformation of the imperial court	24
 PART II: MAXIMILIAN II AND THE HIGH POINT OF IRENICISM	
Introduction	49
3 Hugo Blotius and the intellectual foundation of Austrian irenicism	53
4 Ordering a chaotic world: the reformation of the imperial library	67
5 Protestant ecumenism and Catholic reform: the case of Johannes Crato	85
6 Finding a <i>via media</i> : Lazarus von Schwendi and the climax of Austrian irenicism	106
 PART III: THE FAILURE OF IRENICISM	
Introduction	123
7 Confessional ambiguity and unambiguous critics: religion and the Austrian middle way	124
8 The funeral of Maximilian II: struggling for the soul of central Europe	134
9 Matthias in the Netherlands: the political failure of irenicism	143

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Contents*

Conclusion	Storm clouds on the horizon: from the great milk war to the Thirty Years War	155
Epilogue	The wider circle of irenicism	163
<i>Select bibliography</i>		167
<i>Index</i>		180



Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Illustrations

1	Portrait of Lazarus von Schwendi (unknown south German painter, 1560/1570) Kunsthistorisches Museum – Sammlung Schloss Ambras, Innsbruck	<i>page</i> 14
2	Titian's portrait of Jacopo Strada (1566) Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna	31
3	Hans Sebald Lautensack's engraving of Wolfgang Lazius (1554) From Wolfgang Lazius, <i>Commentariorum Vetustorum Numismatum</i> (Vienna, 1558), 1v	32
4	Façade of Jacopo Strada's house, c. 1565–1574 Reconstructed by architect Mario Carpo	34
5	Route of Maximilian's 1563 entry into Vienna Augustin Hirschvogel's 1547 map of Vienna	36
6	Austrian arch – 1563 Viennese entry, engraving by Donat Hübschman From Josef Wunsch, "Der Einzug Kaiser Maximilians II zu Wien," <i>Berichte und Mitteilungen d. Altertum-Vereins zu Wien</i> 46–48 (1914), #2	38
7	Bohemian arch – 1563 Viennese entry, engraving by Donat Hübschman From Wunsch, "Der Einzug Kaiser Maximilians II zu Wien," #5	39
8	Roman arch – 1563 Viennese entry, engraving by Donat Hübschman From Wunsch, "Der Einzug Kaiser Maximilians II zu Wien," #7	40
9	Medal of Hugo Blotius (1593) Kunsthistorisches Museum, Münzkabinett, Vienna	54
10	Ancient Roman foot ÖNB, HSS, CVP 10714, 62r	82
11	Liquid and dry measures derived by Blotius from the Roman foot ÖNB, HSS, CVP 10714, 74r	83
12	Engraving of Johannes Crato From <i>Jahrbuch der Schlesischen Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität zu Breslau</i> 28 (1987), 109	88

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

---

*Illustrations*

- |    |  |     |
|----|--|-----|
| 13 | Matthias's 1577 entry into Antwerp<br>From Franz Hogenberg, <i>A Collection of Historical Engravings with<br/>German Verses</i> , (undated and without place of publication) 161.<br>Folger Library – Washington, DC | 153 |
| 14 | <i>Europa</i> – Jan van Kessel (1664)<br>Alte Pinakothek, Munich   | 162 |

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Acknowledgments

The completion of a book manuscript can be a very lonely undertaking. Months are spent in the often uncongenial confines of archival reading rooms, and then when the initial research is completed, there are long days working in front of a computer terminal. Throughout this process, however, I have been bolstered by words of encouragement and guided by the advice of experienced mentors and friends. The most obvious debt I owe is to the history department of Princeton University. Theodore Rabb patiently oversaw this project and successfully directed it toward its completion. His wide perspective of the cultural and political panorama of late sixteenth-century Europe helped me from getting lost in the intricacies of the Habsburg administration in Vienna. Equally valuable were the contributions of Anthony Grafton, Thomas Kaufmann and Natalie Davis.

As the dissertation evolved into a book I was assisted by an able crew of scholars. Ronnie Hsia read an early draft of this text. His comments helped clarify my own thinking and gave a more coherent form to the manuscript. Paula Fichtner kept me straight on the political complexities of central Europe while John Spielman reviewed my comments on the growth of Vienna. Joe Patrouch gave much of his valuable time to a thorough reading of several chapters. As I moved beyond central Europe, Geoffrey Parker patiently led me through the bewildering twists and turns of the Dutch revolt, and Bill Sherman broadened my perspective on the development of the early modern library. Paula Fichtner and Arthur Wheelock helped bring the project to a conclusion with their observations on Athanasius Kircher and Jan van Kessel. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention Charles Townsend who introduced me to the Czech language and the fascinating Slavic world.

In central Europe I was supported by a friendly network of scholars. In Vienna conversations with Herbert Haupt, Karl Vocelka, Friedrich Edelmayer and Countess Katharina Podewils were most productive. Special thanks must go to Robert and Tracy Lindell whose hospitality was unequalled. In Prague long discussions with J.V. Polišínský and Jiří Nekvapil were extremely rewarding. My time in Wrocław would have been far more frustrating had it not been for the able assistance of Beata Wolinsky at the university library. My work abroad would not have been possible without generous financial support. A summer grant from

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)*Acknowledgments*

the American Council for Collaboration in Education and Language Study and a fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies helped me cope with a weak American dollar. In the latter stages of this project I was supported by the generosity of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, the Mustard Seed Foundation and the Institute of Scholarship in the Liberal Arts at the University of Notre Dame. On the editorial side I was aided by the patient assistance of William Davies at Cambridge University Press and my marvelously proficient copy editor, Linda Randall. I would also like to thank David Willis of Princeton Theological Seminary for allowing me to reprint sections of my work from the monograph series, *Studies in Reformed Theology and History*. I owe my greatest debt, however, to my wife Andrea. She was an able critic throughout the entire project, and in its final stages she generously put her own research to the side as she devoted many hours to one last reworking of the manuscript.

## A political and cultural chronology

- 1546–1547 Schmalkaldic War  
 1552–1553 Princes' revolt led by Maurice of Saxony  
 1555 Peace of Augsburg  
 1556 Abdication of Charles V  
 1556–1564 Ferdinand I  
 1560 Jacopo Strada appointed architect of the imperial court  
 1564–1576 Maximilian II  
 1564 George Cassander invited to Vienna  
 1564 Lazarus von Schwendi dispatched to Hungarian frontier  
 1565 Death of court historian Wolfgang Lazius  
 1567–1575 Johannes Crato's work with the Bohemian Brethren  
 1568 Religious concessions secured by Protestant nobles of Upper and Lower Austria  
 1568 Truce of Adrianople  
 1570 Lazarus von Schwendi's *Denkschrift* for the Speyer Reichstag  
 1572 St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre  
 1573 Publication of George Eder's *Evangelische Inquisition*  
 1574 Lazarus von Schwendi's *Denkschrift* on religious toleration  
 1575 Hugo Blotius appointed imperial librarian  
 1576–1612 Rudolf II  
 1576 Hugo Blotius's Christmas oration at St. Stephen's Cathedral  
 1576 Lazarus von Schwendi's *Denkschrift* on freedom of conscience  
 1577 Crato's funeral oration  
 1577–1581 Archduke Matthias's mission to the Netherlands  
 1578 Hugo Blotius's supposed discovery of the ancient Roman foot  
 1578 "Milk war" of Vienna; Vienna's Protestant church closed by imperial decree

Cambridge University Press

0521027128 - The Quest for Compromise: Peacemakers in Counter-Reformation Vienna

Howard Louthan

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## Abbreviations

### Archives, libraries and periodicals

<i>ADB</i>	<i>Allgemeine Deutsche Biographie</i>
<i>AÖG</i>	<i>Archiv für Österreichische Geschichte</i>
ASF	Archivio di Stato, Florence
ASM	Archivio di Stato, Mantua
BSA	Bayerisches Staatsarchiv, Munich
<i>BDL</i>	<i>Blätter für deutsche Landesgeschichte</i>
<i>ČČH</i>	<i>Česky Časopis Historický</i>
HHStA	Haus-, Hof- und Staatsarchiv, Vienna
<i>HZ</i>	<i>Historische Zeitschrift</i>
<i>JGGPÖ</i>	<i>Jahrbuch der Gesellschaft für die Geschichte des Protestantismus in Österreich</i>
<i>JKSW</i>	<i>Jahrbuch der kunsthistorischen Sammlungen in Wien</i>
<i>MIÖG</i>	<i>Mitteilungen des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung</i>
<i>NDB</i>	<i>Neue Deutsche Biographie</i>
ÖKA	Österreichisches Kriegsarchiv, Vienna
ÖNB, HSS	Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Handschriftensammlung
<i>ZHF</i>	<i>Zeitschrift für historische Forschung</i>