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0521441625 - The Scandinavian Reformation: From Evangelical Movement to  
Institutionalisation of Reform

Edited by Ole Peter Grell

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When the effect of Martin Luther's protest began making an impact in Scandinavia in the 1520s, this region belonged to the religious and political periphery of Europe. A century later the Nordic countries, however, had become of paramount importance for European Protestantism, and it was the intervention of Lutheran Scandinavia in the Thirty Years War which helped secure the survival of European Protestantism. This volume describes how the Nordic countries came to be solidly Lutheran states by the early seventeenth century; how the evangelical movements differed and succeeded, not to mention the different pace of reform and its institutionalisation. It offers a revisionist view of the role of the Catholic church in Scandinavia, and its attempts to halt the Reformation. Furthermore, it demonstrates the difficulties facing the new Lutheran churches trying to convert a predominantly conservative, peasant population to Protestantism, and how traditional Catholic rites and superstitions proved difficult to eradicate.

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# THE SCANDINAVIAN REFORMATION

*from evangelical movement to  
institutionalisation of reform*

EDITED BY

OLE PETER GRELL

*Carlsberg Research Fellow, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine,  
University of Cambridge*



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in late sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century Sweden. She is the author of the most recent book on the relationship between church and state in early modern Sweden, *Värjestånd och Lärostånd. Religion och politik i meningsutbytet mellan kungamakt och prästerskap i Sverige 1593–1608* (1972).

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## *Preface*

It is well over a century ago that the Danish historian, C. F. Allen, published his seminal five-volume study of Scandinavia in the Reformation period, entitled: *De tre nordiske Rigers Historie*. Since then, however, hardly any works, apart from a few surveys, have focussed on the Reformation of Scandinavia as a whole. Instead, subsequent scholars of Scandinavian Reformation history have restricted their research to one or, at most, two of the Nordic countries, normally their own country, thus reflecting a national division which in many ways was a product of the Reformation. This volume will remedy this situation by providing, for the first time in English, a detailed history of the Scandinavian Reformation from its evangelical beginning in the 1520s until its institutionalisation in the first half of the seventeenth century, when Protestant territorial churches had been firmly established in the Nordic kingdoms. At the same time it will, of course, also make available in English the most recent research into the Reformation of the Nordic countries.

In such a tightly conceived volume as the present a considerable amount of flexibility and co-operation from my five contributors has been absolutely essential for the successful conclusion of this enterprise. For this, I thank them, and also for the patience and generosity with which they have accepted most of my editorial interventions.

Apart from those contributing I have also benefited from discussions with Dr P. Ingelman of Aarhus University and my colleague at the Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Dr A. Cunningham, who has patiently listened to much talk about the Scandinavian Reformation.

For her expert linguistic assistance in translating and editing the papers I thank Dr Helen A. Brown; in this connection I gratefully acknowledge a grant towards the translation of the present work from the Danish Research Council for the Humanities.



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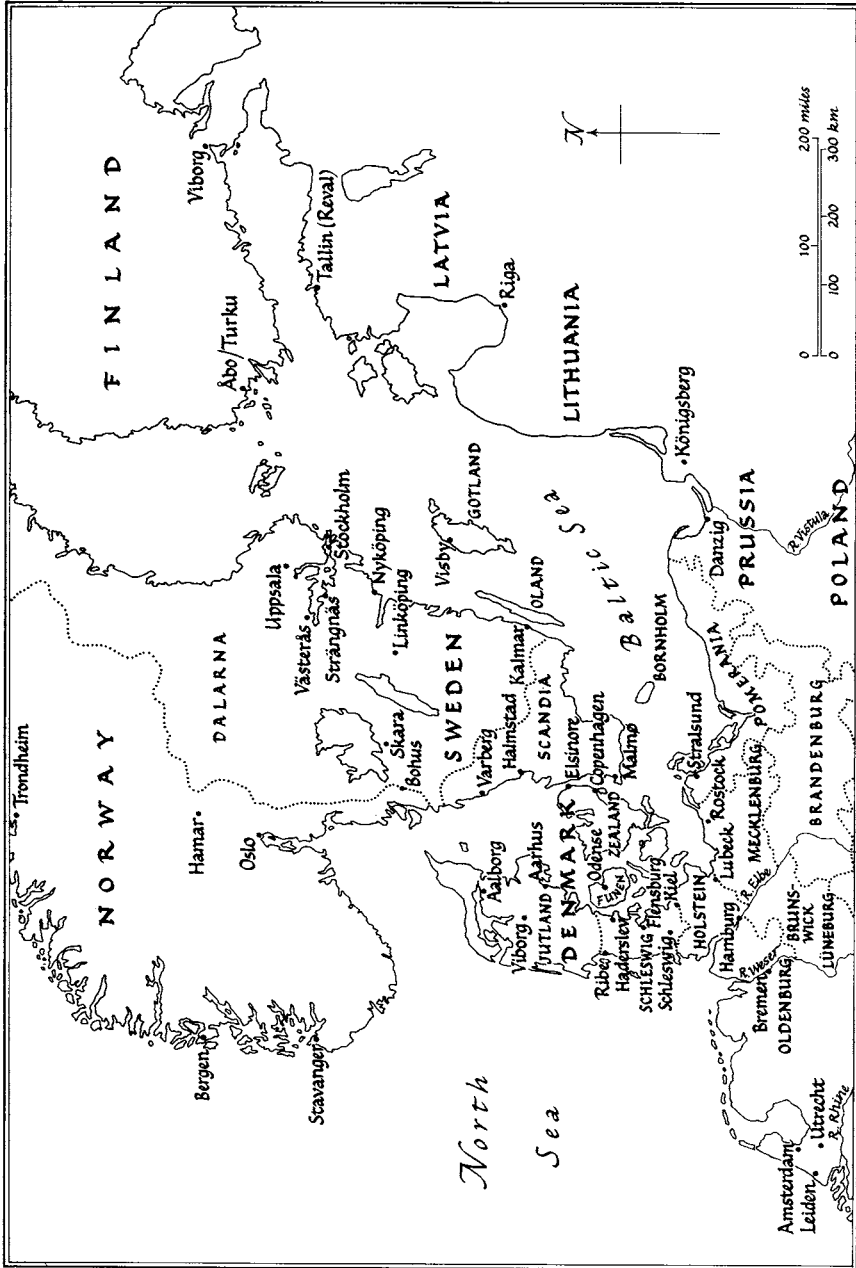
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I have also benefited from the practical advice and support of Richard Fisher of Cambridge University Press throughout the editing of this book. None of this, however, would have been possible without the financial support I have enjoyed from the Carlsberg Foundation in Copenhagen to whom I dedicate this volume with gratitude.

Ole Peter Grell  
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Scandinavia during the Reformation