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0521464838 - Reordering Marriage and Society in Reformation Germany

Joel F. Harrington

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How much impact did the Protestant Reformation actually have on such fundamental institutions as marriage? Until this study, many historians have attempted to answer this question by focusing on particular legal, theological, and, most recently, social aspects of marriage, but none has succeeded in creating a synthetic overview of this important institution. Combining extensive archival research and a broad array of scholarly monographs, Harrington presents us with the clearest and most comprehensive evaluation of the Reformation's impact on marriage currently available.

To assess fairly the degree of Protestant innovation, he compares reformers' goals and achievements for marriage to those of contemporary Catholics. All sixteenth-century campaigns to restore "traditional family values," Harrington argues, must first be viewed in the context of much more gradual social transformations of private morality, public authority, and familial relations. Seen from this perspective, the apparent innovations of Protestants in marriage – including the abolition of clerical celibacy and introduction of divorce – fade in comparison to their much greater adherence to the theological, legal, and social traditions they share with their Catholic ancestors and contemporaries. All more ambitious attempts by Protestant authorities to alter marital and sexual relations during the sixteenth century similarly met with widespread popular resistance. In his detailed comparison of marriage formation and sexual discipline among Lutherans, Calvinists, and Catholics of the Rhineland Palatinate, Harrington concludes that local custom and authority continued to prevail over all religiously inspired innovation.

The findings of this book carry significant implications for some of the most debated issues of Reformation historiography, including parallel "confessionalization" among sixteenth-century Protestants and Catholics, connections between religious reforms and early modern statebuilding, and especially the hotly disputed question of the Reformation's "success" in social transformation.

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TO MY FAMILY

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All translations, unless otherwise noted, are my own. I have provided the original text in footnotes only for poetry and especially significant passages.

Abbreviations

AEKK	Archiv der Evangelischen Kirche in Rheinland, Archivstelle Koblenz.
BSB	Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München.
Calvin, Commentaries	John Calvin, <i>New Testament Commentaries</i> , ed. David W. Torrance and Thomas F. Torrance, (Grand Rapids, Mich., 1959–74).
Calvin, Institutes	John Calvin, <i>Institutes of the Christian Religion</i> , ed. J. T. McNeil, trans. Ford Lewis Battles, 2 vols. (Philadelphia, 1960).
CIC	<i>Corpus Iuris Canonici</i> , ed. Emil Friedberg (Leipzig, 1879–).
<i>Collectio</i>	<i>Collectio processuum synodaliū et constitutionem ecclesiasticarum Diocesis Spirensis ab anno 1397 usque annum 1720</i> , ed. Speyer Bischof August von Lindburg-Stürum. (Bruchsal, 1786).
CSEL	<i>Corpus scriptorum ecclesiasticorum latinorum</i> (Vienna, 1866–).
DDC	<i>Dictionnaire de droit canonique</i> , ed. A. Villem, F. Magnin, and R. Naz, 7 vols. (Paris, 1935–65).
Dieterich	Hartweg Dieterich, <i>Das Protestantische Eherecht in Deutschland bis zur Mitte des 17. Jahrhunderts</i> (Munich, 1970).
DTC	<i>Dictionnaire de théologie catholique</i> , ed. Albert Vacant and E. Mangenot, 15 vols. (Paris, 1909–50).

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<i>EGO</i>	Ehegerichtsordnung (marriage court ordinance).
<i>EKO</i>	ed. Emil Sehling, <i>Die Evangelischen Kirchenordnungen des XVI. Jahrhunderts</i> , vol. XIV (Kurpfalz), ed. J. F. G. Goeters (Tübingen, 1969).
<i>EO</i>	Eheordnung (marriage ordinance).
Esmein	Adhémar Esmein, <i>Le mariage en droit canonique</i> , 2 vols. (Paris, 1891).
GLA	Badisches Generallandesarchiv Karlsruhe.
Grimm	Jacob Grimm, <i>Weistümer</i> , 6 vols., Göttingen, 1840–78, 2nd ed. (Reprint: Berlin, 1957).
<i>GStSp</i>	<i>Geschichte der Stadt Speyer</i> , ed. Wolfgang Eger, 2 vols., 2nd ed. (Stuttgart, 1983).
<i>HQL</i>	<i>Handbuch der Quellen und Literatur der neueren europäischen Privatrechtsgeschichte</i> , 2 vols, ed. Helmut Coing (Munich, 1973–).
<i>HRG</i>	<i>Handwörterbuch zur deutschen Rechtsgeschichte</i> , ed. A. Erler and E. Kaufmann (Berlin, 1964–).
HStAMü	Bayerisches Hauptstaatsarchiv München.
Kö	Walther Köhler, <i>Zürcher Ehegericht und Generalkonsistorium</i> , 2 vols. (Leipzig, 1932–42).
LAK	Landeshauptarchiv Koblenz.
LAS	Landesarchiv Speyer.
<i>LW</i>	<i>Luther's Works, American edition</i> , ed. Jaroslav Pelikan and Helmut Lehman, 55 vols. (Philadelphia, 1955–).
Riedner I	Otto Riedner, "Das Speierer Offizialgericht im 13. Jahrhundert," <i>Mitteilungen des Historischen Vereins der Pfalz</i> 29–30 (1907), 1–107.
Riedner II	Otto Riedner, <i>Die geistlichen Gerichtshöfe zu Speyer im Mittelalter</i> , vol. II (Paderborn, 1915).
<i>Sammlung</i>	<i>Sammlung der Hochfürstlich-Speirischen Gesetze und Landesverordnungen</i> , part I (1470–1720) (Bruchsal, 1788).

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| Stamer | Ludwig Stamer, <i>Kirchengeschichte der Pfalz</i> , 4 vols. (Speyer, 1949–64). |
| StAS | Stadtarchiv Speyer. |
| Vogler | Bernard Vogler, <i>Vie religieuse en pays rhénan dans la seconde moitié du XVIe siècle</i> , 3 vols. (Lille, 1974). |
| WA | <i>D. Martin Luthers Werke: Kritische Gesamtausgabe</i> (Weimar, 1883–; reprint 1964–68). |