

The First French Reformation

Church Reform and the Origins of the Old Regime

The political culture of absolute monarchy that structured French society into the eighteenth century is generally believed to have emerged late in the sixteenth century. This new interpretation of the origins of French absolutism, however, connects the fifteenth-century conciliar reform movement in the Catholic Church to the practice of absolutism by demonstrating that the monarchy appropriated political models derived from canon law. Tyler Lange reveals how the reform of the Church offered a crucial motive and pretext for a definitive shift in the practice and conception of monarchy and explains how this First French Reformation enabled Francis I and subsequent monarchs to use the Gallican Church as a useful deposit of funds and judicial power. In so doing, the book identifies the theoretical origins of later absolutism and the structural reasons for the failure of French Protestantism.

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Church Reform and the Origins of the Old Regime

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Piae Memoriae
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Abbreviations

AN	Archives Nationales, Paris
Auth.	<i>Authenticum</i> or <i>authentica</i> of the <i>Corpus iuris civilis</i>
BN	Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris
C	<i>Causa</i> of the <i>Decretum</i>
Clem.	<i>Clementinae constitutiones</i>
Cod.	<i>Codex</i>
D	<i>Distinctio</i> of the <i>Decretum</i>
Dig.	<i>Digestum vetus</i> , <i>Digestum novum</i> , <i>Infortiatum</i>
Extr. comm.	<i>Extravagantes communes</i>
Extr. Jo. XXII.	<i>Extravagantes Joannis XXII</i>
Fournier and Dorez	Fournier and Dorez, eds. <i>La Faculté de Décret au XV^e siècle</i> . Paris: Imprimerie Nationale, 1913. 3 vols.
Guymier	Cosme Guymier. <i>Pragmatica Sanctio cum Concordatis. Cosme Guymier Clarissimi Senatus Parisiensis. Consilarii solennis et eruditus Commentarius ad Pragmaticam Sanctionem</i> . Paris, 1532.
Inst.	<i>Institutiones</i>
Isambert	Isambert, Jourdan, and Decrusy, eds. <i>Recueil général des anciennes lois françaises, depuis l'an 420 jusqu'à la révolution de 1789</i> . Paris: Belin-Leprieur/Verdière, 1825. 29 vols.
It	<i>livres tournois . . . sous . . . deniers . . .</i>
Mansi	Joannes Dominicus Mansi et al., eds. <i>Sacrorum conciliorum nova et amplissima collectio</i> . Paris: Hubert Welter, 1902. 57 vols.
Maugis	Édouard Maugis. <i>Histoire du Parlement de Paris de l'avènement des rois Valois à la mort d'Henri IV</i> . Paris, 1913–1916; New York: Burt Franklin, 1967. 3 vols.

xiv Abbreviations

PL *Patrologiae cursus completus . . . Series latina*. Ed.
J.-P. Migne. Paris: Garnier, 1878–1904.
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VI *Liber sextus*

X *Liber extra*