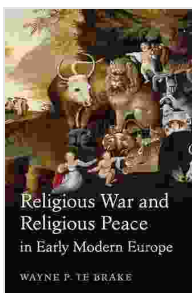# Religious War and Religious Peace in Early Modern Europe: Cambridge Studies in Early Modern History

The period of early modern Europe, roughly from the 15th to the 18th centuries, was a time of both great religious upheaval and significant efforts to achieve religious peace. The Protestant Reformation, beginning in the early 16th century, challenged the authority of the Catholic Church and led to the establishment of new Protestant denominations throughout Europe. This religious division led to a series of religious wars, including the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648),one of the most destructive conflicts in European history.

Religious War and Religious Peace in Early Modern Europe (Cambridge Studies in Contentious Politics)

by Eric Alterman

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 12052 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 409 pages
X-Ray for textbooks	: Enabled

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Despite the violence and upheaval of the religious wars, there were also significant efforts to achieve religious peace. The Peace of Augsburg

(1555) and the Peace of Westphalia (1648) were two major treaties that established the principle of religious toleration and allowed for the coexistence of different religious groups within the Holy Roman Empire.

The Cambridge Studies in Early Modern History is a series of scholarly books that explore the history of early modern Europe, including the religious wars and religious peace. The series is published by Cambridge University Press and features contributions from leading scholars in the field.

The following is a list of some of the books in the Cambridge Studies in Early Modern History series that deal with the topic of religious war and religious peace:

- *Religious War in Early Modern Europe* by Jonathan Israel

- *The Thirty Years' War: A Sourcebook* edited by Peter H. Wilson

- *The Peace of Westphalia: A Historical Dictionary* by Heinz Duchhardt

- *Religious Toleration in Europe, 1500-1800* by Ole Peter Grell

- *The Cambridge History of Christianity, Volume 6: Reformation and Expansion, 1500-1660* edited by Michael Benedict

These books provide a comprehensive overview of the religious wars and religious peace in early modern Europe. They are essential reading for anyone interested in this period of history.

The Causes of Religious War

There were a number of factors that contributed to the outbreak of religious wars in early modern Europe. These included:

- **The rise of Protestantism:** The Protestant Reformation challenged the authority of the Catholic Church and led to the establishment of new Protestant denominations. This religious division created tensions between Catholics and Protestants, which often erupted into violence.

- **The political ambitions of rulers:** Many rulers saw religious wars as an opportunity to expand their territory or to strengthen their power. For example, the Habsburg dynasty, which ruled over the Holy Roman Empire, was determined to suppress Protestantism within its borders.

- **The religious zeal of the populace:** Many people in early modern Europe were deeply religious and were willing to fight for their faith. This religious zeal made it difficult to find a compromise between different religious groups.

The Thirty Years' War

The Thirty Years' War was the most destructive of the religious wars in early modern Europe. It began in 1618 as a conflict between Protestants and Catholics in the Holy Roman Empire. However, it soon escalated into a wider conflict involving most of the major powers in Europe. The war was fought on a massive scale, and it resulted in the deaths of millions of people.
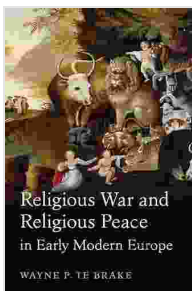
The Thirty Years' War ended with the Peace of Westphalia in 1648. The peace treaty established the principle of religious toleration and allowed for the coexistence of different religious groups within the Holy Roman Empire. However, the peace did not end all religious conflict in Europe. Religious wars continued to be fought in other parts of the continent, such as France and England.

The Peace of Westphalia

The Peace of Westphalia was a major turning point in the history of religious toleration in Europe. The peace treaty established the principle that each ruler could determine the religion of his own territory. This principle, known as *cuius regio, eius religio* ("whose realm, his religion"),allowed for the coexistence of different religious groups within the Holy Roman Empire.

The Peace of Westphalia did not end all religious conflict in Europe. However, it did establish a framework for religious peace and toleration that would help to shape the development of Europe in the centuries to come.

The religious wars and religious peace in early modern Europe were a complex and tumultuous period of history. These events had a profound impact on the development of Europe, both politically and religiously. The Cambridge Studies in Early Modern History series provides a comprehensive overview of this period of history and is essential reading for anyone interested in this topic.

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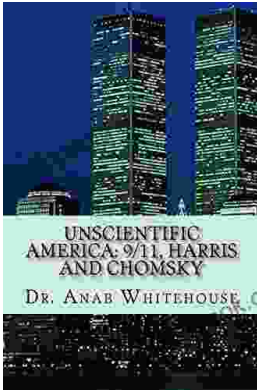
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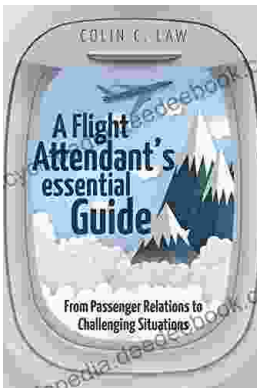|	
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