

The King's Reformation



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Henry VIII's reformation remains among the most crucial yet misunderstood events in English history. In this substantial new account, G. W. Bernard presents the king as neither confused nor a pawn in the hands of manipulative factions. Henry, a monarch who ruled as well as reigned, is revealed instead as the determining mover of religious policy throughout this momentous period. In Henry's campaign to secure a divorce from Catherine of Aragon, which led him to break with Rome, his strategy, as Bernard shows, was more consistent and more radical than historians have allowed. Henry refused to introduce Lutheranism, but rather harnessed the rhetoric of the continental reformation in support of his royal supremacy. Convinced that the church needed urgent reform, in particular the purging of superstition and idolatry, Henry's dissolution of the monasteries and the dismantling of the shrines were much more than a venal attempt to raise money. The king sought a middle way between Rome and Zurich, between Catholicism and its imputed superstitions on one hand and the radicalism of reformers on the other. With a ruthlessness that verged on tyranny, Henry VIII determined the pace of change in the most important twenty years of England's religious development.

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标签

历史

评论

想给二星的。据说作者平时为人谦和，不知为什么写起来好像吃了火药一样，动不动岔开腿骂人，好像别人的都是一错到底。而本书观点相当极端，反正一切都是英明神武的国王决定的，什么沃尔西克伦威尔统统靠边站。功夫是下得不小，可是不太能说服人。

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书评

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