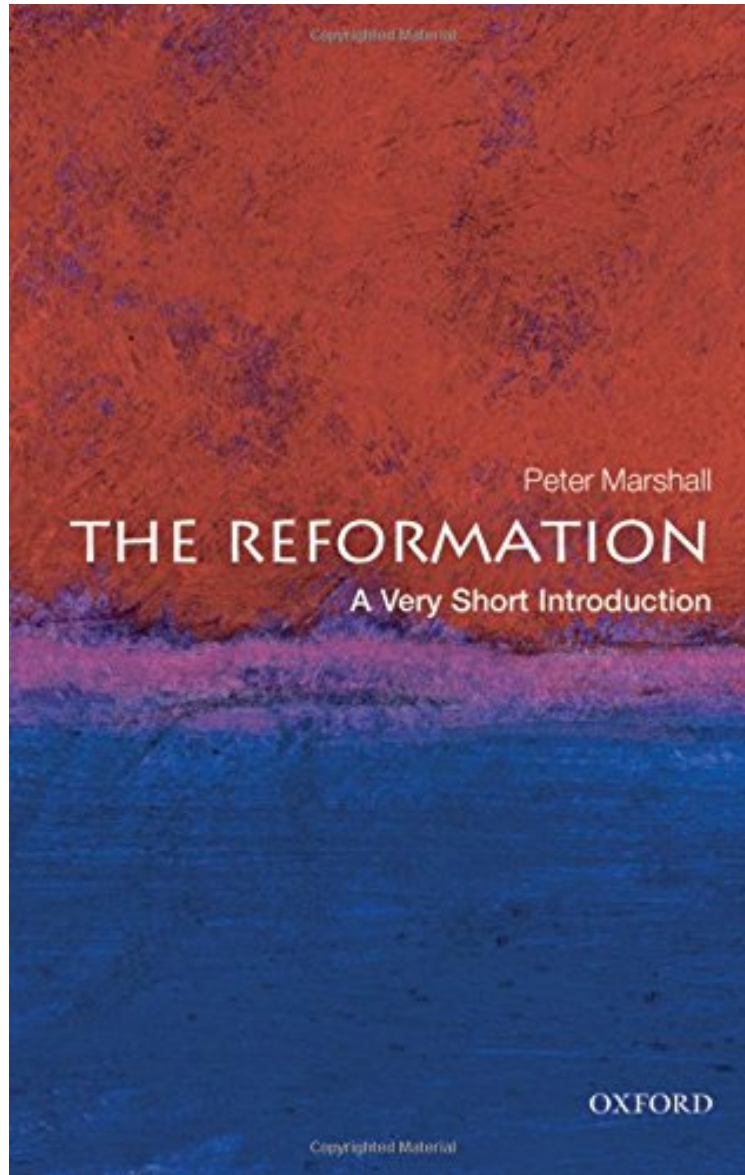


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The Reformation: A Very Short Introduction

Peter Marshall

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Peter Marshall : The Reformation: A Very Short Introduction before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Reformation: A Very Short Introduction:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. superb concise history in a user friendly format By John E. Drury Grappling with the meaning of Mendelssohn's "Reformation" Symphony, and the composer's use of the well known Lutheran hymn "Ein Feste Burg," in his powerful final movement, I came upon Peter Marshall's compact,

enlightening book on the Reformation published in 2009 by Oxford University. Lucid, thoughtful, wide ranging, at times even wry, this is a modern, even-handed dissection of the sixteenth century beginnings of the Protestant faith which explains the Catholic counter reformation as well. Marshall is a superb writer - well equipped for these short succinct history treatises - who packs his tight sentences with meaning, never wandering on incidentals while moving through his points effortlessly. He ends, eschewing overstatement, with this compelling thought: the Reformation advanced the meaning and purpose of human existence, enhanced the mutual obligations of people in a society and exposed "the balance of conscience and political obedience" in a rational society. I look forward to reading more of these short histories by the Oxford University Press. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Another excellent entry in this series By Hal Jordan Interesting, well-written introduction to the Reformation. Marshall covers a lot of ground and does so in a way that's easy to follow and informative. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Timely subject matter for the lay reader. By Terry Myers Peter Marshall's book is a straight forward examination of the Reformation. Considering it's the Anniversary of the Reformation, this might be a book you might want to read.

The Reformation was a seismic event in European history, one which left an indelible mark on the modern world. In this Very Short Introduction, Peter Marshall illuminates the causes and consequences of this pivotal movement in western Christianity. The Reformation began as an argument about what Christians needed to do to be saved, but rapidly engulfed society in a series of fundamental changes. This book provides a lively and up-to-date guide that explains doctrinal debates in a clear and non-technical way, but also explores the effects the Reformation had on politics, society, art, and minorities. Marshall argues that the Reformation was not a solely European phenomenon, but that varieties of faith exported from Europe transformed Christianity into a truly world religion. The complex legacy of the Reformation is also assessed. Its religious fervor produced remarkable stories of sanctity and heroism, and some extraordinary artistic achievements. But violence, holy war, and martyrdom were equally its products. A paradox of the Reformation--that it intensified intolerance while establishing pluralism--is one we still wrestle with today.

.com The Reformation: Questions for Consideration and Discussion Was the Reformation inevitable? Did ordinary people in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries really understand or care about theological concepts? How was Christianity "exported" beyond Europe during the Reformation and what were the difficulties of doing this? Did the Reformation(s) make European societies more tolerant or more intolerant? What is the relevance of the Reformation in today's world? This is history as it should be written: meticulous, provocative and intelligent. By studying the past for its own sake, and on its own terms, it also illuminates the present and the future * William Whyte, Church Times * It has hardly ever been told better * Alec Ryrie, English Historical * Besser kann man es nicht machen [it couldn't be done better] * Peter Blickle, Historische Zeitschrift *About the Author Peter Marshall is a Professor of History and Director of Graduate Studies in History at the University of Warwick.