

Christian Magistrate and Territorial Church: Johannes Brenz and the German Reformation

JAMES M. ESTES

As an early church reformer, Johannes Brenz, had a powerful impact on Nuremberg and later Württemberg. He outlived other major reformers (continuing to play an active role in church life well into the 1560s), and profoundly shaped the Reformation in German-speaking lands after the deaths of Luther, Melancthon, and their colleagues in Wittenberg. Though his influence on the Reformation is remarkable, it is often obscured by the skewed view that results from too exclusive attention to larger-than-life figures like Erasmus, Luther, and Calvin - an oversight this book seeks to rectify.

One of Brenz's most important contributions is the chief subject of this book: the relation between local political authorities and the developing evangelical churches. With the wealth of scholarship on Brenz in the quarter century since this book first appeared, it is time the English-speaking world harvest the best scholarship on this influential personality and his role in church-state relations.

-Timothy J. Wengert

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