

**F**inding Order in Diversity: Religious Toleration in the Habsburg Empire, 1792–1848 covers the tumultuous period in the Habsburg Empire from Joseph II's failed reforms through the Revolutions of 1848, documenting the ongoing struggle between religious activism and civil peace. In the name of stability, the Habsburg Empire sidelined Catholic activists and promoted religious toleration during this era in which Austria was an international symbol of conservatism and other states engaged in strident confessional politics. Austria's well-known fear of disorder and revolution in this notoriously conservative regime extended to Catholics, and the state utilized the censors and police to institutionalize religious toleration, which it viewed as essential to law and order, and to tame religious passions, which officials feared could mobilize public opinion in unpredictable directions.

The state's growing use of police power had wide-reaching consequences for refugees, women, and empire-building. By the end of the nineteenth century, the Habsburg Empire would become known as a multinational and multicultural state, but this toleration was the product of the infamously conservative and rigid regime that ruled Austria in the decades after the French Revolution and until the Revolutions of 1848. While the Habsburgs typically are associated with Catholicism, 1780 to 1848 marked the only era in which the Habsburgs tried to disassociate themselves politically from Catholicism. Though civil peace and religious toleration eventually became the norm, this book documents the decades of heavy-handed state efforts to get there.



“Scott Berg offers readers a deeply researched and engagingly written narrative about the long wake of Joseph II's toleration edicts in Habsburg Central Europe. More than this, he shows that Joseph's reforms were actually put into place and worked out after Joseph's death, during an era of supposed reaction and retrenchment. Indeed, in this book, Berg is able to invert our assumptions and offer new ways of understanding the networks of religious difference, tolerance, and importantly intolerance in Imperial Austria. This work will stand as a great reminder of the Habsburg Empire's continuing evolution, and its important legal and cultural legacies in the heart of Europe.”

**JOHN DEAK**, Associate Professor of History, University of Notre Dame

“This exemplary book analyzes religious relations among several confessions in key regions of the empire, including Hungary, in the half century before 1848, showing repeatedly how and why the governing conservatives in this period fought hard to maintain the radical principles of Josef II's religious reforms. Scott Berg's wide-ranging study reverses our traditional assumptions about Catholic influence in the half century before 1848, demonstrating that the very idea of an alliance between throne and altar was little more than a convenient myth.”

**PIETER M. JUDSON**, European University Institute