

'Tietz's Barth biography is a book worthy of recommendation – not only for professional Barth researchers, but for everyone (even non-theologians) interested in church history and in contemporary history.'

Frank Jehle, *International Journal of Systematic Theology*

'Tietz's book is outstanding: her chapter-length summary of Barth's monumental, multi-volume 'Church Dogmatics' (1932-67), theologically the cornerstone and pinnacle of his achievement, is among the best short treatments of it I have read.'

Stephen J. Plant, *The Times Literary Supplement*

'Victoria Barnett's splendidly fluid translation creates a strong sense of engagement with the narrative from beginning to end.'

Donald K. McKim, *Church History*

'This is a magnificent, engrossing, lucid, and comprehensive treatment of the most important theologian of the modern era. Tietz has given not only to Barth scholarship but also to the history of theology in the twentieth century a great gift.'

Christopher R.J. Holmes, *Pro Ecclesia*

From the beginning of his career, Swiss theologian Karl Barth (1886–1968) was often in conflict with the spirit of his times. While during the First World War German poets and philosophers became intoxicated by the experience of community and transcendence, Barth fought against all attempts to locate the divine in culture or individual sentiment. This freed him for a deep worldly engagement: he was known for being “the red pastor”; was the primary author of the founding document of the Confessing Church—the Barmen Theological Declaration; and after 1945 protested the rearmament of the Federal Republic of Germany. Christiane Tietz compellingly explores the interactions between Barth's personal and political biography and his theology. Numerous newly-available documents offer insight into the lesser known sides of Barth such as his long-term three-way relationship with his wife Nelly and his colleague Charlotte von Kirschbaum. This is an evocative portrait of a theologian who described himself as “God's cheerful partisan,” who was honored as a prophet and a genial spirit, was feared as a critic, and shaped the theology of an entire century as no other thinker.