
Martin Luther was instrumental in initiating the most dramatic reform movement in the history of Christianity. Forty-seven essays by historians and theologians from fifteen countries provide insight into the background and context, the content, and the impact of his way of thought. Nineteenth-century Chinese educational reformers, twentieth-century African and Indian social reformers, German philosophers, and Christians of many traditions on every continent have found in Luther's writings stimulation and provocation for addressing modern problems. This volume offers studies of the late medieval intellectual milieu in which his thought was formed, the hermeneutical principles that guided his reading and application of the Bible, the content of his formulations of Christian teaching on specific topics, his social and ethic thought, the ways in which his contemporaries, both supporters and opponents, helped shape his ideas, the role of specific genre in developing his positions on issues of the day, and the influences he has exercised in the past and continues to exercise today in various parts of the world and the Christian church. Authors synthesize the scholarly debates and analysis of Luther's thinking and point to future areas of research and exploration of his thought.

Robert Kolb is Professor of Systematic Theology emeritus at Concordia Seminary, Saint Louis, USA.

Irene Dingel is Director of the Leibniz Institute of European History (Department of Western Church History), Mainz, and Professor of Church History and History of Dogma in the Evangelical Theological Faculty, Johann Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany.

L'ubomír Batka is Dean of the Lutheran Theological Faculty and Docent of Systematic Theology at Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia.

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