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The 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 focuses the mind on the history and significance of Protestant forms of Christianity. It also prompts the question of how the Reformation has been commemorated on past anniversary occasions. In an effort to examine various meanings attributed to Protestantism, this book recounts and analyzes major commemorative occasions, whether those marking the famous posting of the 95 Theses in 1517 or the birth and death dates of Martin Luther, respectively 1483 and 1546. Beginning with the first centennial jubilee in 1617, the book makes its way to the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth, internationally marked in 1983. While the book focuses preponderantly on German-speaking lands, it also looks at Reformation commemorations in other countries, notably in the United States. The book's central argument is that past commemorations have been heavily shaped by their historical moment, exhibiting confessional, liberal, nationalist, militaristic, Marxist, and ecumenical motifs, among others. Recognizing this reality should make us pause and take stock of exactly what historical conditions and forces underlay the commemoration efforts in 2017. More generally, it should prompt us to reflect on the ethical and interpretative issues at stake in commemorating major religious events and persons.