

a study project in the area of supralapsarianism, a question of decree and permit or permit and decree.. in a very overly simplistic analysis. The supralapsarian view is sometimes called "double-predestination" and occasionally "absolute predestination". Arminius found himself unable to defend the view as he desired and gave it up. His own works are in print today and one will find that he is not infralapsarian on the level of Hodge, but that he moved from the absolute position and brought a challenge to the theology of the Dutch church. Arminius did not live to see the matter in its worst elements. But in 1610 his followers under the leadership of Episcopius issued the Arminian Remonstrance, a summary statement of Arminian views in distinction to the views more accepted in the rank and file of the Dutch church. This remonstrance will later be opposed by the decrees of the synod of Dordt.

Properly speaking, the followers of Arminius are best called remonstrants. In the debates that followed the position was declared defective and the remonstrants were driven from the church. The Dutch, throughout this period, released from continued fighting with Spain, were engrossed in conflicts with one another. Two parties emerged: The States-Rights group and the Nationalists. Many of the lower classes were with the latter and in 1619 this party emerged victorious and a number of the other party leaders were executed. Among them were some prominent Arminians and former patriots! In a sense the Arminian movement lost as much by politics as it did in theological debate as the remonstrants had to flee for their lives.

In the meantime the theological controversy turned to Dordt where a synod (1618-1619) gave its definitive view on Calvinism. Representatives of the reformed bodies from several countries were present and while the synod did not certify supralapsarianism, it did pronounce the famous five points of Calvinism...in direct response to the Remonstrance, and these form in English the famous tulip:

Total depravity
Unconditional election
Limited atonement
Irresistable grace
Perseverence of the saints.

Note as we learned in historical theology that the challenge of the Arminian issue was the definitive point in coming to this statement.