

These points would soon become definitive in theological orthodoxy in a given set. There has been considerable restatement of some of the propositions but in the main they are comfortably understood in the area of reformed theology and uncomfortably understood in the other protestant areas.

Among more prominent Arminians was Hugo Grotius, famed lawyer and churchman. Grotius fled the Netherlands and eventually produced a theory of the atonement known as the governmental theory. The idea generally sees God as the great governor suspending the law of operational procedure to secure our salvation and somehow seems to minimize our lostness and God's absolute justice. Grotius seems to have been a firm Christian and while we might not agree on this aspect, his contribution in the field of law and theology is not small.

At the same time, as a sort of offgrowth of the battle, Sozzini (d. 1562) and his disciple, Fausto, (d. 1604) launched a renewed monarchianism that aimed at Calvinism. It is best represented by unitarianism in our time.

These Calvinistic debates also had overtones in government and the role of the church state. But the polity of the bodies was generally not uniform and would require encyclopaedic analysis. Freedom of conscience was not yet a practical issue...even though some dissidence was tolerated in the Lowlands. What the debates did, more maybe than anything else, was to polarize thinking so that new churches and new camps erupted with new decrees. The proliferation of evangelical thought was well underway.

II.4.b
The Continent:
Thirty Years
War

The Thirty Years War, 1618-1648

This catastrophe combined religious and national overtones in rather equal proportions. The aim of the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire was certainly to rebuild the church-kingdom but there was also some picking up of material on his own that was important. It is a mistake, therefore, to refer to the period as if it were totally a religious age or war. Its total effect on the European economy, and especially that of Germany, was devastating. The population was decimated, the economies shrivelled, the civilization brought to a standstill. All parts of the nations suffered and its effect on the other parts of Europe was pronounced. Essentially the war was fought on Teutonic soil but all lands felt its tremors. The