

V.1.e

Summary:

In general this is one of the most exciting history century periods in our study. It is marked by periodic revivals and the birth of new cults while being troubled with theological liberalism and the dissolution of public morality. Obviously we do not treat these things in the course but they are fundamental to the understanding of the background of our period and our brief sketches should be helpful in observing the period.

V. 2.

Ecclesiastical DevelopmentThe American Churches

At this point we leave the American churches for the material of church history III. Our remainder of time for this period is spent on the European front. Since the modern age is developed along lines of ecclesiology both American and European, this period is interesting to us as well and we will often be able to see things in the European scene that will make us wary of events in the American setting.

V.2.b.

English
developmentDevelopments in England

The Anglican Communion:

The Anglican Church has an essentially Calvinistic creedal statement with a loose Arminian policy of application. I know that it sounds impossible! That is, however, how it is. It tended towards ceremonialism but as a body politic it allowed a lot of freedom within its confines. Not having a monolithic structure, it offered its servants much greater freedom than did the Roman Church, for example. Consequently there could be hot spots of warm evangelicalism at any given time or point...and these might continue or diminish and others would come. The leadership might be vibrant or dull. Hence it is hard to characterize the Anglican church at any particular point in a very exact way. It must be studied for the individual moves and persons within it and they may differ mightily from one another. This is both strength and weakness so far as the body politic is concerned.