

FORTHCOMING

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Thoughts on Thirteen Years of Editing CEH
Kenneth D. Barkin

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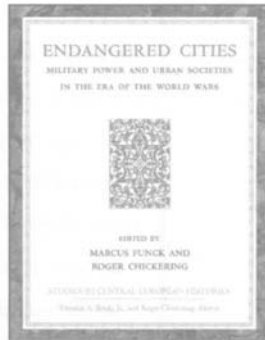
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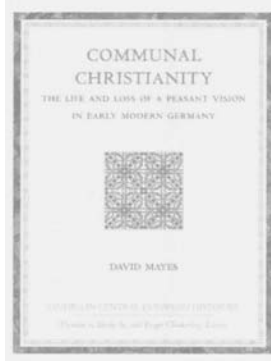
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COMMUNAL CHRISTIANITY

The Life and Loss of a Peasant Vision in Early Modern Germany

BY DAVID MAYES



David Mayes proposes a new religious paradigm in early modern rural Germany. "Communal Christianity," the religious practice prevalent among peasants in mid-sixteenth-century rural Upper Hesse is juxtaposed with the more formally organized "Confessional" sects (e.g. Lutheran, Calvinist). The author describes

Communal Christianity's characteristics and persistence in the face of attempts at confessionalization during the period of 1576–1648 and links its success in part to the decree of the 1555 Religious Peace of Augsburg that only one confessionalized Christian sect be officially recognized in a territory. Confessional sects became marginalized, and more locally well-established peasant communes retained power. The 1648 Peace of Westphalia encouraged reconciliation of confessionalized Christian sects, paradoxically spurring the decline of Communal Christianity in certain locales

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BOOK REVIEWS