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[Book Review of] Reformation und
Konfessionelles Zeitalter (1517-1648), by Martin
H. Jung

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A minor critique is that the book deserved a more quality binding. My cover loosened. As it will work as a reference grammar, it should have been made more durable. It is also a shame that the book was not given a more distinct layout. The various levels of titles are not always immediately clear and are, at times, confusing. This is only partly remedied by the "Detailed Table of Contents." This section would be more helpful if it included page numbers to the subsections so the reader could go directly to a specific area of interest. There is an "Index of Biblical References" that is a valuable tool for exegetes, but it would have been desirable to have a subject index.

Joosten goes beyond any up-to-date approach to the Hebrew verbal system in scope and detail. Undoubtedly, the question of whether the difference between verbal form, the distinction between narrative and discourse, and the difference between genres will color the debate around Joosten's theory. I also expect that there will be debate around Joosten's denial of the consecutive aspect of the *wayyiqtol* and *weqatal* forms and his classification of the verbal forms into indicative and modal forms. I do, however, appreciate his modesty and openness as he is fully aware that he is not providing the final word on the verbal system. He points out cases that might challenge his own theory. In several places, he points out areas that need further study. Joosten takes the analysis of the Hebrew verbal system to a level of sophistication the serious student of Hebrew should appreciate. For the biblical exegete, this book will indeed be a valuable reference grammar for analyzing and understanding the verbs in specific passages.

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Jung, Martin H. *Reformation und Konfessionelles Zeitalter (1517-1648)* (Reformation and Confessional Era [1517-1648]). Göttingen: V&R Unipress, 2012. 288 pp. Paper, €24.99.

Martin H. Jung is Professor of Evangelical Theology, particularly historical theology, church history, and confessional history, at the University of Osnabrück, Germany. As with his concise introduction to 2,000 years of church history, *Kirchengeschichte* (Grundwissen Christentum, 3 [Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2010]), and his excellently formulated and researched book *Philipp Melanchthon und seine Zeit*, 2d ed. (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck and Ruprecht, 2010), this current volume on the Reformation and Confessional eras (1517-1648) is succinct, informative, and readable.

The textbook contains fifteen neatly arranged chapters that are preceded by an introduction. Chapter 1 delineates the background, preconditions, and general conditions in the empire, the church, the educational system, and the discoveries. Chapters 2-8 focus on influential people, groups, and countries during the Reformation period. Chapter 2 outlines developments

from Martin Luther's reformatory discovery in 1517 until the Peasant's War in 1525, disagreements with Thomas Müntzer and Erasmus of Rotterdam, and the impact of the Wittenberg Reformation. Chapter 3 continues with the Reformation in Wittenberg (1526-1546), Melancthon, and the dissemination of Lutheranism. Chapter 4 focuses on Zwingli's Reformation in Zürich and his successor Heinrich Bullinger. Chapter 5 discusses Jean Calvin and the Reformation in Geneva, Theodore Beza, and the triumph of Calvinism, even in Germany. Chapter 6 shifts the focus to various Anabaptist groups, the Mennonites, the Schwenckfeldians, and the Baptists, even though these originated at a later date. Chapter 7 examines the contributions of Katharina von Bora, Katharina Zell, and Caritas Pirckheimer, with two sections on marriage and celibacy and on the implications of the Reformation on women. Chapter 8 turns to reformatory movements in other countries such as Anglicanism in England, the Huguenots in France, and Lutherans, Calvinists, and Socinians in Poland. Chapter 9 focuses on the colloquies (1540-1541), various religious wars, the Interim (1548-1552), and the Peace of Augsburg (1555). Chapter 10 addresses the Council of Trent and the Catholic Reform. Chapter 11 introduces the beginning of the Confessional era in the Lutheran, Reformed, and Arminian traditions. Chapter 12 looks closely at Baroque scholasticism, Romanic mysticism, and Jansenism. Chapter 13 deals with the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) and the Peace of Westphalia (1648) and the historical ramifications of these wars on European history. Chapter 14 describes the relationship between Jews and Christians in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Chapter 15 describes various crises and revivals of piety, emerging mysticism (Weigel and Böhme), Arndt and "true Christianity," Descartes and the Enlightenment, the Pietistic movement, and the end of the Confessional era. The regular chapters are concluded with a discussion on the aftermath of the Confessional era and the heritage of the Reformation in the modern era.

Since Jung's work is a professed evangelical textbook, it could be argued that its presentation of history is one-sided. However, the author consistently integrates Catholic perspectives, avoiding apologetic purposes. Further, the presentation of the Anabaptist movements is very balanced and nuanced, showing that the movement was often associated with the Münster Rebellion, although the latter constituted an extreme and fanatical wing that was, in fact, totally disconnected from the more moderate parts of the Radical Reformation (128). Jung nicely bridges the discussion of the Anabaptist movement's continuing significance and presence in modern times (123-124, 126, 132-133, 136).

The advantage of Jung's textbook lies in the fact that it is not just another book about the Reformation and post-Reformation periods. Its real strength is found in the enclosed syllabus for university studies and exams on both epochs. Instructors and professors may adapt this syllabus to their needs.

Maps, figures, tables, and excerpts from original source material contribute to a better presentation and portrayal of the discussed content. Each chapter concludes with a list of further readings. Foreign and technical terms are defined in a glossary. Individuals and subject matters are easily located in the person and subject indices.

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Kristof, Nicholas D., and Sheryl WuDunn. *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. New York: Vintage Books, 2009. xxii + 296 pp. Hardcover, \$15.95.

Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide was published in 2009 in book form and in late 2012 was made into a PBS two-part documentary series. As a result, the book is experiencing a resurgence of interest. The book is filled with poignant, expertly, yet sensitively written stories that are both heart wrenching and horrific. The authors, Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn, recount the individual stories of women from across the globe who have suffered unimaginable abuse and provide intermittent journalistic commentary on various aspects of gender inequality in the regions where these women live. It would be difficult for any reader not to have a strong emotional response to these stories and sensitive readers are advised that these stories are an account of some truly deplorable acts against women.

The coauthors are Pulitzer Prize winning journalists, so a high standard of prose is to be expected and is certainly delivered. Together, they won a Pulitzer in the *International Reporting* category in 1990 “for knowledgeable reporting from China on the mass movement for democracy and its subsequent suppression” (see www.pulitzer.org/awards/1990). In 2006, Kristof won a second Pulitzer in the *Commentary* category for “his graphic, deeply reported columns that, at personal risk, focused attention on genocide in Darfur and that gave voice to the voiceless in other parts of the world” (see www.pulitzer.org/citation/2006-commentary). Kristof has also been a Pulitzer finalist an additional four times. This husband and wife team has coauthored three books together: *China Wakes: The Struggle for the Soul of a Rising Power* (New York: Vintage Books, 1995); *Thunder from the East: Portrait of a Rising Asia* (New York: Vintage Books, 2001); and the topic of this book review, *Half the Sky*. Their books focus on sociocultural and political issues in predominantly Eastern Asia through the use of interviews and personal experiences.

Half the Sky is an investigation of the breaches of basic human rights inflicted upon women in primarily the developing and politically unstable sectors of the world. It seems to concentrate on giving the survivor a voice