



Please use this identifier to cite or link to this item: <https://hdl.handle.net/1959.11/14093>

The memory and motivation of Jan Hus, medieval priest and martyr

Handle Link: <https://hdl.handle.net/1959.11/14093>

Abstract: Jan Hus (1371-1415) was not the morning star of the European Reformations. He was not the forerunner of Martin Luther. He should not be characterized as a proto-Protestant. In fact, Hus should not be approached at all, in so far as possible, through the prism of Protestantism or the turbulent world of the sixteenth century. It seems more prudent to take Hus on his own terms, which we can do given the bulk of his authentic surviving writings. He was a medieval priest committed to the Latin church and completely devoted to its reform. That unswerving devotion eventually led Hus to a rather precipitous downfall. As a reformer, Hus also embraced the sharp tools of polemic. He did not spare corrupt priests and prelates. Even popes came under his withering rhetoric. He cultivated no toleration for lukewarm faith or apathetic religious practice. His sermons and various writings, including his valuable correspondence, reveal strength of character and conviction, fervent zeal, eloquence, and even flashes of brilliance. But for all of these virtues he was politically naive and went about his duties as a priest and polemicist seemingly blind to the fractious climate he helped create in Prague and elsewhere. He was either blissfully unaware of the dangerous enemies his sermons and statements created, or he underestimated the virulence which began to mount against him. One might even find evidence to support a theory that within this popular priest there was an unformed holy innocence. That he engendered a movement of considerable durability and diversity cannot be denied. But it would be too ambitious to claim Jan Hus as the first Hussite. Like so many other reformers, he harboured no secret desire to found a new church or give his name to an alternative form of the Christian faith and religious practice.

Publication Type: Book

Publisher: Brepols Publishers

Place of Publication: Turnhout, Belgium

ISBN: 9782503544427

Field of Research (FOR): [210307 European History \(excl British, Classical Greek and Roman\)](#)
[220401 Christian Studies \(incl Biblical Studies and Church History\)](#)

Socio-Economic Objective (SEO): [950404 Religion and Society](#)

HERDC Category Description: [A1 Authored Book - Scholarly](#)

Other Links: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/version/202841996>

Extent of Pages: 291

Series Name: Europa Sacra

Series Number : 11

Statistics to Oct 2018: Visitors: 194
Views: 199
Downloads: 1

Appears in Collections: [Book](#)
[School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences](#)

Files in This Item:

2 files

File	Description	Size	Format
------	-------------	------	--------

Show full item record

Refman Send via email Endnote Export



Page view(s)

124

checked on May 2, 2019

Google Scholar™

[Check](#)



Items in Research UNE are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

[Feedback to Research UNE](#) | [Contact Research UNE](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Right to information](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)
University of New England CRICOS Provider Number 00003G | ABN: 75 792 454 315



The University of New England respects and acknowledges that its people, programs and facilities are built on land, and surrounded by a sense of belonging, both ancient and contemporary, of the world's oldest living culture. In doing so, UNE values and respects Indigenous knowledge systems as a vital part of the knowledge capital of Australia.