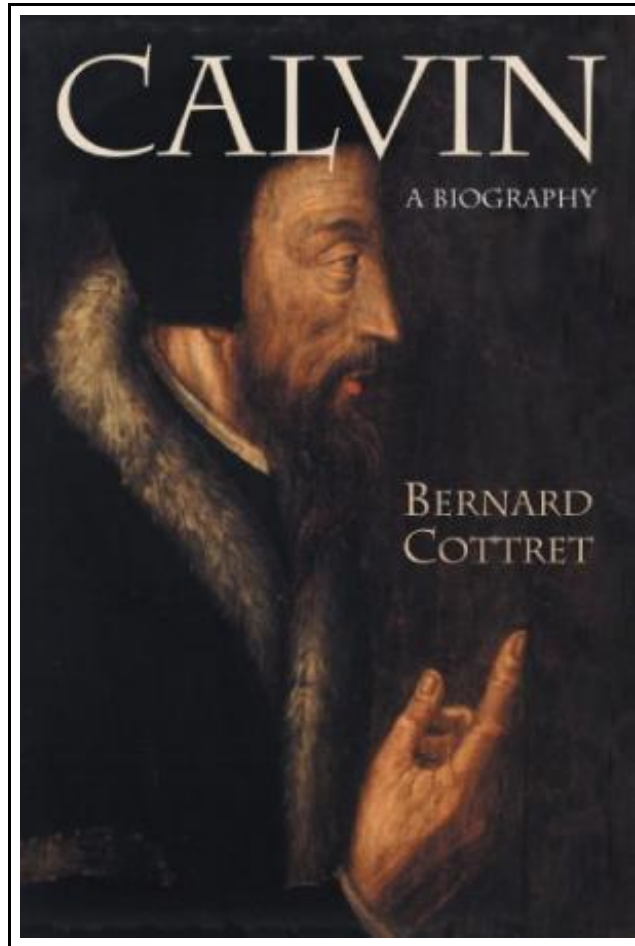


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Reviews

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CALVIN: A BIOGRAPHY



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William B Eerdmans Publishing Co, United States, 2000. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 222 x 154 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Modesty, softness, and mildness - such was John Calvin, in his own words. This brief self-portrait will surprise posterity, quick, as it is to detect in Calvin a deeply passionate man of zealous action. Calvin adds elsewhere: I acknowledge myself to be timid, soft, and cowardly by nature. He repeated the same idea feelingly on the eve of his death, calling himself timid and fearful before an astounded group of pastors who knew by experience that the old fellow could raise up storms. These various descriptions of Calvin strongly underline the vigor of a character that owed all its energy to God alone. At the same time, the apparent contradictions within Calvin s personality make it hard to capture his true nature. The large number of biographies attempted to date attest to this fact, many of which simply picture Calvin as a rigid fundamentalist or as a totalitarian who ruled Geneva with an iron hand. Such interpretations, however, are much too one-dimensional. This sterling new biography by Bernard Cottret opts for a Calvin in movement, thus distinguishing itself from works that present Calvin as a man of relatively static character. intelligibility of a man in his time. This is a historian s Calvin, the work of a university professor who is neither a theologian nor an ordained minister. Cottret s welcome approach sheds new light on the great Reformer s personality by concentrating on the milieu in which Calvin did his life s work. In the largest part of the book, Cottret explores Calvin s life chronologically. We are introduced to the world into which Calvin was born, a Europe in the throes of...



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