

Theologian of Sin and Grace

The Process of Radicalization in the Theology
of Matthias Flacius Illyricus

by
Luka Ilić

Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht

Table of Contents

List of Figures	11
Abbreviations	13
Acknowledgments	15
Introduction	17
1. The Three Phases of Radicalization of Flacius' Theology	19
2. Remarks on the Notions of Radicalism and Radicalization	24
Chapter One:	
Formative Years: The Pre-Radicalization Phase, 1536–1548	29
1. Upbringing and Education within the Realm of <i>La Serenissima Repubblica</i>	30
2. North of the Alps: <i>Peregrinatio academica</i> and Early Network-Building	40
a) Augsburg	40
b) Basel	50
c) Tübingen	53
3. Wittenberg: Flacius' Theological Formation at the Center of Lutheranism	59
a) Flacius, A Disciple and Lifelong Follower of Luther	61
b) A Complex Relationship: Philipp Melancthon and Flacius	65
4. Concluding Remarks to Flacius' Early Years	71
Chapter Two:	
Phase One: The Shaping of Flacius' Theology Through Controversies, 1548–1557	75
1. Flacius Becomes a Recognized Oppositional Figure, 1548–1557	75
2. Intensification of the Persecution of Protestants under Venetian Control	80
a) The Trial and Execution of Baldo Lupetino and its Impact on Flacius	82
3. Magdeburg, 1549–1557: Heading the Adiaphoristic Controversy	87

4. Looking to Luther's Theology for Inspiration and Rationale to Resist the Augsburg Interim	94
5. The Majorist Controversy: The Role of Good Works in Salvation	97
6. Indecision Concerning the Future: Flacius' Intermediary Stop at Köthen	105
7. The Controversy with Andreas Osiander: The Nature of Divine Justification	108
8. The Debate between Schwenckfeld and Flacius: The Question of Scriptural Interpretation	115
9. Flacius' Church History Projects and Plans in Magdeburg	118
a) <i>Catalogus testium veritatis</i>	120
b) <i>The Magdeburg Centuries</i>	123
10. The Second Eucharistic Controversy: Flacius' Contribution to the Growing Distancing and Differentiation between Lutheran and Reformed Understandings	126
11. Summary of Flacius' Magdeburg Years	130
12. Excursus: Reception of Flacius' Concept of <i>Adiaphora</i> in the Twentieth Century	131
 Chapter Three:	
Phase Two: Flacius Within the Ecclesiastical and Political Establishment in Ernestine Saxony, 1557–1562	135
1. An Academic Call: Flacius as Professor at the Newly Established University of Jena	135
2. A Dissenting Opinion: Flacius' Role in the Religious Colloquy of Worms	139
3. Flacius' Criticism of the Frankfurt Recess	142
4. Flacius' Attempt at Rooting Out »Particular Corruptions, Sects, and Errors«: The Weimar Book of Confutation	144
5. The Synergistic Controversy: The Role of the Human Free Will	147
6. The Weimar Disputation of 1560 and its Aftermath	150
7. Final Analysis of Flacius' Jena Years	155
 Chapter Four:	
Phase Three: Flacius' Attempts at Rehabilitation and Vindication, 1562–1575	159
1. A Wandering Scholar: Flacius' Time at Regensburg, 1562–1566	162

a) Flacius' Missionary Plans: Endeavors at Establishing Theological Schools in Regensburg and Klagenfurt	163
2. Flacius against the Heidelberg Catechism, Erastus and Olevianus	166
3. Flacius and the Crypto-Calvinist Controversy in Nuremberg	174
4. Flacius Taking Sides in the Confessional Polemics Concerning the Eucharist in Royal and Ducal Prussia	180
5. Evaluation of Flacius' Regensburg Years	184
6. A Tract in <i>Clavis Scripturae</i> : Flacius' Radical Exposition of Original Sin	188
7. Advising the Lutheran Church and Creating Antagonism: Antwerp, October 1566–March 1567	195
8. Finding Temporary Refuge in the Free Imperial City of Strasbourg, November 1567–June 1573	198
a) Flacius' Written Defense of His Doctrine on Sin	201
b) <i>Glossa</i> : Flacius' New Testament Exegesis	213
9. Flacius' Desperate and Destitute Final Years: The Struggle to Clear His Name from Accusations of Heresy	219
10. Concluding Remarks on Flacius' Final Phase of Radicalization	228
Conclusion	229
Bibliography	237
Manuscripts	237
Primary Sources	237
Secondary Literature	258
Website	283
Index	285
Index of Names	285
Index of Places	299

List of Figures

1. Portrait of Matthias Flacius Illyricus by Eugen Kokot from 1969, oil on canvas 9
2. The title page of Vergerio's polemical work from 1563 against Ippolito Chizzola with Flacius' handwritten dedication to Wolfhart Herwart in Augsburg 42
3. Portrait of Achilles Pirmin Gasser from ca. 1571 drawn in red chalk 47
4. The title page of *De voce et re Fidei* from 1563 with Flacius' handwritten dedication to Ulrich Fugger in Augsburg 72
5. The title page of Nikolaus Medler's *Ein wnderlich gesicht newlich bey Braunschweig am hiemel gesehen* from 1549 with Flacius' handwritten dedication to pastor Auctor Lampadius in Halberstadt 79
6. The title page of Flacius' *Entschueldigung ... an einen Pfarher* from 1549 with added information in sixteenth-century handwriting 107
7. The title page of Flacius' *Dispvatio de originali peccato et libero arbitrio* from 1562 with his handwritten dedication to Georg Necker in Lindau 151
8. The title page of Flacius' *Fidelis admonitio* from 1562 with his handwritten dedication to Georg Necker in Lindau 161
9. A letter written in German in Flacius' handwriting from 1563 175
10. Flacius' *Apologia ... contra Bezae cauillationes* from 1566, dedicated to Wolfgang, Count of Palatinate-Zweibrücken 185
11. The title page of Flacius' *Glossa Compendiaria* from 1570 with his handwritten dedication to Achilles Pirmin Gasser 214