



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό
Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών

II64 ΝΕΟΤΕΡΗ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗ ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ II

Ενότητα 1α: Course presentation and reading guide

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Τμήμα Ιστορίας - Αρχαιολογίας

II 64, Early Modern European History II

Specialization course (optional)

[C. Gaganakis]

Propaganda strategies, political discourse and identity construction in the European Reformation, 1520-1600.

We shall first attempt an analysis of lutheran visual propaganda in the German lands. Points of particular interest will be the contact of the printed image (and of the print in general) with the traditional oral and visual means of communication as well as the emergence of new, hybrid media of communication, such as woodcuts with subtitles or with explanatory text. The priorities of lutheran propaganda will also be pinpointed.

Then we shall proceed at an interpretation of lutheran visual propaganda in the following fields of discussion: 1) Images of Luther, 1519-1525, 2) The depiction of the enemies of the Gospel, 3) Use of popular themes by the lutheran propaganda 4) Appropriation of elements of popular belief in lutheran iconography, 5) The image of the Antichrist and the world upside down, 6) the rhetoric of the image and the effectiveness of lutheran propaganda. We shall also briefly examine the visual catholic propaganda.

In a second part, we shall deal with the propaganda war between Protestants and Catholics in France prior to and during the French religious wars (1562-1598). Points of particular interest will be the transition from a theological to an openly political discourse in huguenot propaganda, the new radical interpretation of the relations between the monarch and his subjects on the grounds of popular sovereignty, as well as the internationalization of the French political crisis by the calvinist "monarchomach" literature, following the Saint Bartholomew's massacres (1572). Particular emphasis will also be given to the catholic engagement in the "war of words" of the years 1530-1580 and in particular to the propaganda strategies of the Ligue (1576, 1585-1594).

Finally, we shall attempt an overall evaluation of the French "war of words" of the 16th century as total propaganda war, based on the theoretical model provided by the French philosopher Jacques Ellul and on the pioneering historical work of the late Bob Scribner.

Reading Guide

* Books and articles marked with asterisk are considered essential reading

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