Religious Crisis and Civic Transformation
How Conflicts over Gender and Sexuality Changed the West German Catholic Church
By Kimba Allie Tichenor

This book offers a fresh interpretation of the connection between the West German Catholic Church and post-1950s political debates on women's reproductive rights and the protection of life in West Germany.

According to Tichenor, Catholic women in West Germany, influenced by the culture of consumption, the sexual revolution, Vatican II reforms, and feminism, sought to renegotiate their relationship with the Church. They demanded a more active role in Church ministries and challenged the Church's hierarchical and gendered view of marriage and condemnation of artificial contraception. When the Church refused to compromise, women left en masse. In response, the Church slowly stitched together a new identity for a postsecular age, employing an elaborate nuptial symbolism to justify its stance on celibacy, women's ordination, artificial contraception, abortion, and reproductive technologies. Additionally, the Church returned to a radical interventionist agenda that embraced issue-specific alliances with political parties other than the Christian parties.

In her conclusion, Tichenor notes more recent setbacks to the German Catholic Church, including disappointment with the reactionary German Pope Benedict XVI and his failure in 2010 to address over 250 allegations of sexual abuse at twenty-two of Germany's twenty-seven dioceses. How the Church will renew itself in the twenty-first century remains unclear.

This closely observed case study, which bridges religious, political, legal, and women's history, will interest scholars and students of twentieth-century European religious history, modern Germany, and the intersection of Catholic Church practice and women's issues.

About the Author:
Kimba Allie Tichenor is a modern European historian who specializes in twentieth-century German history, gender and sexuality, and Catholicism in the transatlantic world.
The Hand Book
Surviving in a Germ-Filled World
By Miryam Z. Wahrman

Handwashing, as part of basic hygiene, is a no-brainer. Whenever there's an outbreak of a contagious disease, we are advised that the first line of defense is proper handwashing. Nonetheless, many people, including healthcare workers, ignore this advice and routinely fail to wash their hands. Those who neglect to follow proper handwashing protocols put us at risk for serious disease—and even death.

In this well-researched book, Wahrman discusses the microbes that live among us, both benign and malevolent. She looks at how ancient cultures dealt with disease and hygiene and how scientific developments led to the germ theory, which laid the foundation for modern hygiene. She investigates hand hygiene in clinical settings, where lapses by medical professionals can lead to serious, even deadly, complications. She explains how microbes found on environmental surfaces can transmit disease and offers strategies to decrease transmission from person to person. Her final chapter explores initiatives for grappling with ever more complex microbial issues, such as drug resistance and the dangers of residing in an interconnected world, and presents practical advice for hand hygiene and reducing infection.

With chapters that conclude with handy reference lists, The Hand Book serves as a road map to safer hands and better hygiene and health. It is essential reading for the general public, healthcare professionals, educators, parents, community leaders, and politicians.

About the Author:
Miryam Z. Wahrman is professor of biology at William Paterson University of New Jersey and the author of Brave New Judaism: When Science and Scripture Collide, as well as hundreds of articles on science, health, and bioethics.
Islamic Culture in Spain to 1614
Essays and Studies
By L.P. Harvey

In this volume of essays, the fruit of over fifty years of sustained research, L. P. Harvey sets out to see what may be discovered about the reactions of the Spanish Muslims themselves to the crisis created by their forcible conversion. An aljamiado manuscript in the Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid, proved to contain a passage which went to the heart of the subject. A Morisco pilgrim, travelling round Spain and seeking out places of significance to his faith, visits the venerable Ali Sarmiento. Ali took the pilgrim out deep into the vega of Granada, and there addressed him as follows: 'My son, I do not weep for what is past, for we can never return to it, but I do weep for what you will see if you remain here in this land of Spain. May it please God that what I am saying proves to be empty words, but our religion will suffer such a decline that people will say: What has become of our public sermons, where is the religion of our forebears?' 'If the king of the Conquest [Ferdinand the Catholic] does not keep his word, what are we to expect from his successors?' When even a few such revealing sources come to light, the effort of scouring through the scanty Morisco sources proves justified.

Islamic Culture in Spain to 1614 has been edited for press by Trevor Dadson and Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz.