

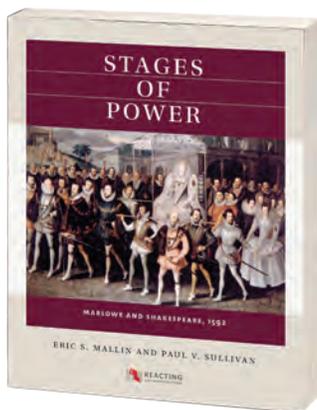
ANNOUNCING NEW TITLES FROM REACTING CONSORTIUM PRESS

In most college classes students learn by receiving ideas and information from instructors and texts, or by discussing such materials in seminars. The Reacting Consortium advocates a different approach. Students learn by taking on roles, informed by classic texts, in elaborate “reacting” games set in the past; they learn skills—speaking, writing, critical thinking, problem solving, leadership, and teamwork—and apply them to complicated historical situations. Reacting games are used at more than 300 colleges and universities in the United States and abroad.

Stages of Power

Marlowe and Shakespeare, 1592

ERIC S. MALLIN AND PAUL V. SULLIVAN



It is October 1592. Christopher Marlowe, the most accomplished playwright in London, has written *The Massacre at Paris* for his company, the Lord Admiral's Men. Bubonic plague has hit outlying parishes, forcing theaters to close and postponing the season. Ordinarily, the Rose Theatre would debut Marlowe's work, but its subject—the St.

Bartholomew Day's Massacre—is unpleasant and might inflame hostilities against Catholics and their sympathizers, such as merchants on whom trade depends. A new company, the Lord Strange's Men, boasts a young writer, William Shakespeare, who is said to have several barn-burners in the queue. A competition is called to decide which company will reopen the theaters. Who will most effectively represent the nation's ideals and energies, its humor and grandeur? One troupe will gain supremacy, primarily for literary but also for cultural, religious, and political reasons.

ERIC S. MALLIN is associate professor of English at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *Godless Shakespeare* and *Inscribing the Time: Shakespeare and the End of Elizabethan England*.

PAUL V. SULLIVAN is a lecturer in English and the humanities program at the University of Texas at Austin. He has published works on early modern education and drama and on teaching Shakespeare.

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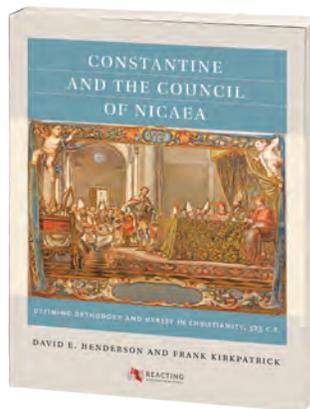


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Constantine and the Council of Nicaea

Defining Orthodoxy and Heresy in Christianity, 325 CE

DAVID E. HENDERSON AND FRANK KIRKPATRICK



Constantine and the Council of Nicaea plunges students into the theological debates confronting early Christian church leaders. Emperor Constantine has sanctioned Christianity as a legitimate religion within the Roman Empire but discovers that Christians do not agree on fundamental aspects of their beliefs. Some have resorted to violence, battling over which group has the correct theology. Constantine has invited all of the bishops of the church to attend a Great Church Council to be held in Nicaea, hoping to settle these problems and others.

The first order of business is to agree on a core theology of the church to which Christians must subscribe if they are to hold to the “true faith.” Some will attempt to use the creed to exclude their enemies from the church. If they succeed, Constantine may fail to achieve his goal of unity in both empire and church. The outcome of this conference will shape the future of Christianity for millennia.

DAVID E. HENDERSON is professor emeritus at Trinity College (Connecticut). He is author of eight reacting game modules on religion, science, and public policy.

FRANK G. KIRKPATRICK is the Ellsworth Morton Tracy Lecturer and Professor of Religion, Emeritus, Trinity College. He is author of eight books and numerous articles on the history of the Christian church, the development of its theologies, and Christian social ethics.

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