

STUDIES IN CHURCH HISTORY, VOLUME V
Edited by Matthew Spinka and Robert Hastings Nichols

We take pleasure in announcing
the publication of
The Frank S. Brewer Prize Essay

FREDERICK A. NORWOOD

THE REFORMATION REFUGEES AS AN
ECONOMIC FORCE

The author undertakes the task of testing, by the case study method, the validity of the much-disputed thesis of Max Weber of the relation of Protestant ethic to the rise of capitalism. Consequently, he examines in great detail the various Protestant sixteenth century refugee communities in England, Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. He concludes his study with a critical appraisal of what and how the refugees contributed to the spread of capitalism and the capitalistic spirit. The economic virtues "sprang from the spirit of Calvinism. Thrifty, honest, industrious, sober, and pious, the refugees, wherever they went, wherever they took root, brought with them that peculiar combination of contempt for worldly aims, desires, and pleasures together with an amazing facility for securing the means of attaining them."

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