

**FROM JUSTINIAN
TO LUTHER, A.D.
518-1517**

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From Justinian to Luther, A.D. 518-1517 by Leighton Pullan

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A.D. 518—1517

BY

LEIGHTON PULLAN, D.D.

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PREFACE

THE purpose of these lectures is to exhibit some pictures of the growth of Christendom, both ecclesiastical and civil, during the Middle Ages. They are neither strictly theological nor apologetic, but they necessarily touch upon many questions of theology, and they are written with the belief that the communion of saints is a great reality. To some readers their omissions may appear to be culpable and their repetitions to be irksome. But I hope that others will consider that the method which I have adopted makes each lecture more intelligible than it might otherwise have proved to be.

I gratefully acknowledge my indebtedness for the help given me by the Rev. F. E. Brightman, Fellow of Magdalen College, Mr. W. C. Costin, Fellow of St. John's College, Dom André Wilmart, O.S.B., and my brother Mr. P. D. Pullan.

April, 1930.

L. P.

CONTENTS

	PAGE	
I. Justinian, St. Gregory, Muhammad	1	<i>+</i>
II. Roman and Celtic Christianity	15	
III. The Church of the Greeks, A.D. 610-968	30	<i>x</i>
IV. The English Church from St. Wilfrid to Edward the Confessor	43	<i>See page</i>
V. The Franks, the English, and Charlemagne	56	<i>See page</i>
VI. Catholicism and Nationalism in the Ninth Century	70	<i>x</i>
VII. The Slavs and their Missions	84	
VIII. Rome and Germany: East and West separate	99	<i>x</i>
IX. Empire and Investiture	113	<i>x</i>
X. Crusades and Heresies	127	<i>x</i>
XI. The Papacy Supreme	141	<i>x</i>
XII. The Three Religions in Spain	154	<i>See page</i>
XIII. Some Schoolmen	168	
XIV. Boniface VIII and the Babylonish Captivity	181	<i>x</i>
XV. Teutons, Poles, and Russians	195	
XVI. Later Medieval Piety	207	
XVII. Schisms and Reforms	222	<i>x</i>
XVIII. The Renaissance and Religion	235	<i>x</i>
Index	249	

*English
Franks
Slavs*

JUSTINIAN, ST. GREGORY, MUHAMMAD

THE Emperor Justinian (483-565) marks an epoch in the history of the Empire and the Church. He was a nephew of the Macedonian peasant Justin, who became commander-in-chief of the imperial guard and in 518 was placed upon the imperial throne. The uncle needed the help of his well-educated and capable nephew, and Justinian really governed in the name of Justin until he succeeded him in 527. And he ruled so well that he has been fitly called 'the last great Roman emperor'. Constantinople was torn with factions and distressed with religious schisms, but remained the centre of a unique art and a far-spreading civilization. Justinian determined to make it the undisputed heiress of ancient Rome and supreme over the barbarous kingdoms of the West. His abilities were hardly inferior to his ambitions, and his industry was so unceasing that a contemporary called him 'the Emperor that never sleeps'.

The Empire was beset by enemies on every side, but with the aid of two singularly capable generals, Belisarius and Narses, Justinian was able to rehabilitate imperial authority in the West. In 533 Belisarius crushed the Vandal kingdom in North Africa. Barely ten years later the south-east of Spain was wrested from the Visigoths, and in 553 Narses broke the resistance of the Ostrogoths in central Italy. The Mediterranean was nearly a Roman sea once more. Unfortunately these successes in the West were gained at the expense of grave difficulties in the East. The power of the Persians became a serious menace under the leadership of King Khusrau (Chosroes) Nushirvan, who pillaged Antioch in 540, and Justinian had not only to sign truces, but finally, in 562, had to make a treaty undertaking to pay tribute to the 'Great King'. On the whole, however, Justinian established his Empire firmly and proudly in the midst of vassal tribes from Armenia and Thebes to Venice and Tangiers. He effected the reform and consolidation of Roman law, infusing into it a more Christian spirit; he reorganized the administration of justice; and he built roads, aqueducts, and hundreds of fortresses to defend the frontiers.