

often called upon to provide ideological support for societies engaged in war, whether international wars like that of the Austrian Succession, or civil wars like that in the US in the 1860s. In all such conflicts the Church was faced with the violence they engendered and, in an Imperialist society like 17th-century Spain, it almost inevitably became involved in that violence. In other circumstances, however, as in the Zimbabwe war of the 1970s, churchmen found themselves in the role of protectors and peace-makers in those communities caught up in a violent ideological conflict. Taken together, the essays in this volume illustrate the variety of responses from the Church to the problem of war as it has exhibited itself from the 5th to the 20th centuries and which continues to confront us today.

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