

Evangelical Movements in 19th-Century Europe

Sources

Jean D. Decorvet, Tim Grass, and Kenneth J. Stewart, ed., *The Genevan Réveil in International Perspective* (2023)

Joseph M. Shaw, *Pulpit Under the Sky: A Life of Hans Nielsen Hauge* (1955)

David Crowner and Gerald Christianson, ed., *The Spirituality of the German Awakening* (2003)

Hans Brandenburg, *The Meek and the Mighty: The Emergence of the Evangelical Movement in Russia* (1977)

I. Introduction

A. Theme

1. Indications of evangelical life in Europe
2. Not intended to present a united movement

B. Pattern of Movements

1. Conversion-centered
2. Often show influence of missionaries or other foreign Christians
3. Often led to divisions
4. Often promoted religious liberty

II. The *Réveil*

A. Nature

1. Meaning: “Awakening”
2. Initially in French-speaking Europe

B. Switzerland

1. Began in Geneva
2. Robert Haldane & divinity students of Geneva
 - a. Geneva had lapsed into cold infidelity
 - b. Haldane met w/ curious divinity students
3. J. H. Merle d’Aubigné
 - a. Converted through Haldane & “Second Reformation of Geneva”
 - b. Wrote a history of the Reformation
 - 1) Approached Reformation as an evangelical revival
 - 2) Widely popular among English-speaking Christians

C. France

1. Leaders: Adolphe & Frédéric Monod
2. Evangelicals split from Reformed Church in France in 1849

III. Netherlands

A. Influence of *Réveil*

1. J. H. Merle d’Aubigné → court preacher to Dutch king
2. Devotional heritage: Andrew Murray of South Africa

B. *Réveil* Manifested in Political Movement

1. Guillaume Groen Van Prinsterer
 - a. Formed Anti-Revolutionary Party
 - b. Principle: Divine sovereignty over human sovereignty (e.g., French Revolution)
2. Abraham Kuyper
 - a. Evangelically converted
 - b. Confessional in emphasis

IV. Scandinavia

A. Pietist Movements

1. Hans Nielsen Hauge (1771-1824) in Norway
 - a. Received deep experience of assurance at age 25
 - b. Launched movement as lay preacher but imprisoned
 - c. Stayed in state church
 - d. Some followers left & became Baptists
2. Paul Peter Waldenström (1838-1917) in Sweden
 - a. United several Pietist movements
 - b. Left state church to found Swedish Mission Covenant

B. Emphases

1. Sometimes state church/sometimes free church
2. Reacting to dead orthodoxy
3. Confirmation functions like conversion (Lutheran heritage)
4. Conversion can be long, not immediate

V. Germany

A. “German Awakening”

1. Evangelical attempt to deal w/ “social problem” too
2. Within the state church, but w/ hopes of a reformed (“regenerated”) church

B. August Tholuck

1. Professor at Univ. of Halle
2. Main theologian of the movement

C. Johann Wichern: Inner Mission

1. Organization to meet social needs (but unlike American social gospel, w/ genuine evangelistic motivation)—stir devotion as well
2. Sunday schools, city missions, Christian literature & lodging houses
3. Sponsored *Kirchentag*: Annual conferences to stir Germany spiritually

VI. Russia: Russian Baptists

A. Roots

1. Alexander I founded Russian Bible Society (1812): spark of evangelical movements
2. Mennonites
 - a. Invited to settle in Russia by Catherine the Great
 - b. Stundist revival movement among Mennonites
 - c. Led to founding of Mennonite Brethren
3. Evangelical Christians: influenced by English Plymouth Brethren
4. German Baptist missionaries

B. Growth

1. Trouble when Russians began to convert
2. Tsarist oppression
3. Communist persecution
 - a. Persecuted severely by Stalin
 - b. Treated as “mentally ill” by Khrushchev
 - c. Split of Registered vs. Unregistered over conforming to govt. regulations c. 1960 (e.g., limit evangelism & baptism of people under 30)
 - d. Unregistered Baptists’ Leader: Georgi Vins
4. Relative freedom since the end of the Cold War