

FIVE EVANGELICAL CHURCH ORDINANCES  
(KIRCHENORDNUNGEN) IN BOHEMIA BETWEEN  
1522 AND 1609

*Alfred Eckert*

This comparative study is a first attempt to show the confessional foundations of the German congregations before and after the institution of the „Confessio Bohemica“ of 1575, and the degree of dependence on it in each case. In the hundred

years of Evangelical profession in Bohemia bearing Luther's imprint, from 1521 (Thomas Müntzer's Prague Manifesto) to 1621 (the bloodbath of Prague), an extension and intensification of dogma and liturgy can be identified by means of the five church ordinances analyzed here. First, the Elbogen ordinance was significant as an apology for Luther's cause. After that, the ordinance idea was characteristic of Johannes Mathesius' Joachimsthal church and school ordinance, which became a model for the whole Egerland. Finally, Luther's Reformation also took root in eastern and central Bohemia in the flourishing German school system (along with the pioneering pedagogical work of the Bohemian Brethren), via the Evangelical congregation ordinances of Graupen, Rokitz and Prague.