

## **Confessional reunion politics of Louis XIV and the Huguenots resistance between Refuge and Desert using Claude Brousson (1647-1698) as an example**

*Summary*

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In the second half of the 17th century, France and the countries of the Huguenot Refuge are marked by Louis XIV's religious policy. This Ph.D. attempts to describe this policy from a double perspective (*top down* and *bottom up*). On the one hand, it describes the king's and royal consultant's « confessional reunion » policy (*top down*) and on the other hand the Huguenots resistance in the Refuge and in the clandestine Church in France, using Claude Brousson (1647-1698) as an example (*bottom up*).

The *Revocation* of the Edict of Nantes (1685) is from the king's point of view just a stage on his way to help the « bad converted » (*mauvais convertis*) to become good Catholics. The last twenty years of the 17<sup>th</sup> century are characterized by a policy of confessional coercion and its consequences are to be observed in all provinces, especially in Languedoc.

Brousson resists to this policy as an advocate, in the context of the Toulouse project, as a delegate of the refugees in Switzerland, the Empire and the United Provinces of the Netherlands and finally as a pastor of the Desert and as organizer of the Church "under the cross".

This Ph.D. uses a large number of printed and manuscript sources taken from libraries and archives in France, Switzerland, Netherlands, Germany and England. They are on the one hand royal laws, the correspondence of royal consultants and the *bons du roi* that show the implication of the king himself. On the other hand are used manuscript and printed writings of Brousson, some of his works are presented and/or analysed for the first time.

**Keywords**

Brousson, Louis XIV, reunion, Huguenots, Refuge, Desert, resistance, Revocation, clandestine Church, Church under the cross