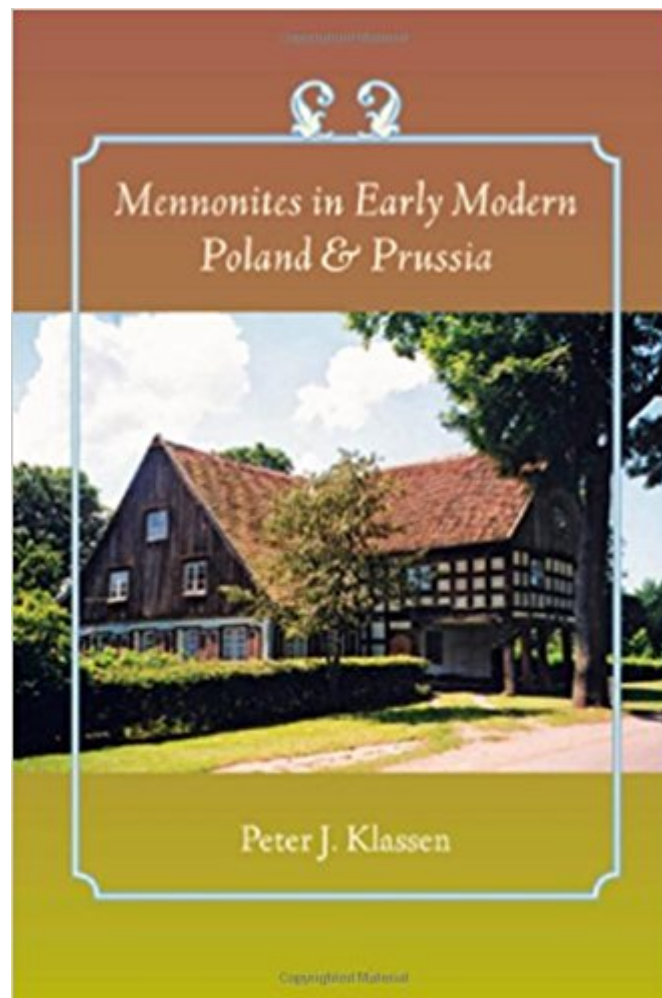




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# Mennonites In Early Modern Poland And Prussia (Young Center Books In Anabaptist And Pietist Studies)



## Synopsis

At a time when religious conflicts and persecution plagued early modern Europe, Poland and Prussia were havens for Mennonites and other religious minorities. Noted Anabaptist scholar Peter J. Klassen examines this extraordinary example of religious tolerance. Through extensive archival research in Poland, Germany, and the Netherlands, Klassen unearths rich material that has rarely, if ever, been studied previously. He demonstrates how the interaction of religious, political, and economic factors created a situation in Poland and Prussia that permitted a diversity of religious beliefs and practices. *Mennonites in Early Modern Poland and Prussia* focuses on the large Mennonite community in these countries. Klassen reveals how the Anabaptist groups were treated and explores whether the uncommon religious freedom they enjoyed gave rise to a flourishing of their faith or a falling away from its central tenets. Early modern Poland and Prussia are virtually ignored in most studies of the Reformation. Klassen brings them to light and life by focusing on an unusual oasis of tolerance in the midst of a Europe convulsed by the wars of religion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Klassen's narrative makes an important contribution to the study of religion." (Adam Darlage *Journal of Religion*) "Worthwhile book." (James M. Stayer *Journal of Church History*) "A significant contribution to Mennonite history." (Paul W. Knoll *Slavic Review*) "Pete Klassen has made a valuable contribution to Mennonite historiography, and this book should be read by anyone interested in

understanding the history of the Mennonites in Poland and Prussia." (Richard D. Thiessen Mennonite Historian)"Klassen's narrative makes an important contribution to the study of religion, especially for the reader interested in the lives of minority religious groups within contexts of religious pluralism." (Adam Darlage Journal of Religion)"An excellent and much-needed work." (Dariusz M. Brycko Sixteenth Century Journal)"Makes a strong contribution to Mennonite studies, largely by making much scholarship available in English for the first time and... by adding new insights from the archival research included." (Mark Jantzen, Bethel College)

Peter J. Klassen is professor emeritus of history at California State University, Fresno, and the author of *Europe in the Reformation, A Homeland for Strangers: An Introduction to Mennonites in Poland and Prussia*, and *The Reformation: Change and Stability*.

This book is of interest to me because many of my paternal and maternal ancestors have roots in Prussia. I might add that my paternal grandparents came from Poland to America in 1887. Somehow as a child and young person I knew practically nothing of the experiences of my ancestors and relatives. This book adds to my understanding and knowledge. I purchased another book by Mr. Klassen that aided greatly when I visited Poland a few years ago. Sometimes the writer gets a little bogged down in details, but despite that he has a well researched book.

I read this to get a flavor of East Prussia during the time my family lived there. It was well worth my read but may be dull to someone else. It did give facts that my genealogical search never uncovered. I bought it used at a great price and will pass it down the line so that others will be able to better understand their heritage.

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