

A HISTORY
OF THE CHURCH IN
LATIN AMERICA

Colonialism to Liberation

Enrique Dussel



"A major contribution from Latin America's foremost church historian. . . . The publication of Enrique Dussel's *A History of the Church in Latin America* marks a new day in the English-speaking world. We have at last an authoritative interpretation of the history of Catholic Christianity in Central and South America, the Caribbean and the North American Southwest as well as a serious account of the historical background of Latin American liberation theology. Alan Neely has not only been faithful to the meaning of Dussel's *History* but also has caught its spirit. This work should be required reading for theological students, pastors, theologians, and church historians in Anglophone America."

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 **WM. B. EERDMANS
PUBLISHING CO.**
Grand Rapids, Michigan

ISBN 0-8028-3548-1

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Translated by Alan Neely

TODAY LATIN AMERICA is in the throes of a cultural and theological awakening which is challenging its dependence on Europe and North America. The Christians of Latin America are therefore brought face to face with the option of revolution as a means of achieving liberation from European and North American theologies. As a result, liberation theology, which had its beginnings in Latin America, is rapidly gaining popularity among nations of the Third World.

Author Dussel believes that a history of the church in Latin America is essential to understanding the direction of the contemporary church. This comprehensive history, with its emphasis on theology, will thus help historians and theologians to better understand the formation and continuity of the Latin American tradition.

The book is divided into four parts: "A Hermeneutical Introduction," "The Christianization of the West Indies (1492-1808)," "The Agony of Colonial Christianity (1808-1962)," and "The Church and Latin American Liberation."

Dussel's aim in these sections is not to record all the events of each period, but to

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demonstrate the validity of establishing limits for each time span. Therefore, this is not a "finished" history; rather, it is one method of delineating certain historical periods which can be expanded upon and completed by later historians.

This book is a translation of the revised, second Spanish edition.

ENRIQUE DUSSEL is President of the Commission on the Study of the History of the Church in Latin America.

Jacket design by T. M. Williams

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(1492 – 1979)

by
Enrique Dussel

Translated and Revised
by Alan Neely

WILLIAM B. EERDMANS PUBLISHING COMPANY
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

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255 Jefferson Ave. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503

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Printed in the United States of America.

Translated from the third edition of *Historia de la Iglesia en América Latina*.

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Dussel, Enrique D.

A history of the church in Latin America.

Translation of: *Historia de la Iglesia en América Latina*. 3rd ed. 1974.

Includes bibliographical references.

1. Latin America—Church history. I. Title.

BR600.D8713 1981 278 81-17483

ISBN 0-8028-3548-1

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