The Thirty Years War

The Holy Roman Empire and Europe,
1618–48

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THE THIRTY YEARS WAR

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PREFACE

This is a brief introduction to a vast subject. Undoubtedly many readers will feel that important aspects have been neglected or treated too superficially, or they will think that the work of certain historians should have been referred to more extensively in the notes. However, in writing a book of this sort one inevitably has to sacrifice completeness to brevity and to the aim of presenting one's arguments clearly and neatly. Moreover, the Thirty Years War is a particularly difficult subject to deal with, as each nation which took part in the war has its own distinct historiographical tradition of presenting and analysing the period from 1618 to 1648. In fact, if I have let myself be persuaded by the general editor of this series, Jeremy Black, to write this book, it is because I am convinced that we must, now more than ever, make an effort to bridge the gulf separating the different national traditions of scholarship in Europe. I hope that the following pages will make a modest contribution to achieving this objective. My own perspective is, admittedly, that of a German historian, though, I hope, one not entirely unfamiliar with research and debates in other European countries and Great Britain in particular. In writing this book I have incurred many debts. I am particularly grateful to Simon Adams, Johannes Arndt, Heinz Duchhardt, Mia Rodríguez-Saldago, Georg Schmidt and Gregor Horstkemper for their advice, suggestions and criticism. Special thanks go to Angela Davies for transforming my at times perhaps somewhat Germanic style of writing in a language which is not originally my own into readable English.

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Map 1 The Holy Roman Empire during the Thirty Years War

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

APW	<i>Acta Pacis Westphalicae</i> (see Bibliography)
BA NS	<i>Briefe und Akten zur Geschichte des Dreißigjährigen Krieges</i> . New Series (see Bibliography)
EDG	<i>Enzyklopädie Deutscher Geschichte</i>
EHR	<i>English Historical Review</i>
ESR	<i>European Studies Review</i>
HZ	<i>Historische Zeitschrift</i>
IPM	Instrumentum Pacis Monasteriense (Peace of Münster)
IPO	Instrumentum Pacis Osnabrugense (Peace of Osnabrück)
JMH	<i>Journal of Modern History</i>
VSWG	<i>Vierteljahresschrift für Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte</i>
ZHF	<i>Zeitschrift für Historische Forschung</i>