

*The Impact of the White Horse Inn on the English Reformation*

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This paper considers the scholarship on the origins of the English Reformation and references both of the major interpretations one which emphasized top-down coercion while the other focused on bottom-up popularity. After considering both sides, the paper offers an argument that interprets the origins of English Reformation as stemming from the Cambridge movement. That is, a selection from the middle class composed of clergy and academics were the catalysts for ideas crucial from the Continental Reformation particularly the Lutheran and other reformed branches of Protestants. These ideas were discussed by certain Englishmen such as Thomas Cranmer, Thomas Bilney, William Tyndale, Hugh Latimer, and Nicolas Ridley in the White Horse Inn in Cambridge. The paper examines the characters of these men through their positions and major accomplishments to make a solid connection between these men and ideas which became the English reformation. The paper then turns to examine the specific ideas and concepts that created the Reformation from Europe and how they became the central doctrines for which these men were willing to die. And finally, the paper considers a specific objection within the frame work of this middle class reformation interpretation. The overall argument of the paper is that the Cambridge men and their ideas were the actual seeds of the English Reformation.