

## Liquidated for their Opinions

John Calvin had conquered Geneva, and only one truth was valid—Calvin's truth. The bloody events of 1536 have a deadly contemporary ring about them. They do not sound like events of the 16th Century.

One would not hesitate to give them a date like 1951 in Moscow, or 1941 in Berlin, or 1935 in Madrid, or yesterday in Buenos Aires...

Calvin had military backing, his own police, a secret information organization, a spy system, a thought-control bureau—and a busy executioner. Like every fanatic in power, he was completely ruthless. And like every madman, he found those with the courage to oppose him despite his iron-curtain authority.

It is a bitter story—and yet a story with hope in it. Most of all, it is a story for our own day if there ever was one... For there *were* hearts with courage to oppose the right of the dictator to liquidate men for their opinions.

Among them was a pale scholar, unarmed and alone. The author's Introduction gives the outline of the drama of terror and murder and sudden death; judge whether he speaks for our times...

(The Right to Heresy: Castellio Against Calvin, Stefan Zweig, Boston: The Beacon Press, 1951, From Dust Jacket, Paragraph Structure Modified)