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Nota di contenuto	1. The friars and their critics on the eve of the Reformation -- 2. 'Foolish little monks and priests' : Johann Eberlin von Gunzburg's vision of reform in the earliest elements of 'The fifteen confederates' -- 3. 'The grey hypocrite from the superstitious observants' : anticlericalism and antifraternalism in the remainder of 'The fifteen confederates' -- 4. 'A priest must be blameless, the husband of one wife' : Eberlin's writings from Wittenberg in 1522 and early 1523 -- 5. 'Against the profaners of God's creatures' : anticlericalism in Wittenberg in 1523 -- 6. 'A fool or an arch-rogue' : the anti-Franciscan campaign of 1523 -- 7. Variations on a theme : Antifraternalism and anticlericalism in the Flugschriften of Fleinrich von Kettenbach and Johann Rot-Locher -- 8. 'The agents of Satan' : the clergy and the Schwarmer in the later writings of Johann Eberlin von Gunzburg.

Many of the leading figures of the Reformation and many of their most able opponents came from among the ranks of the Franciscan Order. This Order became the focus of attack in a pamphlet war waged against it in 1523 by converts to the Reformation. These criticisms were based on arguments by Luther in his Judgement on Monastic Vows, and the pamphlets provided an important channel for these views. Luther's arguments were also reinforced by criticisms of the mendicant orders drawn from medieval polemical and satirical literature. The campaign of 1523 brought together both Reformation and pre-Reformation anticlerical themes. In this book Geoffrey Dipple looks at the perception of the Franciscan order in the 15th and 16th centuries, placing the attacks firmly in the context of late medieval inter-clerical rivalries. He looks particularly at the anticlerical polemics of one of the primary participants - Johann Eberlin von Gunzburg - the most vocal of the Franciscan's critics.
