



The Impetus of the Jansenist Milieus in France and the Low Countries to Bible Reading in the Vernacular (1660-1735)

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1. INTRODUCTION

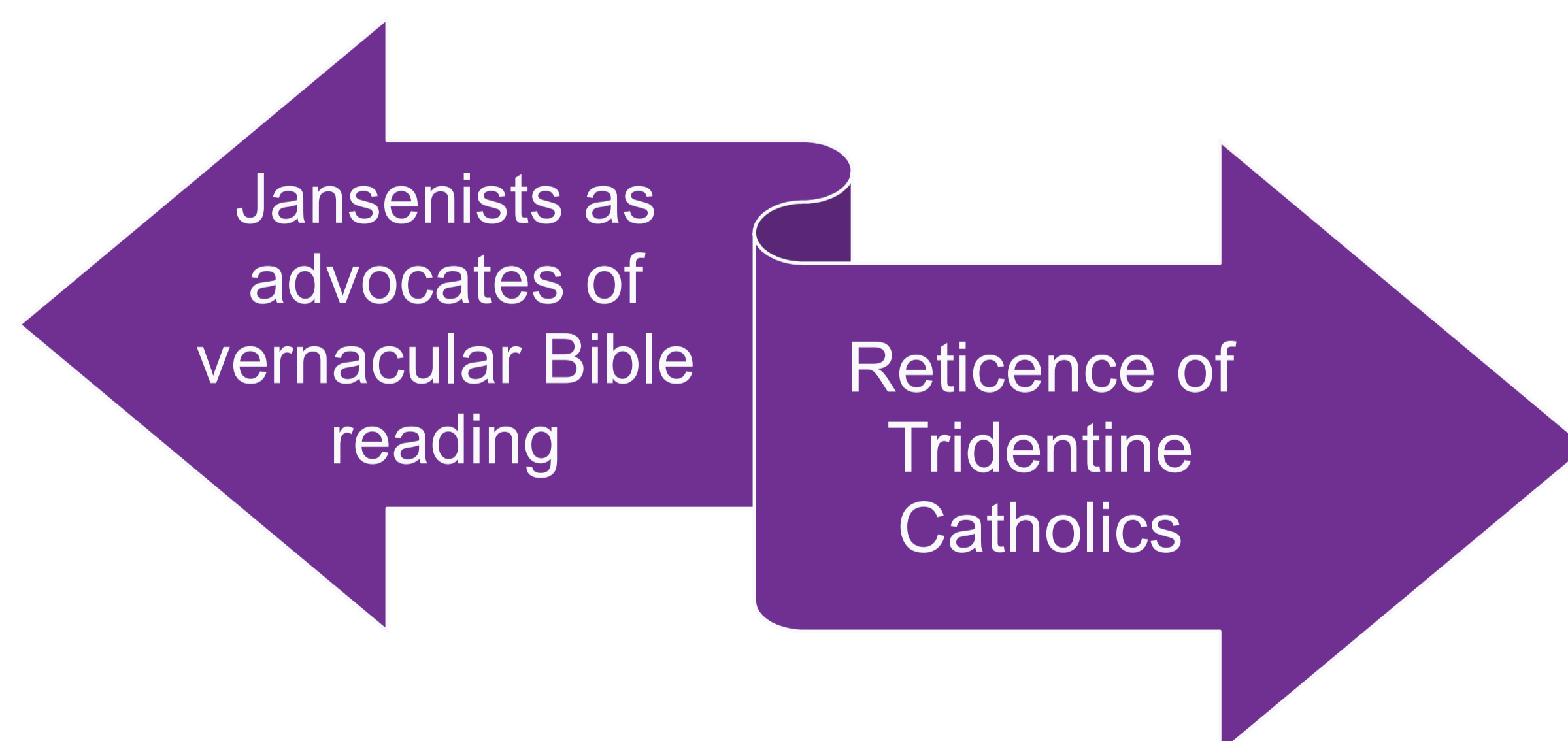
This research focuses on the place of the Bible in religious life as it was at the onset of a controversy between the Jansenists and the representatives of the Roman Catholic faction in the Low Countries between 1660 and 1735.

Jansenism was an ecclesial movement within Roman Catholicism in 17th and 18th century Europe. The Jansenists held vehement pleas in favor of the laity's access to translations of the Bible. They challenged the Catholic reticence with regard to vernacular Bible translation and the strict regulations pertaining to the translation of the Bible in the vernacular that existed since the Council of Trent (1545-1563).

The impetus of the Jansenists on vernacular Bible reading was twofold. On the one hand, they provided theoretical treatises against the strict interpretation of the Tridentine Catholics, and on the other they produced actual Bible translations.

5. SYNTHESIS

- **Johannes van Neercassel**: an ardent defender of vernacular bible reading
- Translation projects of **Aegidius de Witte**, **Andreas van der Schuur** and **Hendrik van Rhijn**, **Philippus Verhulst**



- Strong emphasis on the prohibition of Bible reading by the laity
- Polemicists: Jesuit **Cornelius Hazart**, Leuven Dominican **Martinus Harney**, and Leuven master **Martinus Steyaert**

