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History as correction, political protest and moral support: Groningen in the years preceding the Reduction (1594)

In the years preceding the so called 'reduction of Groningen' (1594), Groningen was politically divided with regard to the revolt of Protestants against Philips II. This is also evident from two neglected but interesting chronicles of the catholic Cornelius Kempius (ca. 1616-1687) and the protestant Eggerik Phebens (died 1616). Each chose a topic which he hoped would please others on their side, either the catholic governors of the town of Groningen, or the reformed party, whose members had left the town in large numbers, waiting to return with God's help.

My paper focusses on the question which signs of resistance against and consent with the current situation can be detected in both texts, and on whether these signs correspond with what we know from other sources. Finally there is the question what such writings meant for the political course of each party and for its morale.