

**GIROLAMO  
SAVONAROLA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649212668

Girolamo Savonarola by William H. Crawford

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD**

**GIROLAMO  
SAVONAROLA**



Men of the Kingdom

# Girolamo Savonarola

*A Prophet of Righteousness*

By

WILLIAM H. CRAWFORD

President Allegheny College



CINCINNATI: JENNINGS AND GRAHAM  
NEW YORK: EATON AND MAINS

COPYRIGHT, 1907, BY  
JENNINGS AND GRAHAM

To My Wife

*"We will praise the hero-priest . . . who wears out, in toil, calumny, contradiction, a noble life, to make a God's Kingdom of this earth. The earth will not become too godlike."* —Carlyle.



## PREFACE



It was some years ago that I began the serious study of the life and character of Savonarola. Since then I have been on the alert to read whatever would throw light on the man, or show more clearly the meaning and value of his work. In the present volume no attempt has been made at comprehensive biographical study. This would have required much more space than has been placed at my disposal. It has been my purpose rather, keeping in mind the general aim of the series of which this volume is a part, to show what Savonarola was as a man, and what he did as a true prophet of righteousness. In doing this, I have described the times in which he lived and the men with whom he associated only so far as was necessary to make clear the meaning of what he spoke and what he wrought.

While recognizing that Savonarola had his limitations, decided limitations at some points, as will appear in the description of what he did or failed to do in important crises, I conceive of him as a man of unusually strong and striking personality; a man of scholarly abilities and attainments; a statesman of no mean order; a man of marked qualities of leadership; a rare spiritual nature; but

above all a great Christian hero, a man of God; a strong, brave, fearless prophet of righteousness. The story of his life and work is here presented with the hope that the reader may find in it new courage for the work to which God has called him.

Like all others who have written on this theme within the past quarter of a century, I must confess my indebtedness to the monumental work of *Pasquale Villari*, from which I have taken most of the extracts of sermons and letters which appear throughout the volume, though in many instances these have been carefully verified. It will be noticed that I have quoted frequently, and sometimes at length, from the sermons and other writings of Savonarola. This has been done with a purpose. The biography which means most to me personally is the one in which I hear the man's own voice, or read the words he himself penned. I am taking it for granted that my readers are like me in this respect. So instead of describing what Savonarola said, I have, whenever possible, let him say it.

To guard against a one-sided or partisan presentation of the man and his work, the writings of his detractors, both Catholic and Protestant, have been examined as carefully as the writings of his most extravagant eulogists. Earnest and faithful attempt has been made to describe the man as he was. To the best of my strength, honestly and impartially, though it must be confessed sympathetically, I have endeavored to present in the following pages the real Savonarola.

It may be asked if Savonarola might not have

saved himself from death if he had not been so uncompromising? Certainly. So might Socrates have saved himself from the hemlock, and the Man of Nazareth from the cross. But there are some things morally impossible. No man could be as great and powerful a personality as Savonarola was and cry out against the frightful evils of his time as he did without going to his death. The conflict between Savonarola and Pope Alexander VI was an irreconcilable one. W. H. C.

MEADVILLE, PA., February 5, 1907.