

Western Europe in the Middle Ages 300-1475

Sidney Painter , Brian Tierney

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A chronological presentation of Western Europe in the Middle Ages, this work provides the political, religious, intellectual, and economic history of the time. It includes the historiography and coverage of medieval society and women.

Western Europe in the Middle Ages 300-1475 Details

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From Reader Review Western Europe in the Middle Ages 300-1475 for online ebook

Jessica says

One of my favorite text books ever :) Only read this if you have a true love for history...because it's a text book, of course!

Jessica says

Easy read and very informational. I only read the first half for school.

Margaret Harris says

(Fourth Edition, copywrite 1983)
by Brian Tierney and Sidney Painter

This is the most boring book I ever tried to read. I have plodded through it for almost a year because I wanted to learn the subject matter, but with a ho-hum presentation of the Magna Carta story at about the two-thirds point, I give up. It is a college textbook, and I feel deep sympathy for the students who are required to not only pay real money for this doorstep, but also be expected to learn from it. I would have liked very much to refer to the authors' sources for much of their writing, but, alas, to do that one must also buy "a two-volume paperback collection of medieval sources and modern readings . . . prepared to accompany this book." Stick it to the students.

Mike says

A heavy, expensive, yet comprehensive and very well-written textbook covering the years of 300-1475, CE. Like most history texts, it doesn't allow a cohesive voice of the author/authors to shine through and thus feels impersonal in places but unlike many such texts, it is very engaging and binds together topical matter spanning a wealth of time and entire canvas of geography. It is, if you desire a book covering its focus subject, probably the best choice in print.

Erin says

Thanks, Angie, for the recommendation! I really enjoyed this one (and I'm *not* a history buff). I especially found the sections about the early Universities interesting... I learned a lot about the beginnings of the higher ed systems. Amazing how little I know about that, given that I've worked in higher ed for about 15 years now.

Katie says

This is a really wonderful textbook. Anytime someone attempts to cover 1100+ years in 600 pages there are bound to be some simplifications or omissions, but Brian Tierney handles them well and covers an impressive breadth of information without sacrificing clarity. He also writes with a good bit of life and dynamism that are often absent in textbooks like this. Anytime things are about to get bogged down in a confusion of names or dates or places, he pulls out a genuinely fun anecdote and saves the day.

Bottom line, it's informative and it's enjoyable. Just as importantly, it hits the right tone. There's a tendency to apply a moral judgement to the medieval era more so than other historical periods, a desire to either overly praise or overly condemn depending on your predilection. Brian Tierney acknowledges this, and he does a very nice job of celebrating the great parts of medieval history and acknowledging the parts that were not particularly flattering. Definitely worth a read.
