



The Medieval World Complete

Robert Bartlett (Editor)

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The Medieval World Complete re-creates one of the great ages of European civilization through a sequence of spectacular images accompanied by a lively, informed commentary. Organized by topic and thoroughly cross-referenced, this comprehensive volume enables the reader to explore and understand every facet of the Middle Ages, an era of breathtaking artistic achievement and religious faith in a world where life was often coarse and cruel, cut short by war, famine, and disease. Framed by chapters that bracket the beginning and the end of this misunderstood period, The Medieval World Complete covers religion and the Church, nations and laws, daily life, art and architecture, scholarship and philosophy, and the world beyond Christendom. The book is completed by biographies of key personalities, from Charlemagne to Wycliffe, as well as timelines, maps, a glossary, a gazetteer, and a bibliography.

The Medieval World Complete Details

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Author : Robert Bartlett (Editor)

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From Reader Review The Medieval World Complete for online ebook

Rob Markley says

Absolutely magnificent - presentation, facts & data and the opening up of the medieval world and mindset; are all near perfect. Genius!

Snail in Danger (Sid) Nicolaides says

Maybe more like 3.5. This has a nice history of the historiography and popular perception of the Middle Ages. There are also many well-selected illustrations, including some that show clothing from behind, and underwear. (This is a medieval recreation interest of mine ... not a fetish thing. Get your mind out of the gutter. :) There are also technical drawings, pictures of craftsmen at work, pictures of farm and domestic life, assorted medieval artifacts, and many other nifty things.

However, it doesn't really provide a coherent narrative of the period, if you are looking for that. It is sufficient to give you a decent idea of what life was like in this time, though it will require a fair amount of your time to do so.

Elizabeth says

3 stars for the history (there were many mistakes and assumptions that were glaring and just wrong).

5 stars for the illustrations. Just read it for the pictures.

Willa Grant says

Pretty book with lots of beautiful images from the medieval time period.

Eva says

I am a visual person so I enjoyed this stunning book very much.

WarpDrive says

Beautifully illustrated book covering the whole range of medieval life and medieval society.

All major important elements of the Medieval World are treated with great efficacy and are supported by a nice, and always relevant, choice of sources and images.

This book really conveys the fascinating, sometimes brutal, beauty and complexity of this World: the grandeur, richness and symbolic power of the Cathedral, the otherworldliness of the sculptures adorning the entrances to these architectural representation of the Infinite, the heroic imagery associated with the Chivalry ideal, the power displayed by the Lord's castles, the beautifully harmonious intellectual world vision represented by the genius of Dante Alighieri, the ever-recurrent imagery of Death in all its forms representing the painfully precarious nature of human life in this period, the bizarre and almost Freudian grotesque images created in the capitals of churches and cloisters, the timelessness and spiritual uplifting of monastic architecture.

A nice book if you want to fall in love again with this fundamental period in European history, so critical in the development of the soul of the great Western Civilization.

Walt says

Mediocre introduction to Medieval Europe. The organization and index are not too helpful.

Grant says

Brilliant illustrations of contemporary art are the centerpiece of this study of medieval life.

Rod White says

It's true. I read coffee-table books for bedtime reading. This one is so beautiful it is kind of irresistible for someone fascinated with the middle ages.

ladywallingford says

This is a good book for any interested parties who need a general introduction to the medieval period. It also features artwork from the period to further illustrate his points.
