Introduction to early medieval Western Europe, 300–900: the sword, the plough and the book


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Abstract

Surveying the period of European history, 300–900 AD, this comprehensive and stimulating textbook is the first to present the last twenty-five years of research in an accessible manner for undergraduate students. It is unique in combining an account of the historical background of the period with discussion of the social, economic, cultural and political structures of the societies within it. *Introduction to Early Medieval Western Europe, 300–900* includes: chapter summaries and chronologies key topic essays discussing archaeological or documentary evidence maps plus supporting illustrations from archaeological and historical finds bibliographical essays which discuss available sources and further reading, introducing teachers and students to specialist literature a comprehensive index. Table of Contents Preface and Acknowledgements.

1. Introduction: Rome, the Barbarians and the Fate of Western Europe
2. A New Roman Order: State, Church and Society in the Late Empire
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5. The Western Mediterranean in the Age of 'Reconquest'
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10. 'The Invincible Race of the Franks': Conquest, Christianisation and Carolingian Kingship
11. 'Peace, Unity and Concord Among the Christian People': Carolingian Order and its Architects


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The Sword, the Plough and the Book. Author: Matthew Innes. Publisher: Psychology Press. The Oxford Handbook of Late Antiquity offers an innovative overview of a period (c. 300-700 CE) that has become increasingly central to scholarly debates over the history of western and Middle Eastern civilizations. This volume covers such pivotal events as the fall of Rome, the rise of Christianity, the origins of Islam, and the early formation of Byzantium and the European Middle Ages. These events are set in the context of widespread literary, artistic, cultural, and religious change during the period. In _Introduction to Early Medieval Europe: The Sword, the Plough and the Book_, Innes has produced an overview of the crucial period of transition from the Late Roman period to the end of the Carolingian era, which is appropriate not just for professional historians but for advanced undergraduates and members of the educated reading public as well. Among the highlights are his description of Italy’s transformation from an imperial heartland to a frontier province of the shrunken Byzantine continuation of the Late Roman system, his treatment of the political structure of Merovingian Gaul, and his brilliant summary of the latest insights into the creation of the Avar - Slav world in southeastern Europe.