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Disciplined Dissent

Strategies of Non-Confrontational Protest in Europe from the Twelfth to the Early Sixteenth Century

edited by Fabrizio Titone

Inspired by current debates around political confrontation and the exercise of power, Fabrizio Titone offers an interpretation based on the concept of disciplined dissent. This interpretation is centred on the notion of diffused power and is designed to transcend the binary distinction consensus/resistance. The aim is to identify the conservative process involved in mounting a critique, a protest, through which those who object may have intercepted and then deployed on their own account the cultural repertoire of those in a position of authority. This was with a view to obtaining a hearing, or even influencing the activities of the government and decentering the exercise of power. The essays collected here take as their theoretical point of departure the concept of disciplined dissent. In order to ascertain how adaptable the latter is, the decision was taken to include studies relating to wholly distinct political contexts. Contributions by scholars from different backgrounds shed light upon different circumstances prevailing in continental and non-continental medieval Europe. The aim is to offer a broad spectrum of analyses on political confrontation, the formulation of critiques and the attainment of spaces for participation by means of non-violent protest.

Fabrizio Titone is Ramón y Cajal Researcher at the University of País Vasco and has published at length on urban history in late medieval Sicily. Recently, he has expanded his analysis to gender history and rites of passage in Sicily considered in the wider Mediterranean context and beyond.

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