During the early middle ages, Europe developed complex and varied Christian cultures, and from about 1100 secular rulers, competing factions and inspired individuals continued to engender a diverse and ever-changing mix within Christian society. This volume explores the wide range of institutions, practices and experiences associated with the life of European Christians in the later middle ages. The clergy of this period initiated new approaches to the role of priests, bishops and popes, and developed an ambitious project to instruct the laity. For lay people, the practices of parish religion were central, but many sought additional ways to enrich their lives as Christians. Impulses towards reform and renewal periodically swept across Europe, led by charismatic preachers and supported by secular rulers. At the same time, Christians were often preoccupied and troubled by non-Christians within their own communities and on their borders. This book provides accessible accounts of these complex historical processes and entices the reader towards further enquiry.

Miri Rubin is Professor of Medieval History at Queen Mary, University of London. Her most recent publications include Mother of God: A History of the Virgin Mary (2009) and The Hollow Crown: A History of Britain in the Late Middle Ages (2005).

The Cambridge History of Christianity offers a comprehensive chronological account of the development of Christianity in all its aspects – theological, intellectual, social, political, regional, global – from its beginnings to the present day. Each volume makes a substantial contribution in its own right to the scholarship of its period and the complete History constitutes a major work of academic reference. Far from being merely a history of Western European Christianity and its offshoots, the History aims to provide a global perspective. Eastern and Coptic Christianity are given full consideration from the early period onwards, and later, African, Far Eastern, New World, South Asian and other non-European developments in Christianity receive proper coverage. The volumes cover popular piety and non-formal expressions of Christian faith and treat the sociology of Christian formation, worship and devotion in a broad cultural context. The question of relations between Christianity and other major faiths is also kept in sight throughout. The History will provide an invaluable resource for scholars and students alike.

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Abbreviations


CCCM  Corpus Christianorum: Continuatio mediaevalis

CCSL  Corpus Christianorum Series Latina

CFS  Cistercian Fathers Series

CSEL  Corpus scriptorum ecclesiasticorum latinorum

MGH  Monumenta Germaniae Historica, Hanover et al.: Hahn et al.,
     1826–

EPP  Epistolae

SS  Scriptores

OED  Oxford English Dictionary

PG  Patrologiae Cursus Completus, Series Graeca, ed. J.-P. Migne, Paris:
    Migne, 1857–66

PL  Patrologiae Cursus Completus, Series Latina, ed. J.-P. Migne,
    Paris: Migne, 1844–64

SBO  Sancti Bernardi opera

SC  Sources chrétiennes

SCH  Studies in Church History

Unless otherwise specified, all biblical references are to the Douay-Rheims
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