Medieval theology, in all its diversity, was radically theocentric, Trinitarian, Scriptural and sacramental. It also operated with a profound view of human understanding (in terms of intellectus rather than mere ratio). In a post-modern climate, in which the modern views on “autonomous reason” are increasingly being questioned, it may prove fruitful to re-engage with pre-modern thinkers who, obviously, did not share our modern and post-modern presuppositions. Their different perspective does not antiquate their thought, as some of the “cultured despisers” of medieval thought might imagine. On the contrary, rather than rendering their views obsolete, it makes them profoundly challenging and enriching for theology today. This book is more than a survey of key medieval thinkers (from Augustine to the late-medieval period); it is an invitation to think along with major theologians, and explore how their thought can deeply challenge some of today’s modern and post-modern key assumptions.

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AN INTRODUCTION  
TO MEDIEVAL THEOLOGY

RIK VAN NIEUWENHOVE
To Anna and Muireann
Ad decimum quartum dicendum, quod ex quo intellectus noster divinam substantiam non adaequat, hoc ipsum quod est Dei substantia remanet, nostrum intellectum excedens, et ita a nobis ignoratur: et propter hoc illud est ultimum cognitionis humanae de Deo quod sciat se Deum nescire, in quantum cognoscit, illud quod Deus est, omne ipsum quod de eo intelligimus, excedere.

Thomas Aquinas, De Potentia, q.7 a.5 ad 14 (cf. pages 182–83)
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Abbreviations

Brevil.    Breviloquium (Bonaventure)
CDH       Cur Deus Homo (Anselm of Canterbury)
Comm. In  Commentary on John
Comm. on Rom  Commentary on Romans
Confer.   Conferences (John Cassian)
Confess.  Confessions (Augustine)
Consol.   The Consolation of Philosophy (Boethius)
CT        Compendium of Theology (Thomas Aquinas)
De Civ. Dei De Civitate Dei (Augustine)
De Doctr. Christ. De Doctrina Christiana (Augustine)
De Pot.    De Potentia (Thomas Aquinas)
De Prim. Princ. De Primo Principio (Duns Scotus)
De Sacr.   De Sacramentis Christiane Fidei (Hugh of St. Victor)
De Trin.   De Trinitate (Augustine)
De Ver.    De Veritate (Thomas Aquinas)
Dial.     The Dialogues (Gregory the Great)
Didasc.   Didascalicon (Hugh of St. Victor)
DTD       De Tribus Diebus (Hugh of St. Victor)
Enarr. in Ps. Enarrationes in Psalmos (Augustine)
Enchir.   Enchiridion (Augustine)
Hex.      Collationes in Hexaemeron (Bonaventure)
Hom. Ev.   Forty Homilies on the Gospels (Gregory the Great)
Hom. Ez.   Homilies on Ezekiel (Gregory the Great)
Lect.     Lectura (Duns Scotus)
Mor.      Moralia in Iob (Gregory the Great)
MW        The Major Works – Anselm of Canterbury
Myst. Trin. Disputed Questions on the Mystery of the Trinity (Bonaventure)
Op. Ox.   Opus Oxoniense (Duns Scotus)
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<tr>
<td>Ordin.</td>
<td>Ordinatio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Past. Reg.</td>
<td>Pastoral Rule (Gregory the Great)</td>
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<td>Quodlib.</td>
<td>Quodlibetal Questions (William of Ockham)</td>
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<td>Rep. Par.</td>
<td>Reportatio Parisiensis (Duns Scotus)</td>
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<td>ScG</td>
<td>Summa contra Gentiles (Thomas Aquinas)</td>
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<td>Sent.</td>
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<td>ST</td>
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<td>TSB</td>
<td>Theologia Summi Boni (Peter Abelard)</td>
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