VIOLENCE AND THE STATE IN LANGUEDOC,
1250–1400

Although it is often assumed that resurgent royal government eliminated so-called ‘private warfare’, the French judicial archives reveal nearly one hundred such wars waged in Languedoc and the Auvergne between the mid-thirteenth and the end of the fourteenth century. Royal administrators often intervened in these wars, but not always in order to suppress ‘private violence’ in favour of ‘public justice’. They frequently recognized elites’ own power and legitimate prerogatives, and elites were often fully complicit with royal intervention. Much of the engagement between royal officers and local elites came through informal processes of negotiation and settlement, rather than through the imposition of official justice. The expansion of royal authority was due as much to local cooperation as to conflict, a fact that ensured its survival during the fourteenth-century crises. This book thus provides a new narrative of the rise of the French state and a fresh perspective on aristocratic violence.

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VIOLENCE AND THE STATE IN LANGUEDOC, 1250–1400

JUSTINE FIRNHABER–BAKER
For Audrey and Sophie and in memory of Sylvia
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ABBREVIATIONS

AD Archives départementales
AHR American Historical Review
AM Archives municipales
AN Paris, Archives nationales de France
BEC Bibliothèque de l’École des chartes
BN Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris
CTSEEH Collections de textes pour servir à l’étude et à d’enseignement de l’histoire
DI Collection de documents inédits sur l’histoire de France
EHR English Historical Review
l.t. livres tournois
MGH Monumenta Germaniae Historica
List of abbreviations

RH Revue historique
RHDFE Revue historique de droit français et étranger
SHF Société de l’histoire de France
X Liber extra (= Decretales Gregorii IX), . . . , ed. E. Friedberg in Decretalium collectiones, Leipzig, 1881; ed. with glosses, Lyon, 1553.
Languedoc and the Auvergne in 1360