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978-1-107-02336-9 - Medieval Heresies: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam

Christine Caldwell Ames

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Medieval Heresies

Jews, Christians, and Muslims in the Middle Ages were divided in many ways. But one thing they shared in common was the fear that God was offended by wrong belief. *Medieval Heresies: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam* is the first comparative survey of heresy and its response throughout the medieval world. Spanning England to Persia, it examines heresy, error, and religious dissent – and efforts to end them through correction, persuasion, or punishment – among Latin Christians, Greek Christians, Jews, and Muslims. With a lively narrative that begins in the late fourth century and ends in the early sixteenth century, *Medieval Heresies* is an unprecedented history of how the three great monotheistic religions of the Middle Ages resembled, differed from, and even interrelated with each other in defining heresy and orthodoxy.

CHRISTINE CALDWELL AMES is Associate Professor of History at the University of South Carolina. She is the author of *Righteous Persecution: Inquisition, Dominicans, and Christianity in the Middle Ages*.

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MEDIEVAL HERESIES:
CHRISTIANITY, JUDAISM,
AND ISLAM

CHRISTINE CALDWELL AMES

University of South Carolina



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To my children

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This book is dedicated to my children: May your liberty of mind and body never be at the mercy of others' notions of paradise, and of their certain faith in how to attain it.

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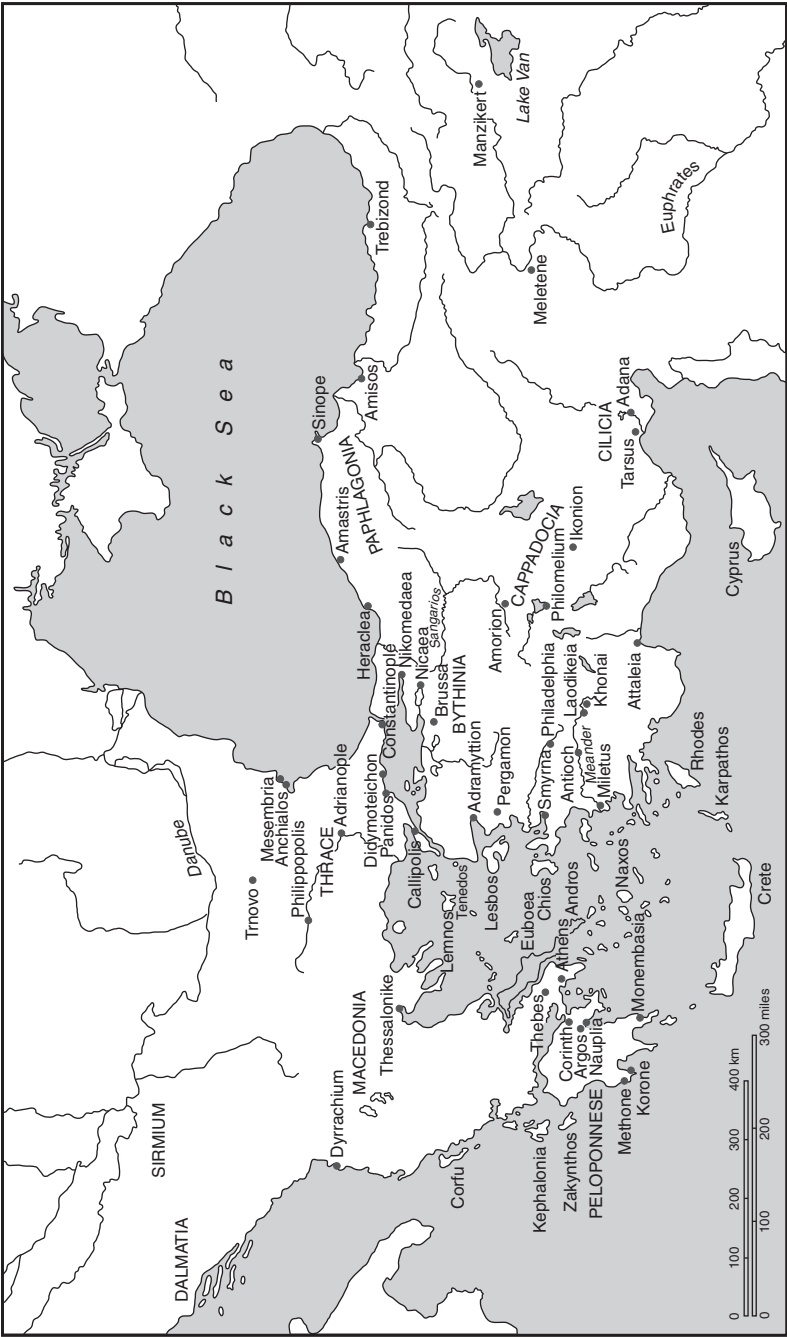
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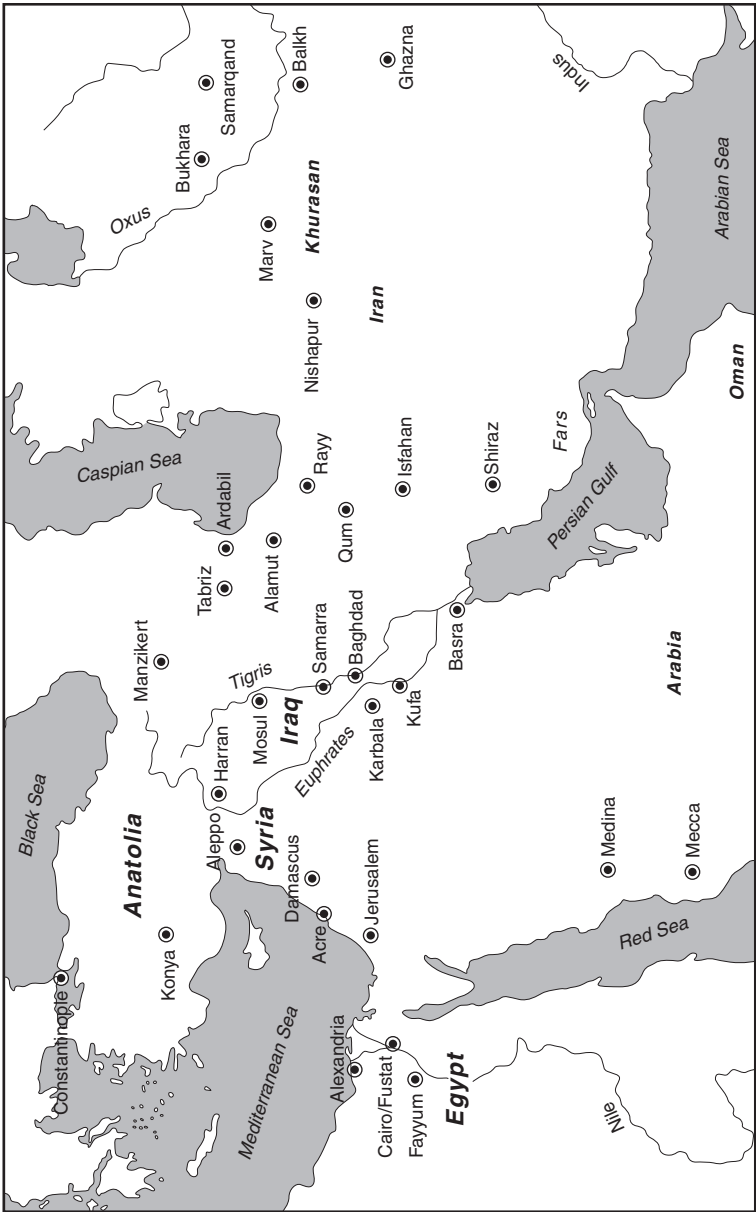
While it hopes to contribute to scholarly conversations about heresy in the Middle Ages, *Medieval Heresies* has been written with an eye to student use. Wherever possible, I have used primary sources readily available in English translation, including some that exist online. On rare occasions, I have provided my own translations from the original language, and these are identified in the notes. Footnotes have been kept to a minimum, and normally accompany only direct quotation from primary sources. I encourage readers to consult not only the “For further reading” section at the end of the book, but also the fuller, traditional bibliography available on the book’s website.

Perhaps fittingly, this book is unorthodox in its use of diacritical marks for transliterated words. For readability, I follow the model of Fred M. Donner, *Muhammed and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam* (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010) in including only those for ‘ayn (‘) and hamza (’).

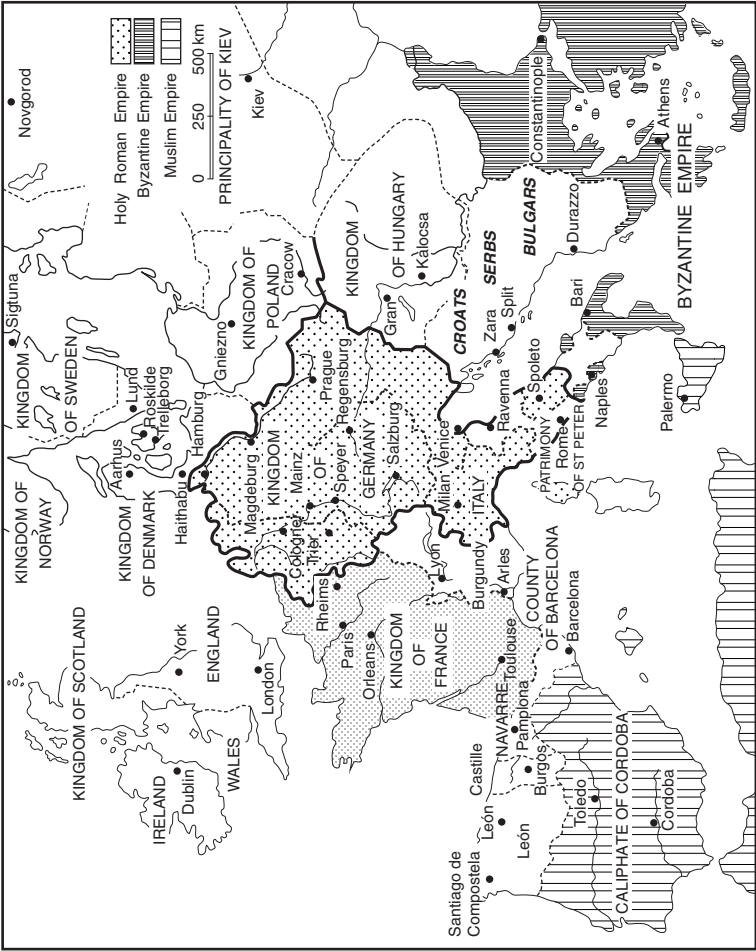
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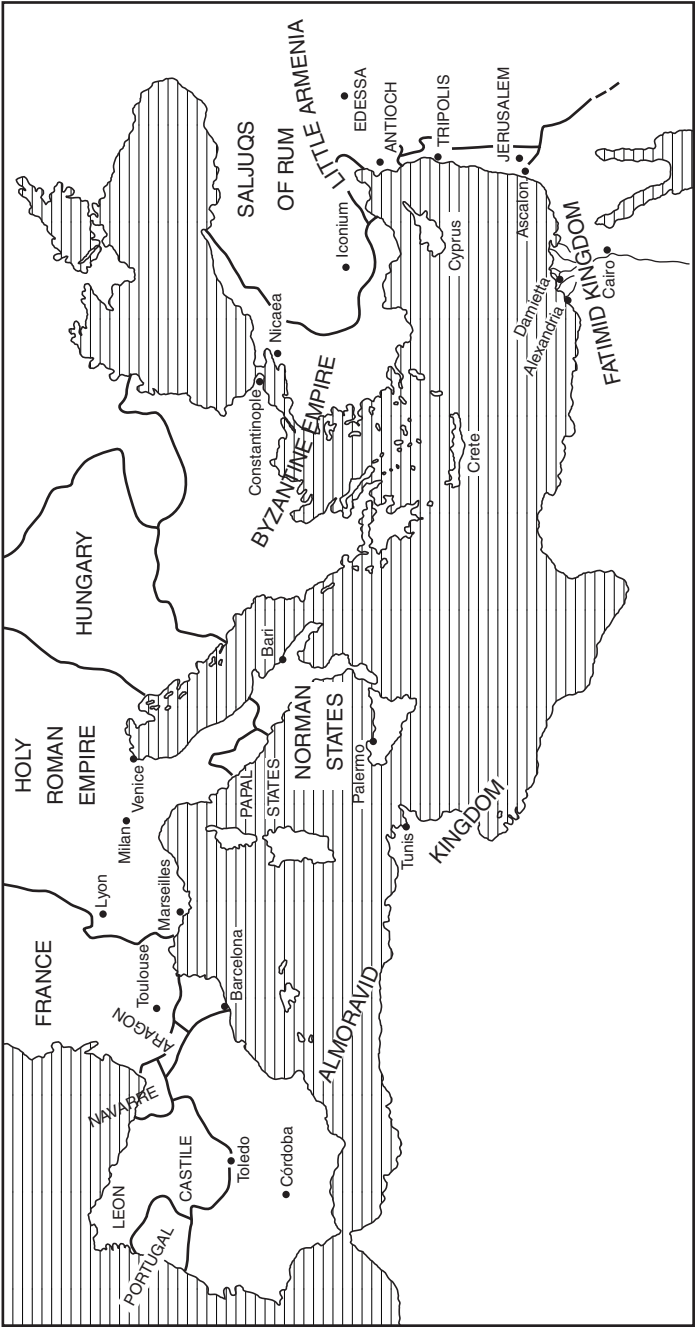
Map 1 The Byzantine Empire



Map 2 The Islamic Near East



Map 3 Europe in the year 1000



Map 4 The Mediterranean world in the twelfth century



Map 5 The later medieval world