

Church and State in Spanish Italy

In this study, Céline Dauverd analyzes the link between early modern imperialism and religion via the principle of “good government.” She charts how the Spanish viceroys of southern Italy aimed to secure a new political order through their participation in religious processions, alliance-building with minority groups, and involvement in local charities. The viceroys’ good government included diplomacy, compromise, and pragmatism, as well as a high degree of Christian ethics and morality, made manifest in their rapport with rituals. Spanish viceroys were not so much idealistic social reformers as they were legal pragmatists, committed to a political vision that ensured the longevity of the Spanish empire. The viceroys resolved the tension between Christian ideals and Spanish imperialism by building religious ties with the local community. Bringing a new approach to Euro-Mediterranean history, Dauverd shows how the viceroys secured a new political order, and reevaluates Spain’s contributions to the early modern European world.

Céline Dauverd is an associate professor of history at the University of Colorado, Boulder. She is the author of *Imperial Ambition in the Early Modern Mediterranean* 2014.

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Rituals and Legitimacy in the Kingdom of Naples

CÉLINE DAUVERD

University of Colorado, Boulder



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