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978-1-108-84259-4 — Politics and the Earthly City in Augustine's City of God
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Politics and the Earthly City in Augustine's *City of God*

In this volume, Veronica Roberts Ogle offers a new reading of Augustine's political thought as it is presented in *City of God*. Focusing on the relationship between politics and the earthly city, she argues that a precise understanding of Augustine's vision can only be reached through a careful consideration of the work's rhetorical strategy and sacramental worldview. Ogle draws on Christian theology and political thought, moral philosophy, and semiotic theory to make her argument. Laying out Augustine's understanding of the earthly city, she proceeds by tracing out his rhetorical strategy and concludes by articulating his sacramental vision and the place of politics within it. Ogle thus suggests a new way of determining the status of politics in Augustine's thought. Her study clarifies seemingly contradictory passages in his text, highlights the nuance of his position, and captures the unity of his vision as presented in *City of God*.

Veronica Roberts Ogle is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Assumption University, Worcester, Massachusetts.

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For Nicholas and Peter

He refused to be subject to his Creator, and in his arrogance supposed that he wielded power as his own private possession and rejoiced in that power. And thus he was both deceived and deceiving because no one can escape the power of the Omnipotent. He has refused to accept reality and in his arrogant pride presumes to counterfeit an unreality.

Augustine, *City of God* 11.13

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Deo Gratias.

Abbreviations

In what follows, I have used the abbreviations of *Augustinus-Lexicon* (Basel: Schwabe, 1986–). The Latin critical editions consulted are those gathered together by Dr. Cornelius Mayer in the *Corpus Augustinianum Gissense* (Basel: Schwabe, 1995). For English translations of Augustine's works, I have mostly drawn from the ongoing *The Works of Saint Augustine: A Translation for the Twenty-First Century* (WSA) (New York: New City Press, 1990–).

SERIES CONTAINING CRITICAL EDITIONS

CCSL = *Corpus Christianorum. Series Latina*. Turnhout, 1959–.
 CSEL = *Corpus Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Latinorum*. Vienna, 1866–.
 PL = *Patrologiae cursus completus, Series Latina* (ed. J. P. Migne). Paris, 1844–64.

TEXTS

ciu. = *de ciuitate Dei* (CCSL 47–48). *The City of God against the Pagans*. Trans. H. Bettenson. New York: Penguin, 2003.
conf. = *confessiones* (CCSL 27). *The Confessions*. WSA, vol. I/1. Trans. M. Boulding, OSB. Ed. J. E. Rotelle, OSA. New York: New City Press, 1997.
ep. = *epistula* (CCSL 31, 31A, 31B; CSEL 44). *Letters*. WSA, vol. II/1–4. Trans. R. Teske, SJ. Ed. J. E. Rotelle, OSA. New York: New City Press, 2001–5.

- doct. chr.* = *de doctrina christiana* (CCSL 32). *Teaching Christianity*. WSA, vol. I/11. Trans. E. Hill, OP. Ed. J. E. Rotelle, OSA. New York: New City Press, 1996.
- en. Ps.* = *Enarrationes in Psalmos* (CCSL 40). *Expositions of the Psalms*, 121–150. Vol. III/20. Trans. Maria Boulding. Ed. Boniface Ramsey, OP. New York: New City Press, 2004.
- ep. Io. tr.* = *In Epistulam Iohannis Ad Parthos Tractatus Decem* (PL 35). *Homilies on the First Epistle of John*. WSA, vol. I/14. Trans. B. Ramsey. Eds. D. Doyle, OSA and T. Martin, OSA. New York: New City Press, 2008.
- Gn. litt.* = *de Genesi ad litteram* (CSEL 28). *On the Literal Meaning of Genesis*. WSA, vol. I/13. Trans. E. Hill, OP. Ed. J. E. Rotelle, OSA. New York: New City Press, 2002.
- Io. eu. tr.* = *In Iohannis euangelium tractatus CXXIV* (CCSL 36). *Homilies on the Gospel of John 1–40*. WSA, vol. I/12. Trans. E. Hill, OP. Ed. A. Fitzgerald, OSA. New York: New City Press, 2009.
- s.* = *Sermones* (CCSL 41, 41Aa, 41Ab, 41Ba, 41Bb). *Sermons*. WSA, vol. III/1–11. Trans. E. Hill, OP. Ed. J. E. Rotelle, OSA. New York: New City Press, 1997–2006.
- trin.* = *de trinitate* (CCSL 50). *On the Trinity*. WSA, vol. I/5/ Trans. E. Hill, OP. Ed. J. E. Rotelle, OSA. New York: New City Press, 1996.