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MONASTICISM AND THE CITY IN LATE ANTIQUITY AND THE EARLY MIDDLE AGES

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Abstract: This Element will re-evaluate the relationship between monasticism and the city in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages in the period 300–700 in both the post-Roman West and the eastern Mediterranean, putting these areas in conversation. Building on recent scholarship on the nature of late antique urbanism, the authors observe that the links between late antique Christian thought and the late and post-Roman urban space were far more relevant to the everyday practice of monasticism than previously assumed. By comparing Latin, Greek, and Syriac sources, the authors gain a bird’s-eye view on the enduring importance of urbanism in a late antique, afroeurasian monastic world.

Keywords: monasticism, city, movements, urbanism, global Middle Ages

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Contents

Introduction	1
1 Monasticism as a Genre of Society	6
2 The Monastery as a City	11
3 Monks and Nuns in the City	28
4 Monastic Learning	46
5 Monasticism as an Afroeurasian Phenomenon	58
Conclusions	64
Appendix	69
Bibliography	72