

Inventing Byzantine Iconoclasm

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Images, Iconoclasm, and the Carolingians
Current contents Arts and Humanities
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byzantine iconoclasm is famous and has influenced iconoclast movements from the english reformation and french revolution to taliban but it has also been woefully misunderstood this book shows how and why the debate about images was more complicated and more interesting than it has been presented in the past it explores

how icons came to be so important who opposed them and how the debate about images played itself out over the years between c 680 and 850 many widely accepted assumptions about iconoclasm that it was an imperial initiative that resulted in widespread destruction of images that the major promoters of icon veneration were monks and that the era was one of cultural stagnation are shown to be incorrect instead the years of the image debates saw technological advances and intellectual shifts that coupled with a growing economy concluded with the emergence of medieval byzantium as a strong and stable empire bloomsbury publishing

few subjects have generated more argument in early medieval byzantine and orthodox history than iconoclasm supposedly for more than a century the orthodox church and byzantium were wracked by controversy over religious figural imagery culminating in 843 in the establishment of icon veneration as a fundamental orthodox practice in this multidisciplinary companion to byzantine iconoclasm twelve contributors set the controversy in context and critically examine the key debates what was the argument about how much destruction and persecution were there what caused and fuelled the controversy what links if any were there to events in the islamic caliphate and the latin west and how can we use our contested literary and material sources to offer answers to these questions contributors benjamin anderson marie france auzépy sabine feist mike humphreys robin m jensen dirk krausmüller andrew louth ken parry richard price christian c sahner and jesse w torgerson see inside the book

explores the literary texts produced during byzantine iconoclasm and their use as ideological tools by the main political circles

the phenomenon of iconoclasm expressed through hostile actions towards images has occurred in many different cultures throughout history the destruction and mutilation of images is often motivated by a blend of political and religious ideas and beliefs and the distinction between various kinds of iconoclasms is not absolute in order to explore further the long and varied history of iconoclasm the contributors to this volume consider iconoclastic reactions to various types of objects both in the very recent and distant past the majority focus on historical periods but also on history as a backdrop for image troubles of our own day development over time is a central question in the volume and cross cultural influences are also taken into consideration this broad approach provides a useful comparative perspective both on earlier controversies over images and relevant issues today in the multimedia era increased

awareness of the possible consequences of the use of images is of utmost importance iconoclasm from antiquity to modernity approaches some of the problems related to the display of particular kinds of images in conflicted societies and the power to decide on the use of visual means of expression it provides a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of the phenomenon of iconoclasm of interest to a wide group of scholars the contributors draw upon various sources and disciplines including art history cultural history religion and archaeology as well as making use of recent research from within social and political sciences and contemporary events whilst the texts are addressed primarily to those researching the western world the volume contains material which will also be of interest to students of the middle east

peter adamson presents an engaging and wide ranging introduction to the thinkers and movements of two great intellectual cultures byzantium and the italian renaissance first he tells the story of philosophy in the eastern christian world from such early figures as john of damascus in the eighth century to the late byzantine scholars of the fifteenth century then he explores the rebirth of philosophy in italy in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the era of machiavelli giordano bruno and galileo this is the sixth volume in adamson s history of philosophy without any gaps taking us to the threshold of the early modern era

this volume brings together an ecumenical team of scholars to offer a historical overview of how worship developed the book first orients readers to the common core elements the global church shares in the history and development of worship theology and historical practice it then introduces the major streams of worship practice catholic orthodox and protestant including reformation traditions evangelicalism and pentecostalism the book includes introductions by john witvliet and nicholas wolterstorff a previous volume addressed the theological foundations of worship

focusing on the ninth century beginnings of byzantine writings against the latin addition of the filioque to the creed illuminates several aspects of byzantine thought their self definition their theology their uniquely constituted state

the theme of the 2006 international congress of byzantine studies was display this is explored under eight headings which highlight different aspects of the theme and different disciplines within byzantine studies empire works and days infrastructures words texts orthodoxy byzantium as display and the future of the past in the process

many of the possible responses to byzantium are examined the most direct response being to ask whether there was a real byzantium or only an imaginary modern construct but the aim is to make this simple dichotomy more complex and assess first what strategies the people of byzantium used to express their thoughts ideals fears and beliefs and then how these have been interpreted through various modern discourses the first volume presents the texts of the 28 plenary papers delivered at the congress the second and third contain the abstracts of the approximately 700 papers written for the 64 separate panels and the sessions of communications

a major revisionist survey of this most elusive and fascinating period in medieval history

14 what has constantinople to do with jerusalem palestine in the ninth century byzantine orthodoxy in the world of islam 15 the road to baghdad in the thought world of ninth century byzantium 16 byzantium and al andalus in the ninth century 17 byzance et italie méridionale 18 ninth century byzantium through western eyes index

in this volume authors investigate icons from the sixth to the sixteenth centuries and offer new interpretations of their meaning provenance and function essays also explore celebrated illuminated byzantine manuscripts in the library of st catherine s pilgrim s accounts of the monastery a recently excavated early church on the s

presents literary criticism on the works of twentieth century writers of all genres nations and cultures critical essays are selected from leading sources including published journals magazines books reviews diaries interviews radio and television transcripts pamphlets and scholarly papers

this study investigates the sources of byzantine iconophile thought as exemplified in the writings of john of damascus theodore the studite and the patriarch nikephoros it provides an extensive analysis of the major themes addressed by these apologists of christian images

iconoclasm the debate about the legitimacy of religious art that began in byzantium around 730 and continued for nearly 120 years has long held a firm grip on the historical imagination byzantium in the iconoclast era is the first book in english to survey the original sources crucial for a modern understanding of this most elusive and fascinating period in medieval history it is also the first book in any language to cover both the written and the visual evidence from this period a combination of

particular importance to the iconoclasm debate the authors an art historian and a historian who both specialise in the period have worked together to provide a comprehensive overview of the visual and the written materials that together help clarify the complex issues of iconoclasm in byzantium

in the year 726 c e the byzantine emperor leo iii issued an edict declaring images to be idols forbidden by exodus and ordering all such images in churches to be destroyed thus commenced the first wave of byzantine iconoclasm which ran its violent course until 787 when the underlying issues were temporarily resolved at the second council of nicaea in 815 a second great wave of iconoclasm was set off only to end in 842 when the icons were restored to the churches of the east and the iconoclasts excommunicated the iconoclast controversies have long been understood as marking major fissures between the western and eastern churches thomas f x noble reveals that the lines of division were not so clear it is traditionally maintained that the carolingians in the 790s did not understand the basic issues involved in the byzantine dispute noble contends that there was in fact a significant carolingian controversy about visual art and if its ties to byzantine iconoclasm were tenuous they were also complex and deeply rooted in central concerns of the carolingian court furthermore he asserts that the carolingians made distinctive and original contributions to the whole debate over religious art images iconoclasm and the carolingians is the first book to provide a comprehensive study of the western response to byzantine iconoclasm by comparing art texts with laws letters poems and other sources noble reveals the power and magnitude of the key discourses of the carolingian world during its most dynamic and creative decades

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