

**HANDBOOK OF
MEDIAEVAL GEOGRAPHY
AND HISTORY**

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Handbook of mediaeval geography and history by Wilhelm Pütz & R. B. Paul

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WILHELM PÜTZ & R. B. PAUL

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AND HISTORY**

H A N D B O O K
OF
MEDIÆVAL
GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

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TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN,

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PREFACE

BY THE AMERICAN EDITOR.

THE characteristics of this volume are the same as those of the first: precision, condensation, and luminous arrangement. It is precisely what it pretends to be—a manual, a sure and conscientious guide for the student through the crooks and tangles of mediæval history. Many things of course are omitted; many rather indicated than developed;—but all the great principles of this extensive period are carefully laid down, and the most important facts skilfully grouped around them. There is no period of history for which it is more difficult to prepare a work like this, and none for which it is so much needed. The leading facts are well established, but they are scattered over an immense space; the principles are ascertained, but their development was slow, unequal, and interrupted. There is a general breaking up of a great body, and a parcelling of it out among small tribes, concerning whom we have only a few general data, and are left to analogy and conjecture for the details. Then come successive attempts at organization, each more or less independent, and all very imperfect. At last, modern Europe begins slowly to emerge from the chaos, but still under forms which the most diligent historian cannot always comprehend. To reduce such

materials to a clear and definite form is a task of no small difficulty, and in which even partial success deserves great praise. It is not too much to say, that it has never been so well done within a compass so easily mastered, as in the little volume which is now offered to the public.

In the English edition there were no references. It would have been easy to supply this want by a long list of the sources of mediæval history, which the student into whose hands this volume will fall would never have taken the trouble to read. I have preferred giving a reference for each section to works which are accessible to all, and where more copious indications will be found by those who wish to push their inquiries further. For greater convenience it is printed collectively in the Appendix.

GEO. W. GREENE.

Brown University, March 5, 1850.

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