

**A HISTORY OF MEDIAEVAL
POLITICAL THEORY IN THE
WEST. VOL I. THE SECOND
CENTURY TO THE NINTH**

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A History of Mediæval Political Theory in the West. Vol I. The Second Century to the Ninth by
Sir R. W. Carlyle & A. J. Carlyle

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IN THE WEST

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VOL. I.
THE SECOND CENTURY TO THE NINTH
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VOL. I.

A HISTORY OF POLITICAL THEORY

FROM

THE ROMAN LAWYERS OF THE SECOND CENTURY
TO THE POLITICAL WRITERS OF THE NINTH

BY

A. J. CARLYLE.

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PREFACE.

IN bringing out the first volume of a **History of Mediaeval Political Theory**, it may be well to indicate briefly the character of the work which we hope to carry out. In this volume we deal with the elements out of which the more developed theory of the Middle Ages arose; we hope to carry on the work to the political theorists of the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries—that is, to the time when, as it is thought, the specific characteristics of modern political theory began to take shape.

The subject with which we are endeavouring to deal is strictly a history of theory, not of institutions. We believe, indeed, that in the Middle Ages, as at other times, the two things are closely related to each other,—that theory never moves very far away from the actual conditions of public life; but yet the two things are distinct, if not separate. The principles which lie behind the development of political institutions are sometimes the subject of careful reflection, sometimes are hardly apprehended; but in either case they are to be distinguished from any particular concrete forms in which they may be embodied. We have, indeed, been compelled frequently to examine the institutions of the Middle Ages, but we have done this only in order to draw out more clearly the character of the theories which were actually

current among those who reflected on the nature of political life.

We are very conscious of the fact that in the attempt to deal with a subject which extends over so many centuries it is probable that we have made many mistakes, and have been guilty of many omissions. We can scarcely hope that we have succeeded in discovering or understanding every important reference to political theory, and we shall be very grateful to any one who may enable us to supplement or correct our judgment upon any aspect of the subject.

PREFACE TO VOLUME I.

WHILE I am alone responsible for the judgments which are expressed in this volume, it would have been impossible for me to prepare it without the work which my brother has already completed on the political literature of the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth centuries. I must express my indebtedness first of all to my friend the Rev. J. M. Schulhof, M.A., of Clare College, Cambridge, and Exeter College, Oxford, who has read through the whole of the proofs, and to whose learning and careful correction I owe the removal of many serious mistakes. But I must also express my most sincere gratitude to Mr A. J. Greenidge, Lecturer in Ancient History at Brasenose and Hertford Colleges, Oxford, who has read the proofs of Parts I. and II. of this volume; to the Rev. F. E. Brightman, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, who has read most of Part III.; to Mr H. W. C. Davis, Fellow and Tutor of Balliol College, Oxford, who has read Part IV.; and to the Rev. J. N. Figgis, formerly Chaplain and Lecturer of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, who has read a large part of the work. These gentlemen are not responsible in any degree for the judgments expressed in this volume, but I am under great obligations to them for many important corrections and suggestions.

A. J. CARLYLE.

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