



Cultural Encounters during the Crusades (Studies in History and Social Sciences)

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This volume covers two distinct research areas - cultural studies of encounters and crusade history - that are both well developed internationally, but seldom combined. Cultural studies on encounters have often been concentrated on how societies have been able to overcome differences, continue a kind of Convivencia, and, as far as possible, reduce the potential for conflict. Here, encounters have been understood as adaptation, as inspiration, and as loan from one culture to another. Studies on Crusade history, on the other hand, have often focused on the violent side of encounters. One part has delved into practical aspects of warfare, another part into ideological aspects: the theology of indulgence and martyrdom, the creation of a literature illustrating the cruelty of the enemy, and a history-writing stressing the unavoidable conflict between cultures. The book brings together these two very different approaches to understanding encounters in order to broaden both areas and to create a discussion among researchers from different disciplines. (Series: Studies in History and Social Sciences - Vol. 445) *** "Books on the Crusades are common, but the inclusion of reflections on the evolution of Muslim holy war and Muslim thoughts about Christianity raises this volume to another level. Recommended." - Choice, Vol. 51, No. 6, February 2014

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