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Your Money or Your Life: Economy and Religion in the Middle Ages

Patricia Ranum (ed.)

Zone Books (1990)



Abstract

In this intriguing study, Jacques Le Goff, one of the most esteemed contemporary French historians of the Middle Ages, presents a concise investigation of the problem that usury posed for the medieval Church, which had long condemned the lending of money for interest. Le Goff describes how, as the structure of economic life inevitably began to include financial loans, the Church refashioned its theology in order to condemn the usurer not to hell but merely to purgatory. Jacques Le Goff is Director of Studies at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, and the author of *The Birth of Purgatory*. Patricia Ranum is the translator of *Afterthoughts on Material Civilization and Capitalism* by Fernand Braudel

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