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Imago Dei
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this title presents an important re examination of the byzantine iconoclasm the widespread phenomenon of destruction of images that took place in the 7th to 9th centuries ad by the leading scholar in the field

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

the ninth century chronographia of george the synkellos and theophanes is the most influential historical text ever written in medieval constantinople yet modern historians have never explained its popularity and power this interdisciplinary study draws on new manuscript evidence to finally animate the chronographia s promise to show attentive readers the present meaning of the past begun by one of the roman emperor s most trusted and powerful officials in order to justify a failed revolt the project became a shockingly ambitious re writing of time itself a synthesis of contemporary history philosophy and religious practice into a politicized retelling of the human story even through radical upheavals of the byzantine political landscape the chronographia s unique historical vision again and again compelled new readers to chase after the elusive ends of time

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

this handbook brings together the most current and hotly debated topics in studies about images today in the first part the book gives readers an historical overview and basic diachronical explanation of the term image including the ways it has been used in different periods throughout history in the second part the fundamental concepts that have to be mastered should one wish to enter into the emerging field of image studies are explained in the third part readers will find analysis of the most common subjects and topics pertaining to images in the fourth part the book explains how existing disciplines relate to image studies and how this new scholarly field may be constructed using both old and new approaches and insights the fifth chapter is dedicated to contemporary thinkers and is the first time that theses of the most prominent scholars of image studies are critically analyzed and presented in one place

this erudite history illuminates the social cultural as well as theological developments of the cross through 2000 years of its symbolic evolution library journal jesus s death on the cross posed a dilemma for saint paul and the early church fathers crucifixion was a humiliating form of execution reserved for slaves and criminals how could their messiah and savior have been subjected to such an ignominious death wrestling with this paradox they reimagined the cross as a triumphant expression of christ s sacrificial love and miraculous resurrection over time the symbol s transformation raised myriad doctrinal questions particularly about the crucifix the cross with the figure of christ and whether it should emphasize jesus s suffering or his glorification how should jesus s body be depicted alive or dead naked or dressed should it be shown at all robin jensen s wide ranging study focuses on the cross in painting and literature the quest for the true cross in jerusalem and the symbol s role in conflicts from the crusades to wars of colonial conquest the cross also reveals how jews and

muslims viewed the most sacred of all christian emblems and explains its role in public life in the west today

an indispensable resource for readers investigating how religion has influenced societies and cultures this three volume encyclopedia assesses and synthesizes the many ways in which religious faith has shaped societies from the ancient world to today each volume of the set focuses on a different era of world history ranging through the ancient medieval and modern worlds every volume is filled with essays that focus on religious themes from different geographical regions for example volume one includes essays considering religion in ancient rome while volume three features essays focused on religion in modern africa this accessible layout makes it easy for readers to learn more about the ways that religion and society have intersected over the centuries as well as specific religious trends events and milestones in a particular era and place in world history taken as a whole this ambitious and wide ranging work gathers more than 500 essays from more than 150 scholars who share their expertise and knowledge about religious faiths tenets people places and events that have influenced the development of civilization over the course of recorded human history

focusing on the ninth century beginnings of byzantine writings against the latin addition of the filioque to the creed inventing latin heretics illuminates several aspects of byzantine thought their self definition their theology their uniquely constituted state based both on what they had to say for themselves and on modern approaches to the study of group identity religious conflict and sociology of knowledge the book introduces the concept of heresiology in general defining terms summarizing a vast body of secondary scholarship and bringing the history of byzantine antiheretical texts down to the ninth century it discusses relations between latin and greek christians before and into the time of photios as well as his knowledge of latin customs the next chapters examine the transmission form and contents of the three anti filioque texts attributed to photios and other texts that exemplify what ninth century byzantines were saying about latin errors raising textual questions that cannot be ignored and ultimately providing a window onto byzantine mentalities

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 auzepy 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

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

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

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

iconoclasm the debate about the legitimacy of religious art that began in byzantium around 720 and continued for nearly one hundred and twenty years has long held a firm grip on the historical imagination this is the first book in english for over fifty years to survey this most elusive and fascinating period in medieval history it is also the first book in any language to combine the expertise of two authors who are specialists in the written archaeological and visual evidence from this period a combination of particular importance to the iconoclasm debate the authors have worked together to provide a comprehensive overview of the visual written and other materials that together help clarify the complex issues of iconoclasm in byzantium in doing so they challenge many traditional assumptions about iconoclasm and set the period firmly in its broader political cultural and social economic context

an annotated translation of the sixth session of the seventh ecumenical council nicea 787 containing the definition of the council of constantinople 754 and its refutation and the definition of the seventh ecumenical council title page

figure and likeness presents a thought provoking new account of byzantine iconoclasm the fundamental crisis in christian visual representation during the eighth and ninth centuries that defined the terms of christianity s relationship to the painted image charles barber rejects the conventional means of analyzing this crisis which seeks its origin in political and other social factors instead he argues iconoclasm is primarily a matter of theology and aesthetic theory working between the theological texts and the visual materials barber demonstrates that in challenging the validity of iconic representation iconoclasts were asking how can an image depict an incomprehensible god in response iconophile theologians gradually developed a notion of representation that distinguished the work of art from the subject it depicted as such barber concludes they were forced to move the language describing the icon beyond that of theology this pivotal step allowed these theologians of whom patriarch nikephoros and theodore of stoudios were the most important to define and defend a specifically christian art in highlighting this outcome and also in offering a full and clearly rendered account of iconoclastic notions of christian representation barber reveals that the notion of art

was indeed central to the unfolding of iconoclasm the implications of this study reach well beyond the dispute it considers barber fundamentally revises not only our understanding of byzantine art in the years succeeding the iconoclastic dispute but also of christian painting in the centuries to come

why do people attack monuments and other public objects charged with authority by the societies that produced them what do open assaults on images and artworks mean iconoclasm the principled destruction of images has recurred throughout human history as theory and practice this book contains seven historical studies of the changing causes and meanings of iconoclasm and the radical transformations in the function of images it has brought about in societies around the world from ancient egypt to islamic india and revolutionary mexico as well as medieval and reformation europe scholars of art history history and archaeology explore shifting definitions of art and the forms of representation in delineating varied forms of iconoclasm

his a w mellon lectures in the fine arts delivered in 1987

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