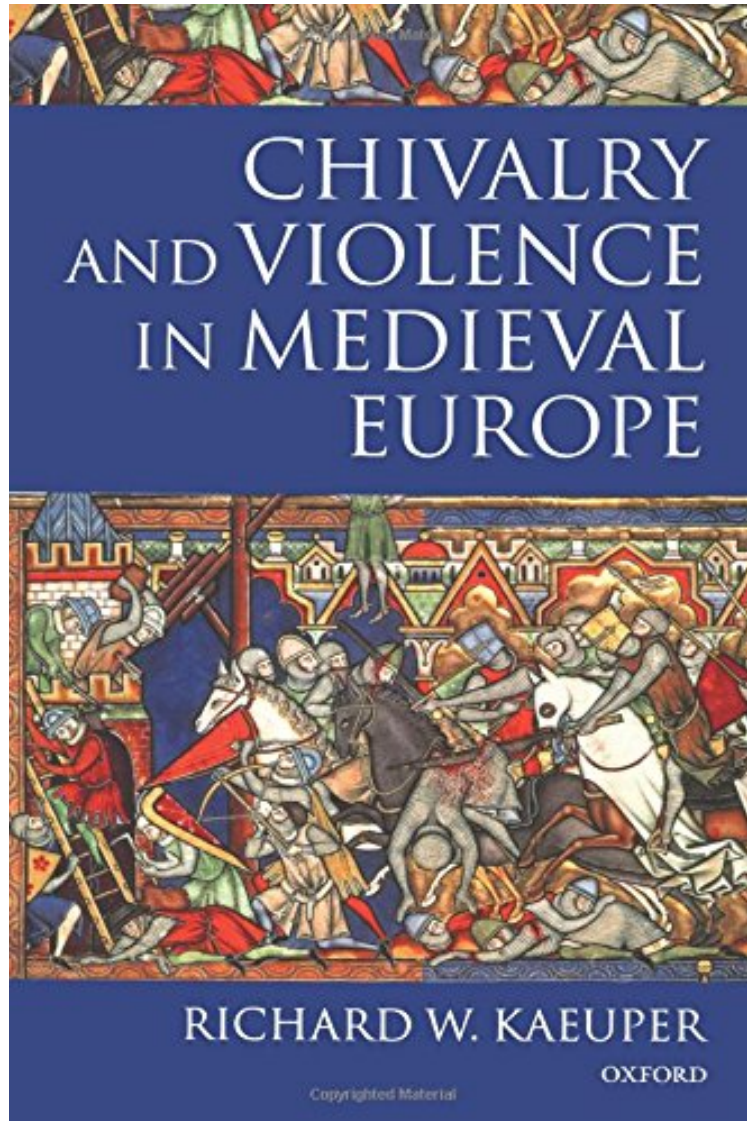


Chivalry and Violence in Medieval Europe

Richard W. Kaeuper

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#582025 in Books Richard W Kaeuper 2001-06-21 2001-06-21 Original language: English PDF # 1 5.50 x .80 x 8.70l, 1.01 #File Name: 0199244588350 pages Chivalry and Violence in Medieval Europe | File size: 50.Mb

Richard W. Kaeuper : Chivalry and Violence in Medieval Europe before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chivalry and Violence in Medieval Europe:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative, breaking through chivalric misconceptions, with a major caveat. By Insert Pen Name Here I came to this book after reading Miles/Christian Cameron's Traitor Son Cycle series. In those books Cameron has an informed understanding of medieval war tactics and armor. Knowing the books were in part a reflection of French and English medieval chivalry, I was interested in finding out more about the role

of violence in medieval Europe and this book was my first stop. Undoubtedly, Kaeuper researched his subject thoroughly. His text is pregnant with resources, many of which require knowledge of Middle English to interpret and they are used to interesting affect, as he will quote direct lines from stories and histories, whether they are from popular oral/literary stories told/read to/by knights, laymen, and kings, or more mundane information such as a French or English clerk's observance of court justice or a clergyman's opinion on the crudity of licit and illicit knightly violence. The author illuminates the relationship between royalty, nobility, knightly chivalry, and the clergy especially well. I was very interested in learning about the misgivings of the clergyman when writing about knights. They would vacillate between grudging respect for knights when they were enforcing royal law or waging legal war on enemies and disdain for knightly crudity and terror when enforcing such laws/wars, often only beholden to an individual knight's whim. This is just one example, but it illustrates how Kaeuper effectively brought to life the day to day life of these 3 classes in between 1150-1400 CE. I do, however, have one major caveat about his research that drove me to irritation frequently while reading this book. It is my opinion that Kaeuper draws too heavily from the Arthurian cycle to strengthen his arguments for certain lifestyles of the aforementioned period. While it is only possible to infer the viewpoints of the the principles discussed from a vantage of 800 years, I have misgivings about inferring the attitudes of the time period through popular Arthurian stories. At most, the Arthurian examples provide an idealized version of what knighthood and chivalry aspires to, and I can hardly believe that the majority of lay knights of that time period approached that ideal. While I can respect how the Arthurian examples that Kaeuper provides, which seemed to be about 60% of the cited texts, provide insight into how the most noble and educated (i.e. William Marshal) viewed chivalry, I would have preferred more concrete examples of the traditional knight. Kaeuper's heavy use of these texts to illustrate his arguments does not entirely convince me. At any rate, I still came away with a much better understanding of the politics and the perfusion of religion in sanctioning knightly actions with this book, I just wanted to point out some of my concerns as well. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great book By Christian G. Cameron Easily one of the most important books on chivalry of our time. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved this book By Carey Fulks This book was really helpful if you are doing a project like I was or if you are just interested in knights and how they were in real life like I am.

This original and authoritative text reveals how chivalry was part of the problem of violence in medieval Europe, not merely its solution. The ideal was to internalize restraint in knights, but a close reading of chivalric literature shows chivalry also praised heroic violence by knights. This fascinating book lays bare the conflicts and paradoxes surrounding the concept of chivalry in medieval Europe.

"Bringing together the insights of leading historians of medieval chivalry and those of literary scholars, two parallel fields whose practitioners do not always communicate as frequently or fruitfully with each other as they should, is the major contribution of Kaeuper's elegant synthesis."--*Speculum* "A vibrantly written book...Kaeuper has taken chivalry out of the knight's court and revealed its presence and importance throughout many layers of medieval society."--*Historian* About the Author Richard Kaeuper is at University of Rochester, New York State.