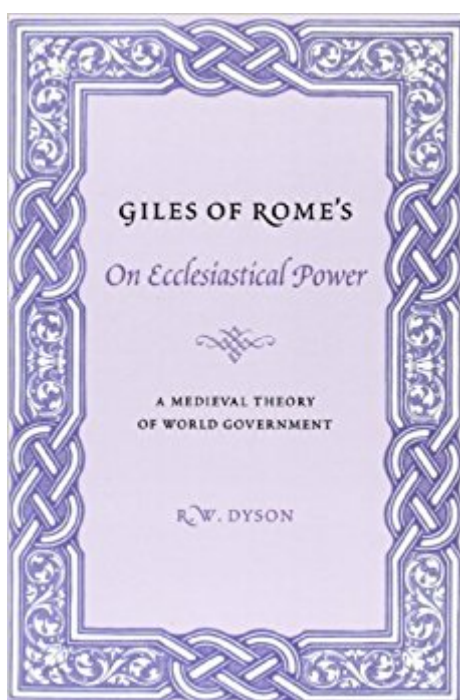


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Giles Of Rome's On Ecclesiastical Power: A Medieval Theory Of World Government (Records Of Western Civilization Series)



Synopsis

Giles of Rome was the archbishop of Bourges and a loyal champion of Pope Boniface VIII during the Franco-papal crisis of 1296–1303. *On Ecclesiastical Power* was written at the height of the conflict between Pope Boniface VIII and King Philip IV of France and represents the earliest fully articulated and philosophically developed defense of the "hierocratic" ideology of the medieval papacy. Giles's theory that all government must be legitimized by the pope was based on scriptural, philosophical, patristic, and canonical sources, and his conclusion that the pope is the rightful ruler and final judge of the world—even in secular matters—is the definitive statement on papal power in the Middle Ages. This book offers a new and complete critical edition of the Latin text, based on a collation of five fourteenth-century manuscripts. It is accompanied by a literal English translation and a detailed introduction analyzing the context and content of the treatise. The book takes into account the hitherto unconsidered Cremona manuscript of *On Ecclesiastical Power* and will be indispensable to scholars and students of the history of political thought and international relations.

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It is to be hoped that this excellent version of Giles of Rome's key work is soon to be joined by a similar critical edition. (Chris Jones Comitatus) A welcome addition to the corpus of medieval political thought in Latin and in translation. (Kenneeth Pennington *Speculum*)

This indispensable book offers a new and complete critical edition of the Latin text of Giles of Rome's *On Ecclesiastical Power*, based on a collation of five fourteenth-century manuscripts. It is accompanied by a literal English translation and a detailed introduction analyzing the context and content of the treatise.

This is an important work in political theory which students thereof would do well to acquaint themselves. This may be the best edition in English of the work available, and it is an English translation with facing Latin.

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