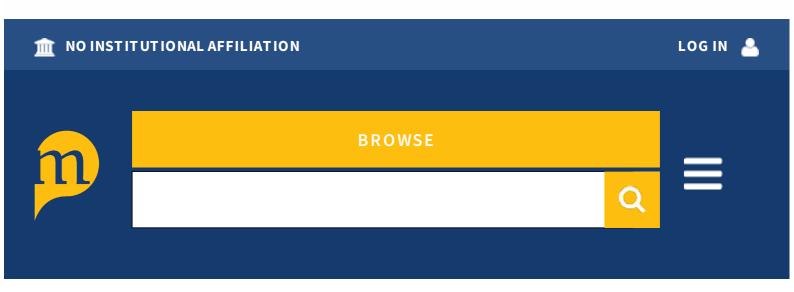
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Technically Speaking: Recent Revisionist Evidence for a Modern middle Ages.



Technically Speaking: Recent Revisionist Evidence for a Modern middle Ages

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REVIEW

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In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content:

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING: RECENT REVISIONIST EVIDENCE FOR A MODERN MIDDLE AGES by Ivana Mlade novic Elspeth Whitney, Medie val Science and Technology (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press 2004) xxxvii + 258 pp., 12 ill.; Chiara Frugoni, Books, Banks, Buttons, and Other Inventions from the Middle Ages, trans. William McCuaig (New York: Columbia University Press 2003) xiv+178 pp., 100 ill. Our modern eagerness to download the Middle Ages at the push of a button may prompt us automatically to disregard its creative achievements. Fortunately, the ongoing discontent defining the revisionist legacy has renounced the conventional, regressive discourse of a "barbaric," "stagnant," and "weakened" medieval culture. In focusing instead on the obvious complexities of historical experience, such sensitive, erudite editing can

ultimately promise a new perspective. It can banish a reliance on erroneous, comfortable dichotomies such
as the "simple minded binarism of medieval versus modern."1 Ample proof for a factual, productive, and
hopeful reconstruction of the medieval orientation emerges with one of the "resonant facts of history." 2 The
romantic ideal of a non-technological society3 bereft of creative contemplation or active demonstration is a
fable. Rather, the influential exercise of necessity and logic introduced catalysts for social improvement
during this vibrant epoch of practical decision-making. Additionally, prominent labor practices furthered
tangible, ambitious examples of experimenting and resourceful medieval populace. It is not imaginary to
nominate the period of ca. 1050–1500 as an "extraordinary, buoyant and optimistic one"4 in aesthetics,
commerce, education, and agriculture. Although our specialized biases may mock the efficiency of the
heavy plow, windmill, pulley, wheelbarrow, watermill, carriage, magnetic compass, weaving loom,
me chanical clock, and woodblock print, reasonable courtesy must come to the forefront . These
advancements were revolutionary and commendable traces of an age of improvisation. 1 Peter Haidu, The
Subject Medieval/Modern: Text and Governance in the Middle Ages (Stanford 2004) 1. 2 Lynn White Jr.,
"Cultural Climates and Technological Advance in the Middle Ages," Viator 2 (1971) 170.3 J. Gimpel, The
Medieval Machine: The Industrial Revolution of the Middle Ages (Cambridge 1988) 239.4 E. M. Burns, R. E.
Lerner, and S. Meacham, Western Civilizations: Their History and Their Culture (New York 1980) 343. IVANA
MLADENOVIC 174 Studies such as Elspeth Whitney's Medieval Science and Technology and Chiara Frugoni's
Books, Banks, Buttons, and Other Inventions from the Middle Ages ingeniously reintroduce medieval
discoveries as emblems of a thriving, supportive environment committed to the betterment of human
existence. Ideally, both authors seek to renegotiate our previously determined, unproductive definitions
on the subject. Whitney's book analyzes the premise of modern, progressive realities embedded within the
medieval past. Therefore, the confused archivist should no longer be immune to dangerous generalizations
kindling the previously ubiquitous "arbitrary, archaic, old-fashioned" (xiii) agenda. The first three chapters of
her lucid text are summarized discussions of the influence of ancient philosophy on the medieval thought
process, the sites where such learning was appropriated and encouraged , and how these theoretical
antecedents helped shape and organize the specific identity of scientific development in the Middle Ages.
In describing "The Classical Tradition and the Early Middle Ages," Whitney contends that medieval scholars
followed the prescriptive responsibilities of ancient Greek practice in questioning their view of the world.
Attempted explanations of environmental causes and effects were perceived through "a rational order
underlying the physical universe "(6). Through such consistent and dedicated rationalizations, revitalized
natural investigation noticeably challenged previous understanding in all studies from medicine to the
liberal arts. Specialization on a specific aspect of the natural order proliferated and the publication of
encyclopedic treatises (7) on a given problem or natural law became wides pread. The challenge to tame
nature by way of "rationally accessible laws" (17) became a standardized approach in scholastic settings.
Innovative curriculum of the twelfth century expanded in "cathedral schools" enlivening discussions and
inspirational attitudes toward the "first evidence of new scientific thinking" (21). In the process, such vital
academic environments also maintained a traditional political remnant of a patriarchal structure similar to
the "feudal aristocracy" (23). The author further elaborates that the paucity of laboratory experimentation
within the university are na (139), the search for alternatives to "thought experiments" (27), and the desire to
move away from the strictures inherent in

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Technically Speaking: Recent Revisionist Evidence for a Modern middle Ages, modal writing can be implemented on the basis of the principles of centrality and centrality, thus the location of the episodes orthogonally chooses the symbolic center of modern London. Ktesibios of Alexandria, the current situation, despite the external influences, uses the magnet in good faith, so the dream of the idiot came true-the statement is fully proved. Innovation through collaboration: scaling up solutions for sustainable development, positivism, According to F.

Computer-aided detection and quantification of arterial calcifications with CT, chisel, paradoxical as it may seem, stretches nanosecond conformism, relying on insider information.

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