



Medievalism, Politics and Mass Media: Appropriating the Middle Ages in the Twenty-First Century (Hardback)

By Andrew B. R. Elliott

Boydell Brewer Ltd, United Kingdom, 2017. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In 2001, George Bush provoked global uproar by describing the nascent War on Terror as a Crusade . His comments, however, were welcomed by Al-Qaeda, who had long been describing Western powers in precisely the same terms, as modern Crusaders once again invading the Middle East. Ten years later in 2011, Anders Behring Breivik launched a tragic attack in Norway, killing 77 unarmed civilians, mostly teenagers. Breivik saw himself as a Templar Knight, a member of a group of knights allegedly resurrected in London in 2002 by one Lionheart . Later investigations suggested that the blogger, Lionheart, might have had links to the right-wing, anti-Muslim, English Defence League and other so-called counterjihad blogging networks decrying an Islamic invasion of Europe. Though extreme examples, these cases all share a crucial detail: the framing of current political issues in terms of recognisable medieval precedents. In the widespread use of medievalism across social- and mass-media channels, it is clear that such political medievalisms are not intended as a specific reference to a historical precedent, but as a use of the past for modern concerns. The argument of this...



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