

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910456437103321
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Titolo	The cardinal virtues in the Middle Ages [[electronic resource]] : a study in moral thought from the fourth to the fourteenth century / / by Istvan P. Bejczy
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leiden ; ; Boston, : Brill, 2011
ISBN	1-283-16209-1 9786613162090 90-04-21013-X
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (369 p.)
Collana	Brill's studies in intellectual history, , 0920-8607 ; ; v. 202
Disciplina	241/.40940902
Soggetti	Cardinal virtues - History of doctrines Ethics, Medieval Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material / I. Bejczy -- 1. Patristic Era And Early Middle Ages (C. 400–C. 1100) / I. Bejczy -- 2. The Twelfth Century / I. Bejczy -- 3. The Thirteenth And Fourteenth Centuries / I. Bejczy -- 4. Fallen Man In Search Of Virtue / I. Bejczy -- Conclusion / I. Bejczy -- Appendix I. Some Current Classifications Of The Moral Virtues / I. Bejczy -- Appendix II. Some Unedited Medieval Texts On The Cardinal Virtues / I. Bejczy -- Bibliography / I. Bejczy -- Index Of Manuscripts / I. Bejczy -- Index Of Ancient And Medieval Authors And Major Anonymous Works / I. Bejczy.
Sommario/riassunto	Despite its non-Christian origins, the scheme of the cardinal virtues (prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance) found wide acceptance in medieval theology, philosophy, and religious literature. The present study is the first to investigate the history of the four virtues in the Latin Middle Ages from patristic times to the late fourteenth century. It examines the position of the cardinal virtues between religious and secularized conceptions of morality and attempts to reveal some distinctly Christian aspects of medieval virtue theory notwithstanding its manifest indebtedness to ancient ethics. Exploring learned and

popularizing sources alike, including much unedited material, this study covers a broad spectrum of moral debate during ten centuries of Western intellectual history.
