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Nota di contenuto Cover -- Copyright -- Contents -- Preface -- Lecture I -- The Abstract

Thesis: The Ecclesiological and Corporational Theme of Subject and Society -- Lecture II -- The Practical Thesis: The Constitutional

Significance of the Feudal Relationship and Its Bearing on the Individual

in Society -- Lecture III -- The Humanistic Thesis: The Emergence of

the Citizen -- Index -- Blank Page.

Sommario/riassunto Originally published in 1966. The Individual and Society in the Middle

Ages, based on three guest lectures given at Johns Hopkins University in 1965, explores the place of the individual in medieval European society. Looking at legal sources and political ideology of the era, Ullmann concludes that, for most of the Middle Ages, the individual was defined as a subject rather than a citizen, but the modern concept of citizenship gradually supplanted the subject model from the late Middle Ages onward. Ullmann lays out the theological basis of the political theory that cast the medieval individual as an inferior, abstract subject. The individual citizen who emerged during the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance, by contrast, was an autonomous participant in affairs

of state. Several intellectual trends made this humanistic conception of the individual possible, among them the rehabilitation of vernacular writing during the thirteenth century and the growing interest in nature, natural philosophy, and natural law. However, Ullmann points to feudalism as the single most important medieval institution that laid the groundwork for the emergence of the modern citizen.