

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910784618103321
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Titolo	Fiefs and vassals [[electronic resource]] : the medieval evidence reinterpreted // Susan Reynolds
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, NY : , : Oxford University Press, , 1994 ©1994
ISBN	1-383-01050-1 1-280-91410-6 0-19-159175-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (557 pages)
Disciplina	940.1
Soggetti	Middle Ages Feudalism
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 (p. 487-526) and index.
Nota di contenuto	1. The Problem of Feudalism. 1.1. The nature of the problem. 1.2. The historiography of feudalism. 1.3. The plan of the book -- 2. Vassalage and the Norms of Medieval Social Relations. 2.1. The concept of vassalage. 2.2. Some problems of the concept. 2.3. A substitute for the concept of vassalage: some medieval norms and values -- 3. Fiefs and Medieval Property Relations. 3.1. The concept of the fief. 3.2. Ideas of property. 3.3. A hypothesis about property law before 1100. 3.4. A hypothesis about property law after 1100 -- 4. Gaul and the Kingdom of the Franks. 4.1. The Merovingian period. 4.2. The Carolingians: vassals and benefices. 4.3. Full property under the Carolingians. 4.4. Counts and the problem of the end of the empire -- 5. The Kingdom of France, 900-1100. 5.1. The problems. 5.2. Government and political relations. 5.3. Benefices and the lands of counts and churches. 5.4. Other full property: allods and inheritances. 5.5. Fiefs -- 6. Italy. 6.1. The problems. 6.2. Before 774: the Lombard kingdom. 6.3. Political relations and government from 774 to the twelfth century. 6.4. Benefices and fiefs, 774-1037. 6.5. Benefices and fiefs, 1037 to the early twelfth century. 6.6. Full property from 774 to the twelfth century. 6.7. The eleventh-century papacy: fiefs and oaths of fidelity. 6.8. The

beginning of academic law. 6.9. Politics and the new law in the twelfth century. 6.10. The Norman south. 6.11. Professional law and government -- 7. The Kingdom of France, 1100-1300. 7.1. The transition to professional law and government. 7.2. Words and concepts: the twelfth century. 7.3. Words and concepts: the thirteenth century. 7.4. Words and concepts: the feudal hierarchy. 7.5. The rights and obligations of property -- 8. England. 8.1. The problems. 8.2. Before the mid tenth century. 8.3. From the mid tenth century to 1066. 8.4. The Norman Conquest. 8.5. Words and concepts, 1100-1300. 8.6. The obligations of property, 1100-1300. 8.7. The rights of property, 1100-1300. 8.8. English law and feudal law -- 9. The Kingdom of Germany. 9.1. The problems. 9.2. Before 911. 9.3. Government and jurisdiction from 911 to the early twelfth century. 9.4. Full property from 911 to the early twelfth century. 9.5. Benefices and fiefs from 911 to the early twelfth century. 9.6. Words, concepts, and law: the twelfth century. 9.7. Words, concepts, and law: the thirteenth century. 9.8. The rights and obligations of property, 1100-1300 -- 10. Conclusion -- Appendix: Early treatises on the law of fiefs.

Sommario/riassunto

Fiefs and Vassals is a book that will change our view of the medieval world. Offering a fundamental challenge to orthodox conceptions of feudalism, Susan Reynolds argues that the concepts of fiefs and vassalage that have been central to the understanding of medieval society for hundreds of years are in fact based on a misunderstanding of the primary sources. Reynolds demonstrates convincingly that the ideas of fiefs and vassalage as currently understood, far from being the central structural elements of medieval social and economic relations, are a conceptual lens through which historians have focused the details of medieval life. This lens, according to Reynolds, distorts more than it clarifies. With the lens removed, the realities of medieval life will have the chance to appear as they really are: more various, more individual, more complex, and perhaps richer than has previously been supposed. This is a radical new examination of social relations within the noble class and between lords and their vassals, the distillation of wide-ranging research by a leading medieval historian. It will revolutionize the way we think of the Middle Ages.
