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In *Debating the Stars*, Ovanes Akopyan sheds new light on the
astrological controversies that arose in the late fifteenth and early
sixteenth centuries after the publication of Giovanni Pico della
Mirandola's *Disputationes adversus astrologiam divinatricem* (1496).
This treatise has often been held responsible for a contemporary
reassessment of the status of astrology, a discipline that attracted
widespread fascination in the Renaissance. Akopyan's reconstruction of
the development of Pico's views demonstrates that the *Disputationes*
was a continuation of rather than a drastic rupture with the rest of his
legacy. By investigating the philosophical and humanist foundations for
Pico's attack on astrological predictions, Akopyan challenges the
popular assumption that the treatise was written under Girolamo
Savonarola's spell. He shows instead how it was appropriated
ideologically by pro-Savonarolan circles after Pico's death. This book
also offers a comprehensive study of the immediate reception of the
Disputationes across Italy and Europe and reveals that the debates
initiated by Pico's intervention pervaded all of the European intellectual
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