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Altri autori (Persone) ClassenAlbrecht

MargolisNadia <1949->

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Nota di contenuto Theoretical and historical reflections -- Literary case studies --

> Criticism of war in medieval literature -- Historical voices against war and pragmatic aspects of war -- Attempts to establish peace and to reach out for toleration or tolerance -- Severe criticism of war --

Philosophical reflections upon war -- Research on war and peace in the middle ages and the early modern time -- Intellectuals' protest of and analysis of war -- Critical summaries of the contributions.

Sommario/riassunto The contributors to the present volume examine, from a wide variety of

perspectives, the issues of war and peace in the Middle Ages and early modern time, probing the direction of the relevant discourse regarding the legitimacy and justification of military operations. Because man is a deeply aggressive and greedy creature, wars have been waged

throughout times. Nevertheless, we can identify many voices in

medieval literature, theology, philosophy, and in chronicle literature that questioned the validity and effectiveness of war, while many others argued for the traditional knightly ideals or called for crusades against the infidels. Those heroes who defend a people against an evil threat enjoyed profound respect, but there were also those figures calling for peace and the end of all fighting. As this volume demonstrates, war and peace have fundamentally determined medieval and early modern culture.