

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910818586603321
Titolo	Identity in the middle ages : approaches from Southwestern Europe. // edited by Flocel Sabate
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Leeds : , : Arc Humanities Press, , [2021] ©2021
ISBN	1-64189-258-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 451 pages) : digital, PDF file(s)
Collana	Book collections on Project MUSE
Disciplina	305
Soggetti	Group identity Group identity - Europe
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Title from publisher's bibliographic system (viewed on 20 Jan 2022).
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Sommario/riassunto

This book places identity at the centre of a project to better understand medieval society. By exploring the multiplicity of personal identities, the ways in which these were expressed within particular social structures (such as feudalism), and their evolution into formal expressions of collective identity (municipalities, guilds, nations, and so on), we can shed new light on the Middle Ages. A specific legacy of such developments was that by the end of the Middle Ages, a sense of national identity, supported by the late medieval socio-economic structure, backed in law and by theological, philosophical, and political thought, defined society. What is more, social structures coalesced across diverse elements, including language, group solidarities, and a set of assumed values.
