1. Record Nr. UNISA996354143503316

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Titolo Cultures of Eschatology: Volume 1: Empires and Scriptural Authorities

in Medieval Christian, Islamic and Buddhist Communities. Volume 2: Time, Death and Afterlife in Medieval Christian, Islamic and Buddhist Communities / / Veronika Wieser, Vincent Eltschinger, Johann Heiss

Pubbl/distr/stampa Berlin/Boston, : De Gruyter, 2020

München; ; Wien:,: De Gruyter Oldenbourg,, [2020]

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ISBN 3-11-059358-0

3-11-059774-8

Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (XXX, 834 p.)

Collana Cultural History of Apocalyptic Thought / Kulturgeschichte der

Apokalypse;;3

Soggetti HISTORY / General

Cross-cultural studies.

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Description based upon print version of record.

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Sommario/riassunto

In all religions, in the medieval West as in the East, ideas about the past, the present and the future were shaped by expectations related to the End. The volumes Cultures of Eschatology explore the many ways apocalyptic thought and visions of the end intersected with the development of pre-modern religio-political communities, with social changes and with the emergence of new intellectual and literary traditions. The two volumes present a wide variety of case studies from the early Christian communities of Antiquity, through the times of the Islamic invasion and the Crusades and up to modern receptions, from the Latin West to the Byzantine Empire, from South Yemen to the Hidden Lands of Tibetan Buddhism. Examining apocalypticism, messianism and eschatology in medieval Christian, Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist communities, the contributions paint a multi-faceted picture of End-Time scenarios and provide their readers with a broad array of source material from different historical contexts. The first volume, Empires and Scriptural Authorities, examines the formation of literary and visual apocalyptic traditions, and the role they played as vehicles

for defining a community's religious and political enemies. The second volume, Time, Death and Afterlife, focuses on key topics of eschatology: death, judgment, afterlife and the perception of time and its end. It also analyses modern readings and interpretations of eschatological concepts.