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A Political Interpretation

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Medieval Germany 500–1300

A Political Interpretation

BENJAMIN ARNOLD

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To the memory of my teachers of medieval history

Karl Leyser

Bruce McFarlane

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Preface and Acknowledgements

The purpose of this book is to promote a clearer understanding of politics in medieval Germany, which is so often remarked upon as different in its political structure from the other kingdoms in medieval Europe. There is no continuous narrative of political history, but guidance on three central features which were politically interactive: the peoples or *gentes* of medieval Germany and their enduring diversity; the neo-Roman western Empire adopted by the Franks and the Germans, and its impact; and the consequences of German kingship with its various institutional arrangements.

The notes and bibliography are deliberately short, and represent only a fraction of works and sources consulted over the years.

BENJAMIN ARNOLD

Reading, England
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