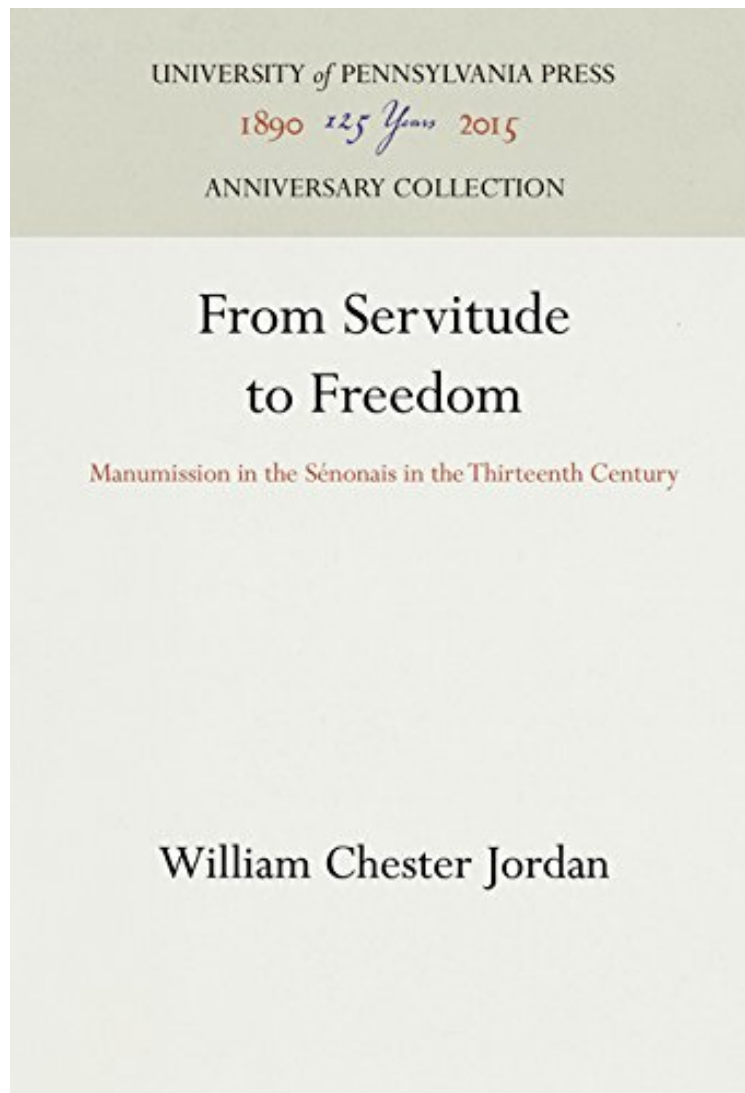


[Ebook pdf] From Servitude to Freedom: Manumission in the Senonais in the Thirteenth Century (The Middle Ages Series)

From Servitude to Freedom: Manumission in the Senonais in the Thirteenth Century (The Middle Ages Series)

William Chester Jordan

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During the thirteenth century, many great French nobles and churchmen who possessed serfs decided to grant freedom to them or at least to remove some of their disabilities. Manumission that granting of freedom-was of major significance to medieval French society. William Chester Jordan studies the causes and consequences of the movement toward manumission by looking at the region around Sens in northern France. He supplements this regional approach with an intensive case study of the freeing of a group of serfs by the abbey of Saint-Pierre-le-Vif of Sens. Using various scholarly methods for investigating regional communities, Jordan examines the numerous and complex reasons for the granting of freedom and, insofar as possible, the attitudes and hopes of those freed. He discusses in detail the sociological aspects of the manumission process and the profound uncertainties associated with it, and he explores the effects of manumission-particularly the economic effects. His conclusions are based not only on the evidence gathered from Sens, but also on extensive comparisons with other regions in northern France and in England. *From Servitude to Freedom* makes a significant contribution to the history of the European peasantry in the thirteenth century. It will be of value to scholars interested in medieval history, French history, and social history.