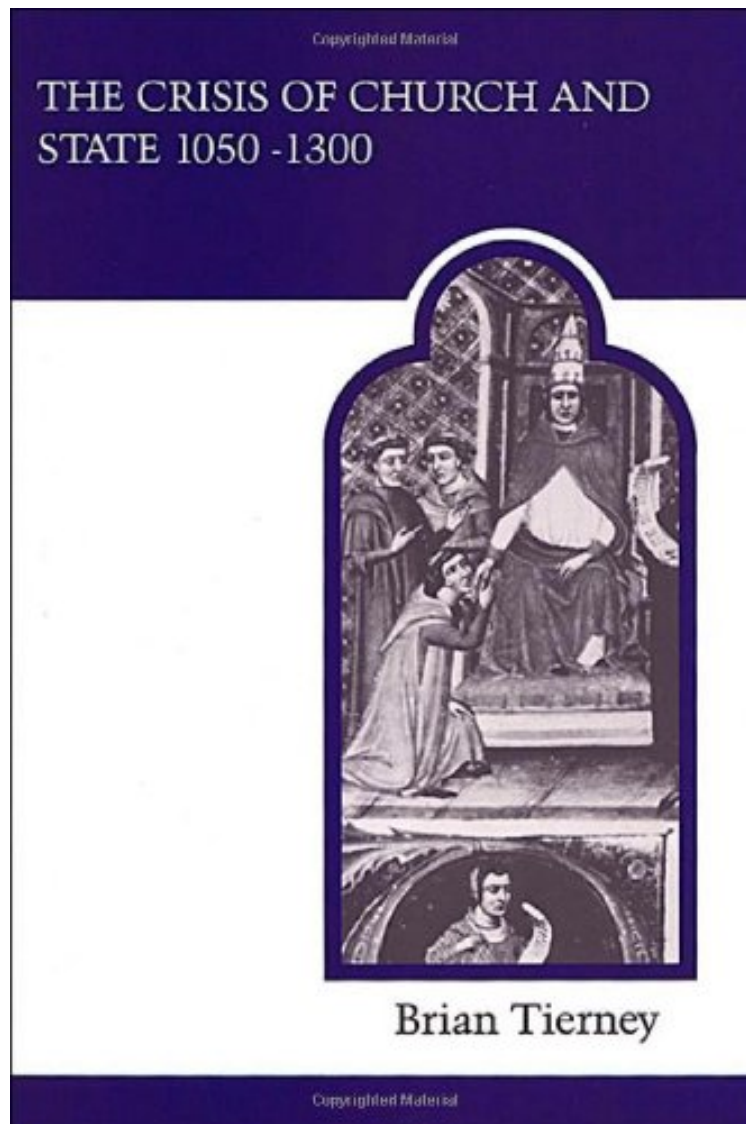


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The Crisis of Church and State: 1050-1300, with selected documents (Medieval Academy Reprints for Teaching, 21)

Brian Tierney

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Brian Tierney : The Crisis of Church and State: 1050-1300, with selected documents (Medieval Academy Reprints for Teaching, 21) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Crisis of Church and State: 1050-1300, with selected documents (Medieval Academy Reprints for Teaching, 21):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A reliable classic
By jmartin
A reliable classic. Judicious choice and editing of primary texts. Fine, intelligible introductions to the various chapters, showing how ultra-papalism and ultra-statists finally synthesized into constitutional law, Anglo-Saxon and Continental. On p. 139, Frederick II of the Holy Roman Empire as predecessor of the Reformation, taking power away from Rome to German princes. On p. 195, Pierre Dubois, anti-clericalist, advocated disappropriating Church property, forerunner of French Revolution.
31 of 32 people found the following review helpful. A Careful Examination of the Medieval Catholic Church vs. The Authority of the Secular Rulers
By James E. Ego
Brian Tierney's THE CRISIS OF CHURCH AND STATE: 1050-1300 is an interesting study of the struggle between European secular rulers and the Catholic authorities for control of the "Universal Church" (the Catholic Church). This struggle was basically a political affair in which men on both sides added religious arguments to bolster their case. This is not to say that some of these men were not motivated by religion. Readers should realize that contemporary definitions of separation of church and state did not exist in the Middle Ages. There were divisions, but these were narrowly defined. However, due to these struggles the Catholic authorities were gradually able to free themselves from secular control which was the beginning of separation of church and state. Tierney begins this study with early Catholic sources defining the relationship between political authority and the status of Catholics. He cites St. Augustine's (346-420 AD) THE CITY OF GOD in which St. Augustine considers state authority as a necessary evil due to Man's sinful nature. Tierney's explanation and comments are clear and accurate. Tierney next examines the internal control of the Catholic Church. One should note that until the 11th. century (the years between 1001 to 1100) that men who controlled monasteries held considerable prestige and power. The fact is that land represented both wealth and power, and the monasteries had control of large land areas. One of the internal Catholic Church questions was that of reform and the relationship between the secular clergy and regular clergy. Abbots and monks were known as regular clergy because they followed a monastic rule such as the Benedictine Rule for example. Another internal dispute that Tierney effectively explains is that of reform of both the secular and regular clergy. Catholic authorities have never concealed problems and scandals. The question was who should be in charge of such reform. The monks claimed this was their responsibility. Secular rulers claimed reform was their responsibility. The Popes and the Curia claimed this was their responsibility. Tierney adds that members of Church councils should take control which irritated the Popes and Curia who saw such councils as intruding on the authority of the Pope. However, the most significant conflict was the Investiture Controversy between the German ruler Henry IV (1056-1106) and Pope Gregory VII (1073-1085). Tierney explains that in 1057, the Papal Curia initiated the Papal Election Decree to remove the German rulers and other secular rulers from imposing their own candidates to the Papacy. The Investiture Controversy involved the authority of appointing bishops to their dioceses. Many of the German bishops had been appointed by the German rulers, and these bishops' loyalty between secular rulers and the Church was at best questionable. Gregory VII tried to put an end to this problem by challenging Henry IV's authority on this issue. The results were turbulent and at times violent. There were excommunications, military campaigns, the looting of Rome by the Normans, etc. One result was known as the Papal Revolution. These conflicts between Catholic authorities and the Germans ended with the reign of Frederick II (1211-1250). Readers should note and Tierney explains the Frederick II succeeded Frederick Barbarossa (1152-1190). This conflict ruined the German Empire temporarily and enhanced the Papacy and status of the Catholic Church. Readers should examine Tierney's comments and the sources he cites to have a good grasp of these conflicts. Tierney also does a good job in explaining the bitter conflict between the French King Phillip (1285-1314) and Pope Boniface VIII (1294-1305) which inflicted an almost fatal blow to the Catholic Church. This section of the book is perhaps the best section. Tierney's use of sources and introductory remarks are very well done. Tierney also examines the Canon Law jurists and Scholastic philosophers. Of particular note is the thinking of St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274). St. Thomas showed a marked difference with St. Augustine. Aquinas' view of the political authority was to protect men and women rather than a necessary evil due to their sinful nature. In regards to the Canon Law, Aquinas argued that the Canon Law was to give each man his due. One can note the change here. This reviewer recommends this book. Tierney's introductory essays are informative and well written. His choice of sources is good. One should note Tierney's work on the Middle Ages is among the best this reviewer has read. A good companion volume is Berman's LAW AND REVOLUTION.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very interesting!
By Lily
Bought it for a class at Pitt on medieval law and government; very interesting, good summaries that help the reader place the primary materials in context. If you read it, you will learn a lot! I haven't ever reviewed a textbook, but this one is truly outstanding.

A clear narrative that presents and interprets the major documents of the centuries-long struggle between kings and popes of medieval Europe over the separation of church and state. Few controversies have so indelibly influenced the course of western civilization. A reprint of the 1980 paperback reprint, originally published by Prentice-Hall in 1964.

About the Author
Brian Tierney is Professor of Medieval History at Cornell University.