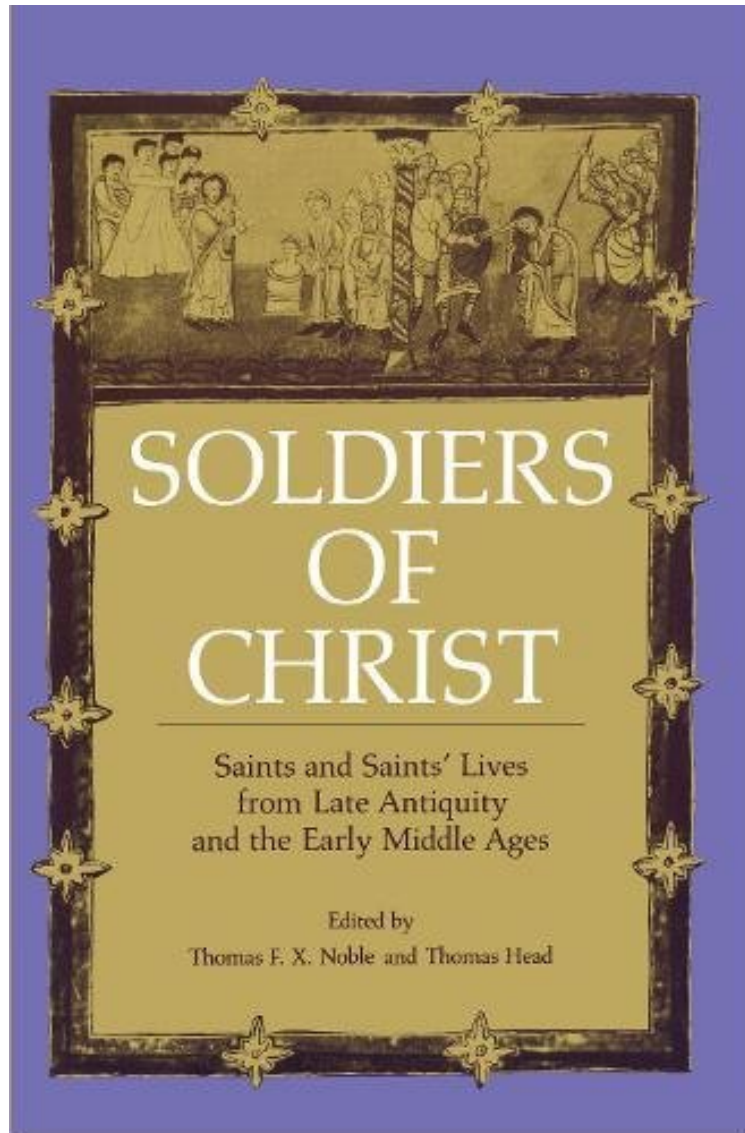


[Download] Soldiers of Christ: Saints and Saints Lives from Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

# Soldiers of Christ: Saints and Saints Lives from Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

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**From Penn State University Press : Soldiers of Christ: Saints and Saints Lives from Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Soldiers of Christ: Saints and Saints Lives from Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Very valuable collectionBy Jonathan B. CouserSince the only review so far clearly misunderstood the book, something more even-handed; this is not a book to advocate any

religious position at all, and it's not the editors' fault if the reader failed to figure that out. What this is, is a very useful collection of some of the major saints' lives from late antiquity and early medieval Europe in English translation. As such, it's very useful to those interested in studying the history and culture of the period. There are two minor drawbacks to the collection. One is that it is rarely clear exactly why these particular saints' lives were chosen and others were excluded. The collection is heavily slanted toward Franks and Anglo-Saxons (on the continent), with hardly any representation from Spain, Italy, etc. Columbanus and the Iro-Frankish saints of the 7th century are entirely absent; we skip from Germanus of Auxerre (5th century) to St. Boniface of Mainz (8th century), but then get a number of the "Willies and Wynnies" of Boniface's world. Women are also absent except for St. Leoba (fortunately, MacNamara's *Sainted Women of the Dark Ages* fills that gap admirably). The other is that the collection is not a set of fresh modern translations by the editors, but a collection of older translations by the likes of F.R. Hoare and C.H. Talbot. This is not necessarily a bad thing in itself, but new translations of the texts in question would be a useful thing, as the existing ones have their problems. Talbot was keen to document an Anglo-Saxon missionary program, for instance, and consistently uses phrases like "missionary work" where the original Latin has no such phrase (the original usually would be more accurately rendered "the labor of preaching" or something similar). Nevertheless, this remains a very useful collection to make early medieval texts available to modern students and enthusiasts.

0 of 51 people found the following review helpful. Interesting resource book

By Kindle Customer

The only value I can give as theologian to this book is the worldview of this missionaries of the middle ages that lived in a society that was more savage than christian. The rest is pure fiction to try to convince the medieval readers to accept the worship of certain people as "saints". The Biblical concept of holiness is that all baptized and real christians are saints for God, because they all are in Christ. There is nothing extra-ordinary in this. Now, the concept of the writers of this book is different, is that these were abnormal people, holy since conception, born special and meritorious of devotion (worship). As an evangelical christian I will recommend you better the biographies of Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, John Wesley, Spurgeon, Billy Graham, etc...

*Soldiers of Christ* brings together for the first time in one volume eleven critical writings about the saints from Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. To understand European culture and society in the Middle Ages it is essential to understand the role of Christianity. And there is no better way to understand that role than to study that religion's greatest human heroes, the saints. For if Christians regarded God as their king, then the saints were the Christian nobility, human members of the divine court. To use one much-repeated phrase, they served as "soldiers of Christ." The purpose of this volume is to present in English translation some of the most significant records of the lives of those people considered to be saints. In exploring these works the reader will be presented with rich evidence about the development of religion and society in western Europe from the late Roman empire to the great changes that transformed European society around the year 1000. Each text is newly annotated and prefaced by the editors, and a general introduction on saints and saints' lives makes the volume ideal for students and general readers. Included are lives of Martin of Tours, Augustine of Hippo, Germanus of Auxerre, Boniface of Crediton, Sturm, Willibrord, Benedict of Aniane, Leoba, Willehad of Northumbria, and Gerald of Aurillac, as well as the *Hodoeporicon* of Saint Willibald.

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About the Author

Thomas F. X. Noble is Associate Professor of History at the University of Virginia and the author of *The Republic of St. Peter: The Birth of the Papal State, 680-825* (1984). Thomas Head is Assistant Professor of History at Washington University in St. Louis and the author of *Hagiography and the Cult of the Saints: The Diocese of Orleans, 800-1200* (1990).