SUMMARIES

LATIN CHRISTIANITY AROUND THE YEAR 1000

Manfred Gerwing

This study defines the situation of Latin Christianity around the year 1000 as a point in a historic process which contributed greatly to a medieval world that was differentiated, never uniform, but nevertheless characterised by numerous common phenomena. This complex and complicated development proceeded in stages, which may be observed, albeit with a delay of some 100 years in between, in central areas as well as at the periphery; with the outcome, around the beginning of the second millennium, being an eventual stabilisation of what we even today, a thousand years since, regard as the big family of European nations. In the first subphase, which finally became the first universal phase, new nations had come to the fore: Celts, Germans, and Slavs, influenced by Rome and Byzantium. Only in comprehensive, universal entities, formed as a result of quite lengthy developments and consolidated around the year 1000, could the political, historical, religious, intellectual, artistic, cultural, and social life with its habits, custom and morals link up to become Latin Christianity. The common European identity thus developed is vital even today - in a strange mix of contrast and continuity.