

Christian Europe and Pagan Antiquity

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Latin medieval learning was built on the grand edifice of ancient culture. Yet the scholars of the Middle Ages had to confront, or else find their way around, one central problem: the principal authorities when it came to ancient wisdom and letters were all Pagans, whereas the medieval culture that followed it was resolutely Christian. The lecture describes some medieval approaches in tackling this challenge; in the process, it questions the extent to which the ancient tradition can be said to belong to Europe alone.