

Community and Authority in the Medieval West, c. 476-1400

The Enduring Questions

What is the origin of civil society?

What is the purpose of civil society?

How is civil authority legitimized?

When is it permissible to challenge civil authority?

1. The Roman legacy
2. Medieval geopolitics, c. 500
3. Christianity on its own, c. 500
4. Descending Church authority
5. Ascending Germanic authority
6. The clash of Church and state
7. The emergence of the sovereign state