

Preface

When I started working on the *Decretum Gratiani*, I intended to study the Magister's ecclesiology and to compare his ideas with those of his contemporaries. As the study progressed, I began to see striking similarities between Gratian's work and other works I was reading. When I delved into the political history of the period in which the *Decretum* was written, I saw the connections between Gratian and his contemporaries more clearly than I had before. My studies on the *Decretum* have shown that his generation of intellectuals—including Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, Peter the Venerable, Gerhoh of Reichersberg, and other well-known writers—was deeply involved in ecclesiastical politics and that the political situation had a profound effect on their thought.

The result of this development of my original theme is that two normally separate areas of medieval historical scholarship have been brought together in this book. The intellectual history of the twelfth century, especially that part of it dealing with political and legal thought, has been united with the political history of the period. The contribution that I have tried to make to political history demonstrates clearly what all historians should always keep in mind: Politics and political thought are often intimately connected and study of both subjects is necessary if a satisfactory picture of political history is to be constructed.

As in all projects like this one, I owe thanks to many people for aid and encouragement, and it gives me great pleasure to mention at least some of them here. First, I want to thank Professor Brian Tierney of Cornell University who first interested me in medieval history and

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then took on the task of making me a historian. He has seen many drafts of this work and offered innumerable suggestions for its improvement. His help is deeply appreciated. Second, much of the research that went into this book was done during the fourteen months I spent at the University of Tübingen, Germany. I want to thank the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung for enabling me to go to Tübingen through a generous fellowship. While at Tübingen, I worked with Professor Horst Fuhrmann who gave me a great deal of help in the course of my research. He also read and commented upon a part of the original draft of my work, and his comments were very helpful. Third, Professor Donald Kagan of Yale University and Professor Steven Muller of Cornell, who were on my doctoral committee, have made suggestions for which I am grateful. Fourth, I want to thank two typists, Mrs. Louise Massicci and Mrs. Eunice Konold, who did excellent work notwithstanding the obstacles presented by a text and footnotes in several languages. Finally, in mentioning my wife, Peggy, I can only indicate the enormous debt that I owe her. She has been not only my steady support while I labored with Gratian and his friends but also my best critic and editor.

I have undertaken a broad subject touching on several branches of medieval intellectual and political history. There are bound to be lacunae and errors in such a work, and I of course take full responsibility for them.