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Abstracts

GIGLIOLA SOLDI RONDININI, *Colpi di Stato nel Medioevo? Un'ipotesi di ricerca*

The aim of this essay is to verify whether the characteristic features of a 'coup d'État' can possibly be detected in some of the events which in the Middle Age brought down a government or caused the removal of a ruler. On this point the essay takes into consideration above all the medieval institutions – from state-cities to principalities – and their evolution through the centuries in order to understand whether the idea of 'state' was the same as it is nowadays.

Both the historiography of the past and the interpretations offered by contemporary historical studies have been used as reliable sources, together with the support of sociology. The essay also analyses the concept of 'civil society', 'political society' and 'power', which are typical of the modern world.

The second section of the essay present several examples of 'coup d'État' according to the interpretations given by the various authors included in the volume *Coup d'État à la fin du Moyen Age. Aux fondements du pouvoir politique en Europe occidentale* (Casa de Velasquez, 16, 2005), these authors belong to different European countries.

In the third section events which the author of the essay analyses three events which took place in northern Italy – precisely in the seignory and later dukedom of the Viscontis-Sforzas during the XIIIth-XVth centuries – and which, in her opinion, could be regarded as coups d'État, although historians have never considered two of his events from this point of view.