

Nuova Rivista Storica

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Abstracts

ALESSANDRO GUERRA, *Il «labirinto tenebroso»*. Appunti per una storia del concetto di Medioevo alla fine del XVIII secolo

The reference to the Middle Age was a polemical plea in religious controversy at the end of XVIIIth century. The medieval paradigm was used by those who wanted to demonstrate the supremacy of Papacy upon Roman Church, still incorrupt from sin and division; but was also used from those who referred to Jansenius and saw in the Middle Age the decline of the perfection of the early Church. This reference model, had in Charles the Great and Gregory VII two key figures, for understanding the ambivalence of the use of medieval symbolism. Only with the came of the French Revolution and its new political dimension of the public discussion, this controversy became useless and empty.