

Nuova Rivista Storica

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Abstracts

ARIANNA BONNINI, Le donne violate. Lo stupro nell'Italia longobarda (secoli VI-XI)

This paper aims to reconstruct the perception and the ways to combat the crime of rape against women in Lombard society in its various implications, moving from the codified laws to verify their application in legal practice as demonstrated by the documents. Rape of a *mulier libera* seems to have been understood as a crime against a woman, her family group (or its *mundwaldus*, the man who publicly defended and represented her) and the society as a whole, that was damaged by any feuds ignited by the parts involved. In order to deter potential aggressors and to avert the danger of public disorder, the laws on the matter were very hard, requiring the violator to pay a very high settlement, half of which would go to the woman as compensation, also if a following matrimonial agreement was reached. Failure to deliver on the heavy sum involved the enslavement of guilty to the family hit by «iniuria». If the victim of sexual violence had been a slave woman, the offender would pay a settlement of relatively small amount, aim to repay her owner of the damage done to his property.