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Abstracts

LEARDO MASCANZONI, Ravenna e Ferrara nel XII secolo: due Comuni davvero «latenti» e «casuali»?

Drawing inspiration from a recent book of Chris Wickham about the rise of medieval Italian Comuni, the aim of this essay is to specify some important elements about the rise of the Comuni of Ravenna and Ferrara, which definitely predate the age supposed by Wickham. While in the English medievalist's opinion the Comuni of Ravenna and Ferrara appear only in the second half of the twelfth century, this essay, based on fundamental Augusto Vasina's and Antonio Pini's studies nowadays probably forgotten, shows that the rise of the communal movements in Ravenna and Ferrara is situated in the early years of the Twelfth Century.

These Comuni were certainly weak and subjects to the ecclesiastical archbishop's and bishop's power but however existed in their community authorities. For Ravenna and Ferrara, towns part of the ancient Exarchate of Ravenna, the year 1100 was probably decisive, because deep instability occurred in the traditional political and institutional system; these events led to the search for new structures in the conduct of public affairs.

Keywords:

Ravenna and Ferrara

Communal Movements

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