



Origins of the European Economy: Communications and Commerce AD 300–900

By Michael McCormick

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For fifty years debate has raged about early European commerce during the period between antiquity and the middle ages. Was there trade? If so, in what - and with whom? New evidence and new ways of looking at old evidence are now breaking the stalemate. Analysis of communications - the movements of people, ideas and things - is transforming our vision of Europe and the Mediterranean in the age of Charlemagne and Harun al Rashid. This is the first comprehensive analysis of the economic transition during this period for over sixty years. Using new materials and new methodology, it will attract all social and economic historians of antiquity and the middle ages, and anyone concerned with the origins of Europe, the history of the slave trade, medicine and disease, cross-cultural contacts, and the Muslim and Byzantine worlds.

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Origins of the European Economy: Communications and Commerce AD 300–900 By Michael McCormick Bibliography

- Rank: #2122388 in eBooks
- Published on: 2002-01-17
- Released on: 2002-01-17
- Format: Kindle eBook



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Review

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"McCormick's book is a masterpiece of craft ... McCormick, like Bloch and Pirenne, is writing a different kind of economic history: 'economic history as cultural history' ... McCormick has carried the best work of the early twentieth century on into the twenty-first - not just by adding more lanes, but by carving out a whole new route." **The New Republic**

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