Communes and Despots in Medieval and Renaissance Italy

Edited by
John E. Law and Bernadette Paton

ASHGATE
# Contents

## List of Illustrations
ix

## List of Maps
xiii

## Introduction
xv

## Note on Cover
xix

### Part I: Communes and Despots

1. Communes and Despots: The City State in Late-Medieval Italy  
   *P.J. Jones*  
   3

### Part II: Power and Restraint

2. The Use of Sortition in Appointments in the Italian Communes  
   *Daniel Waley*  
   27

3. Magnate Violence Revisited  
   *Carol Lansing*  
   35

### Part III: Political Thought: Theory and Practice

4. Communes and Despots: Some Italian and Transalpine Political Thinkers  
   *Robert Black*  
   49

5. The Myth of the Renaissance Despot  
   *Benjamin G. Kohl*  
   61

6. Conflicting Attitudes towards Machiavelli’s Works in Sixteenth-Century Spain, Rome and Florence  
   *Humfrey C. Butters*  
   75
Part IV: Communes and Despots: Some Case Studies

7 From Commune to Regional State: Political Experiments in Fourteenth Century Cremona
   Marco Gentile

8 The Gonzaga Signoria, Communal Institutions and ‘the Honour of the City’: Mixed Ideas in Quattrocento Mantua
   David S. Chambers

9 Giangaleazzo Visconti and the Ducal Title
   Jane Black

10 ‘Whatever’s Best Administered is Best’: Paolo Guinigi signore of Lucca, 1400–1430
    Christine Meek

11 The Mouse and the Elephant: Relations between the Kings of Naples and the Lordship of Piombino in the Fifteenth Century
    David Abulafia

12 Communes and Despots: The Nature of ‘Diarchy’
    John E. Law

13 Concepts of Libertà in Renaissance Genoa
    Christine Shaw

Part V: The Case of the Medici

14 Prato and Lorenzo de’ Medici
    F.W. Kent

15 The Early Years of Piero di Lorenzo, 1472–1492: Between Florentine Citizen and Medici Prince
    Alison Brown

16 Muddying the Waters: Alonsina Orsini de’ Medici and the Lake of Fucecchio
    Catherine Kovesi

17 The Medici Dukes, Comandati and Pratolino: Forced Labour in Renaissance Florence
    Suzanne B. Butters
## Part VI: Culture, Art, and Patronage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Giovanni Bellini and the Background to Venetian Painting</td>
<td>George Holmes</td>
<td>281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Communes, Despots and Universities: Structures and Trends of Italian Studi to 1500</td>
<td>Peter Denley</td>
<td>295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Aedificia iam in regales surgunt altitudines: The Mendicant Great Church in the Trecento</td>
<td>Julian Gardner</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Epilogue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>‘Communes and Despots’: The Opening Paragraph</td>
<td>Trevor Dean</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>343</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>