THE HOLY WAR
Edited by Thomas Patrick Murphy

The Holy War

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The annual Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Studies sponsored by the Ohio State University's Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies is designed to make distinguished scholars in the subject under consideration available to the faculty and students of the university and surrounding schools as well as to interested members of the community. A scholar speaking at the conference accepts the task of preparing a paper of sufficient complexity to be important in its field, while remaining accessible to nonspecialists. The papers in this volume grow out of that spirit and thus serve, in varying degrees, as both introductions to the facts and issues of medieval holy warfare and significant statements about it.

The Center wished to preserve this conference in the form of a published set of essays for two reasons. First, since the conference was an effort to focus different academic disciplines on a single problem with far-reaching implications within the medieval and Renaissance world, the papers are truly interdisciplinary. But the implications are not restricted to the past as a kind of closed system, and the second reason for publishing the proceedings lies in the importance of the effort made in the conference, particularly in the panel discussion at the end of this volume, to understand
what the study of medieval holy war can tell us about war in our own times, not on the basis of superficial analogues, but only after a considered analysis of the past.

One conclusion that the conference clearly establishes is the strong connection between the intellectual climate of a culture and the likelihood of its waging a holy war. This book, therefore, is ultimately more than a work about holy war; it is a factor in our movement toward or, more hopefully, away from future holy war.

I wish to thank Stanley J. Kahrl and the Advisory Committee of the Center for giving me the opportunity to edit these proceedings. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the assistance given me by Joseph Lynch and Michael Zwettler, the excellent typing of Shari Harrison, and the extensive help of Madalene Axford Murphy.

T. P. M.