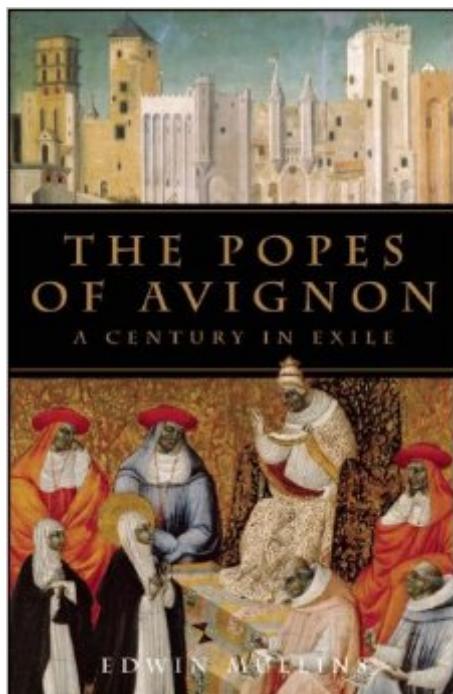


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The Popes Of Avignon: A Century In Exile



Synopsis

This narrative history masterfully weaves together the sweeping events surrounding the so-called "Babylonian captivity" of the popes into the broader story of 14th-century Europe, a turbulent time of transition between Middle Ages and Renaissance when seven successive popes resided in Avignon in the south of France.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A Century In Exile" is the subtitle of this book yet it sums up its contents very well. In actuality the 'exile' was not only self imposed yet closer to 70 years than 100, with a move back to Rome in the latter years of the Avignon papacy. Still having my college world history textbook from The Ohio State University from back in the nineteen-sixties I see this huge book allows only pages 41, 42, & 45 devoted to the Avignon years. Notwithstanding, this subject has always remained of interest with never a book concerning those years catching my attention until this one. Most readers holding a true interest in this subject will just have to allow high marks for this author's work. A man who not lives and works in Avignon but one who offers a book that many readers will no doubt want to read and reread again. The story begins in 1308 when Pope Clement V announced the new home or seat of power of the papacy would no longer be in Rome but outside France in small city of 5,000 named Avignon. The following year the exile from Rome began, an exile that would not be fully completed until September, 1370. The small city of Avignon grew from a small population of a few thousand to reach at its apex 30,000 souls. It was witness to, among other events, an influx of great wealth, great building, the Hundred Year's War, brigandage and outright blackmail, and the Black Death in

1348 with renewing outbreaks every 5 years thereafter. Some individuals saw improvement in all this while some others such as Petrarch saw Avignon as the new 'Babylonian whore'. He fervently desired a return to Rome and the Holy Roman Empire.

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