



Milton and the Rhetoric of Zeal (Hardback)

By Thomas Kranidas

Duquesne University Press, United States, 2005. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Milton's radically aggressive English prose emerged from a dynamic rhetorical milieu. A rhetoric of radical excess developed among the Puritan wing of English Protestantism throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, scriptural injunctions to will the sword of the spirit against the enemies of the Lord. The most potent of these texts was the pronouncement from Revelation 3:16: Because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spue thee out of my mouth. The tradition culminated in a politically virulent and highly effective rhetoric of zeal, which was deployed against the Church of England, and ultimately against the monarchy, during the 1630s and the 1640s. The first part of Kranidas's study demonstrates the widespread acceptance of the attack on lukewarmness and the celebration of a passionate and immoderate commitment to action against the Laudian campaign for Holy Decency, the reform of ritual and discipline generally in the Church of England. The book then turns to an analysis of Milton's antiprelatical tracts, with particular, but not exclusive, reference to the tradition of zeal. Kranidas demonstrates the broad range of Milton's styles...

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