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The Christian Democracy: A History of Its Suppression and Revival (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)

By John McDowell Leavitt

Forgotten Books, United States, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from The Christian Democracy: A History of Its Suppression and Revival When we turn from State to Church we find three theories of supreme power, corresponding to monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy. Where is ecclesiastical sovereignty? Is it an autocracy in the pope? Is it an oligarchy in bishops? Is it a democracy of all believers, including clergy and laity, and whom we will call the people? Before answering these questions the three theories of ecclesiastical sovereignty should be more fully stated. I. The papal claim.-early as A. D. 496 Gelasius asserted for himself all political and pontifical power. His successors proclaimed their right to rule the world. Centuries before Hildebrand and Innocent III and Boniface VIII this was the uniform view of Roman pontiffs as implied or expressed in the Vatican Decree of Pius Nonus. The papal system is an autocracy. It vests all sovereignty in its pontiff. He is source of power and grace. These, through him alone, flow to bishops, and from bishops to priests, and from priests to people....



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