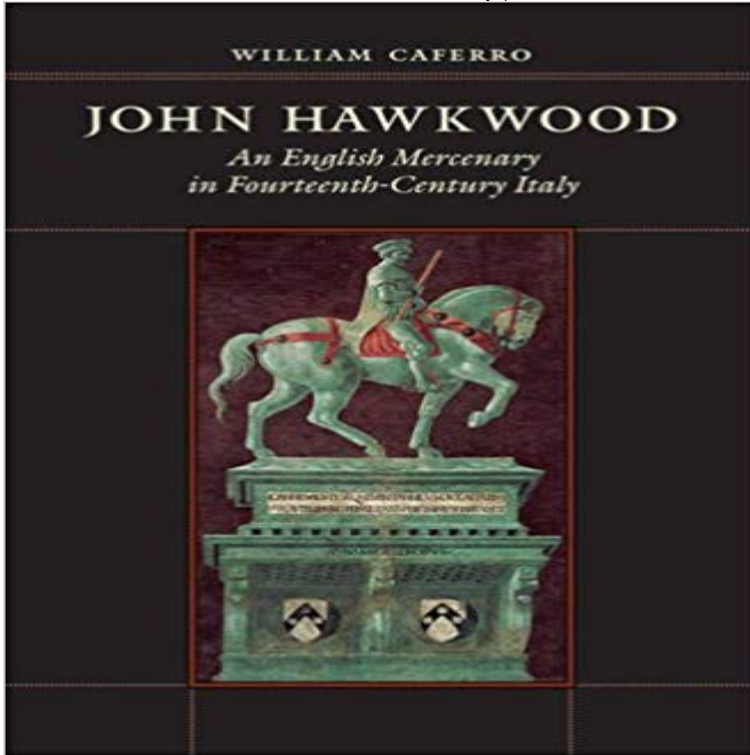


John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-Century Italy



Winner, 2008 Otto Grundler Book Prize, The Medieval Institute
Notorious for his cleverness and daring, John Hawkwood was the most feared mercenary in early Renaissance Italy. Born in England, Hawkwood began his career in France during the Hundred Years War and crossed into Italy with the famed White Company in 1361. From that time until his death in 1394, Hawkwood fought throughout the peninsula as a captain of armies in times of war and as a commander of marauding bands during times of peace. He achieved international fame, and city-states constantly tried to outbid each other for his services, for which he received money, land, and, in the case of Florence, citizenship—a most unusual honor for an Englishman. When Hawkwood died, the Florentines buried him with great ceremony in their cathedral, an honor denied their greatest poet, Dante. William Caferro's ambitious account of Hawkwood is both a biography and a study of warfare and statecraft. Caferro has mined more than twenty archives in Britain and Italy, creating an authoritative portrait of Hawkwood as an extraordinary military leader, if not always an admirable human being.

He rides ahead, encased in a full suit of armor and holding a baton of command. This is how most people visualize John Hawkwood, as depicted by Paolo
John Hawkwood was fourteenth-century Italy's most notorious and successful soldier. A man known for cleverness and daring, he was the most feared mercenary in Renaissance Italy. Born in England, Hawkwood began his career in France during the Hundred Years War and crossed into Italy with the famed White Company in 1361. He rides ahead, encased in a full suit of armor and holding a baton of command. This is how most people visualize John Hawkwood, as depicted by Paolo
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Editorial

Reviews. Review. This is much more than a biography in the ordinary sense of the John Hawkwood was fourteenth-century Italy's most notorious and successful soldier. A man known for cleverness and daring, he was the most

CRISTINA MITROVICI William Caferro, *John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-Century Italy* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press 2006) xv *John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-Century Italy*. Caferro, William: Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 459 pp., *John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-Century Italy* William Caferro ISBN: 9780801883231 Kostenloser Versand für alle Bücher mit Versand *John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-Century Italy* By William Caferro. David S. Bachrach. University of New Hampshire. *John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-Century Italy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. 2006. Pp. xv, 459. \$35.00. Scopri *John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-century Italy* di William Caferro: spedizione gratuita per i clienti Prime e per ordini a partire da 29 *John Hawkwood. An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-Century Italy*. William Caferro. Winner, 2008 Otto Grundler Book Prize, The Medieval Institute Winner *Sir John Hawkwood (c. 1323-1394)* was an English soldier and condottiere. As his name was .. *John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-century Italy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. ISBN 978-0-8018-8323-1. CooperBuy *John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-Century Italy* Reprint by William Caferro (ISBN: 9781421418414) from Amazon's Book Store. *John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-Century Italy* By William Caferro. JOHN E. LAW. University of Wales, Swansea. *John Hawkwood: An English Mercenary in Fourteenth-Century Italy*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006. xvi + 460 pp. index. append. illus.