The European Middle Ages
A.D. 450 - 1500

by

Jack M. Hexter and W. Carroll Quigley

Unpublished and Incomplete Typescript, 1969
Washington, D.C.
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Front cover illustration:
Detail from the Effects of Good Government in the City, one of four (the Allegory of Good Government, the Effects of Good Government in the City, the Effects of Good Government in the Country, and the Effects of Bad Government in the City) frescoes, all painted by Ambrogio Lorenzetti over the years 1338 - 1340 for the town council of Siena on the walls of the “Room of the Nine” (Sala dei Nove), or “Room of Peace” (Sala della Pace), in Siena's Palazzo Pubblico. The "Nine" was the oligarchal assembly of guild and monetary interests that governed the republic.

All four frescoes are masterworks of early Renaissance secular painting, but the "Effects of Good Government in the City" is the best preserved of the four and an unrivaled pictorial encyclopedia of incidents of daily life in a peaceful medieval "borgo".
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