



The Renaissance Discovery of Violence, from Boccaccio to Shakespeare

By Robert Appelbaum

Pub Date: 16 November 2021

Binding: Hardback

Price: £80.00 / \$125.00

ISBN: 9781839981470

Extent: 262 pages

Size: 153 x 229 mm /
6 x 9 inches

Series: Anthem Studies in Renaissance Literature and Culture

BISAC CATEGORY: LITERARY CRITICISM /

Comparative Literature LITERARY CRITICISM /

Renaissance, LITERARY CRITICISM / Subjects & Themes /
Historical Events

BISAC CODE: LIT020000

BIC CODE: DSB

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A study of key Renaissance texts in the novelle collection, the humanist satire, epic-romance, and vernacular tragedy.

“In Robert Appelbaum’s *Renaissance Discovery of Violence*, the ‘discovery’ in question takes multiple forms: as a re-invention of violence through new ritual shapes and physical instruments, but also as a representation of violence through art and language, and an uncovering of the moral economies that underlie its use. The resulting study, both wide-ranging and incisively detailed, revels in the nuance and complexity of its subject-matter.” — Bruce Boehrer, Bertram H. Davis Professor, English Department, Florida State University, US

“Robert Appelbaum has done it again with this sweeping study of how European attitudes toward violence shifted and the enormous repercussions this held for artistic expression.... The book’s readings, taken together, cast breathtaking light upon Shakespeare’s tragedies.” — George Hoffmann, Professor of French, University of Michigan, US

This study looks at key Renaissance texts in the novelle collection, the humanist satire, epic-romance, and vernacular tragedy. It places both violence and its representations in the context of major historical events, like the Sack of Rome, and developments in the history of violence per se.

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About the Author

Born in New York City and educated at the University of Chicago and the University of California, Berkeley, Robert Appelbaum is Professor Emeritus of English Literature at Uppsala University, Sweden.

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