

# **THE POPES AND THE HOHENSTAUFEN**

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The popes and the Hohenstaufen by Ugo Balzani

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**UGO BALZANI**

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THE POPES AND THE HOHENSTAUFEN.

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## PREFACE.



THE historical period traversed by this book is certainly one of the most striking in the history of the Papacy and the Empire, for their struggles far exceeded the thoughts and aims of the combatants and hastened in Europe a marvellous development of change and progress. The history of the relations between the Popes and the Hohenstaufen is one which cannot be easily kept within strict limits, but is apt to extend to that of the whole of Europe and of much of the East. It has been a difficult task to confine it within the small space of these pages, nor could this have been done without rigorously excluding everything which did not bear directly on the relations of the Papacy with the House of Suabia, and on those historical events which exerted most influence over those relations, especially in Italy, where the great drama was chiefly acted. I have therefore tried to avoid all digressions as much as possible, keeping distinctly before me the object of the narrative, so as not to interrupt its thread.

It also seemed to me that the nature of the work

demanded great moderation in generalising with regard to the facts stated in it, and I have therefore endeavoured that these facts should speak for themselves as clearly as possible, and should suggest those reflections which present themselves spontaneously to the reader who follows carefully the course of human events and meditates upon them. But in order to obtain this result, and not lead the reader to erroneous conclusions, the writer needs a very accurate knowledge of his facts, and a painstaking selection of those which have a vital importance for the narrative, and of those alone. This can only be secured by a long and minute study of the original historical sources; and hence, while making large use of the many valuable works which have preceded this little book, I have based my assertions throughout on original researches. In a very much larger and more detailed work on the same subject, which I hope at a not very distant day to publish in Italy, I propose to give the more complete result of these researches, and a scientific analysis of the facts and considerations which I have here put forward.

UGO BALZANI.

TICKTON LODGE, CLEVELDON, SOMERSET,

*September 21, 1888.*

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