Between Court and Confessional
The Politics of Spanish Inquisitors
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About the Book

*Between Court and Confessional* explores the lives of Spanish inquisitors, closely examining the careers and writings of five sixteenth- and seventeenth-century inquisitors. Kimberly Lynn considers what shaped particular inquisitors, what kinds of official experience each accumulated, and to what ends each directed his acquired knowledge and experience. The case studies examine the complex interplay of careerism and ideological commitments evident in inquisitorial activities. Whereas many studies of the Spanish Inquisition tend to depict inquisitors as faceless and interchangeable, Lynn probes the lives of individual inquisitors to show how inquisitors’ operations in their social, political, religious, and intellectual worlds set the Inquisition in motion. By focusing on specific individuals, this study explains how the theory and regulations of the Inquisition were rooted in local conditions, particular disputes, and individual experiences.

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Praise for the Book

“This outstanding piece of scholarship demonstrates how little the Spanish inquisitors fit the conventional view of them as insular men in single–minded pursuit of heresy. In a series of exacting and illuminating portraits, Kimberly Lynn reveals them in the full range of their activities, engaged in turf battles, jostling for position at court, moving from post to post, suffering career setbacks and disappointments, and seeking patronage and bestowing patronage – that is, negotiating the complex power structures of early modern Spain like other members of the power elite.”– Miriam Bodian, the University of Texas at Austin

Key Features

• Looks at the Spanish Inquisition from an imperial perspective, showing how inquisitors fit into the political culture
• Connects inquisitors to debates about Catholic reform in the Counter-Reformation era
• Revises the often-presented vision of the Spanish Inquisition as an efficient, impersonal machine

Contents

Introduction: arbiters of faith, administrators of empire; 1. Visiting the flock: the pastoral agenda of Cristobal Fernandez de Valtodano; 2. Writing the inquisition: the trials of Diego de Simancas; 3. Courting the king, courting the pope: Luis de Paramo between Spain and Italy; 4. Falling from grace: the disenchantments of Juan Adam de la Parra; 5. Negotiating the Catholic monarchy: the transatlantic maneuvering of Juan de Manoza y Zamora; 6. Building careers, making a legal culture: toward an appraisal of inquisitorial office; Epilogue: the afterlife of Spanish Inquisitors.