

## Baltic Crusades and Societal Innovation in Medieval Livonia, 1200–1350

# The Northern World

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PEOPLES, ECONOMIES AND CULTURES

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# Baltic Crusades and Societal Innovation in Medieval Livonia, 1200–1350

*Edited by*

Anti Selart



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## Preface

This book is a result of the University of Tartu research project 'Coexistence, isolation, and cultural interchange in medieval Livonia (1200–1550)' funded by the Estonian Research Council (project no PUT 1422, 2017–2020). The project aimed for an updated, modern view on the coexistence of different ethnic and social groups and their interaction in Estonia and Latvia in the Middle Ages. The focal point was the mutual cultural impact and acculturation of groups of different ethnic origin, social status, and migrational background in this region. The earlier historiography often tended to describe Livonian medieval social and cultural conflicts as national (or ethnic) ones and to stress the isolationism of the groups. The results presented here seek out places of mutual adaption between natives and newcomers, and ask for the immediate economic and societal results of the Baltic Crusades: what processes can really be considered as results of the conquest, and what just happened during and after the crusading period? Additional support for publishing this book was provided by another University of Tartu research project 'Global Livonia: Rethinking medieval territories' (no. PRG 1132) funded by the Estonian Research Council.

Medieval Livonia was a region of many languages and several toponymic traditions. In this volume, dominantly the native-language place-names in their modern standard form are preferred, except the cases when an established English version exists. The index simultaneously serves as multi-lingual place-name concordance.

The volume would not have been produced without serious help of many people. Aside from the contributors, I would thank numerous colleagues from Estonia and abroad for their advice and support. Dirk Lloyd and Dr Siobhan Kattago improved the English. Kristel Roog drew the maps, and Dr Anu Mänd helped to find the illustrations. Last but not least, Dr Ivar Leimus delivered the cover illustrations and helped to write the explanatory text.

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