Contrary to popular perception, the medieval Christian West permitted a certain degree of religious non-conformity and could be considered “tolerant,” even if its particular form of toleration diverges from modern Western models. More importantly, medieval Western society was committed to the principle that all human beings—Christian and non-Christian alike—possessed a set of inviolable natural rights that could not be lawfully infringed by ecclesiastical or secular authorities. In that regard, the medieval West anticipated some modern conceptions of “human rights,” even though it grounded such rights in an eternal divine order. In fact, much of what the modern West holds dear in matters of conscience, individual liberty, and the just ordering of society is at least partly a legacy of late medieval thought.