



The End of the Modern World

Romano Guardini

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This expanded edition of Guardini's classic work includes the original text of *The End of the Modern World*, as well as the entirety of its explicit sequel, *Power and Responsibility*, in which Guardini analyzes modern man's conception of himself in the world and examines nature and use of power. The principle of individual responsibility weaves both works into a seamless, comprehensive, and compelling moral statement.

The End of the Modern World Details

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Author : Romano Guardini

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From Reader Review The End of the Modern World for online ebook

Jonathan says

None

Rick says

OK - this is NOT an easy book to read. Expect very little enjoyment out of it. Most paragraphs I had to read twice, and I'll admit I didn't complete it. However, Guardini makes a compelling statement that some of his day's problems (in the 1960s) were largely a result of the movement away from man's understanding of himself as answerable to a higher moral authority. (NOTE: remembering the book and reading reviews of it gets me reinvigorated and remembering why I rated it so high). Some of the statements (particularly from an ecological standpoint in light of global warming) are prophetic. Although it's not explicit, this book amounts to a call to spirituality, holiness, and reinvigoration of the collective human relationship with a higher power. Fascinating, and awe-inspiring. If you can get through it (which admittedly, I had a tough time with). Note to Tom - I read this on the plane ride to your wedding.

Leah says

I swear, I probably understood 20% of this book... but of that I thought it was great!

Marie says

Excelent re-reading and it can be a bit repetitive, but not for that it's any less worth reading.

Erik says

Included in the "Catholicism Explained/Theology" section of Fr. John McCloskey's 100-book Catholic Lifetime Reading Plan.

David Le says

I finished this book before starting After Virtue by MacIntyre so It will be interesting to see how this effects my reading of that book.

Guardini as a post-WWII philosopher/theologian offers a interesting look at the intellectual history of

Western civilization by writing his first essay in this book (titled "The End of the Modern World") as a metaphorical narrative where we see the evolution of man and his place in the world. This first essay is where I believe is the best of his work is on display. I find that that he gives a excellent diagnosis of why modernity has resulted in a postmodern situation of societal collapse. This essay while effective in introducing readers to modernity from a Christian perspective does not provide any cure to the ailment that we find ourselves (whether it be late 20th century or early 21st century).

Guardini's second essay in this book, titled "Power and Responsibility", is where he begins offering a way for the church to respond to the current situation. With a the well developed understanding of certain social ills and the Nietzschean/postmodern philosophy of his time, Guardini espouses a need for awareness of the alienation of industrial and bureaucratic society. Thankfully, he does not call for a return to medieval or classical ways of thought (at least not in its entirety) as the foundation he set in his previous essay involved showcasing the inherent flaws of the both ages in comparison to our modern age. In a way, it seems that Guardini takes Nietzsche's idea of a "will to power" into a new direction. The easiest way to describe it is a Christian account of Nietzsche's belief where we assert power under the authority of God. With a biblical exousia mixed with Nietzschean undertones and Marxian views of economic alienation, Guardini offers us a solution that is somewhat vague and dissatisfying possibly, but it does introduce a need for considerations on the responsibility of exercising the power man has over the world and each other.

Barbora Doležalová says

Lze však natrvalo žít na základ? donucení?

Lawrence says

This book changed my life. It showed me where the granolas and neo-cons of the world come from and that no one can take my rights away from me unless I let them trample on them. Plus, I need to fix myself before I can change anyone else.

Main theme is basically Spiderman's: with great power comes great responsibility.

Guille says

BOOOOORIIING, I was obligated to read this to do a review, perhaps someone who likes philosophy will enjoy this better. But I didn't enjoyed, reading one page felt like reading 100. It was super repetitive and confusing. Not my type of books?

Steve says

This book describes the transition from the Medieval period through the modern, now into the crisis of modernity. Lots of good insights.

James Andersen says

Is it possible that one small book, can pierce through the spirit of the age, like a needle through a thread? If doubt, then doubt no longer. This book does a fantastic job of explaining man's changing worldview through the ages up to the present age, even though this book was written in the Late 1950s it still has relevance to our present age incredibly. After giving us that metaphysical vision (or lack thereof) the author then describes the current ethical culture of our day (or lack thereof) as well.

The author of this book does a wonderful job fighting the tendency of being a doom-and-gloom pessimist, or some apocalyptic visionary for the author remembers that we know not the hour of the apocalypse, and so seeks only to be a realist as he gives us not a *"fix-all solution"* but only the means to survive the ending of the modern world and a vision of what the new man would need to be as we confront the next age, if the author were alive today he would see how true his vision of the world has come to fruition.
