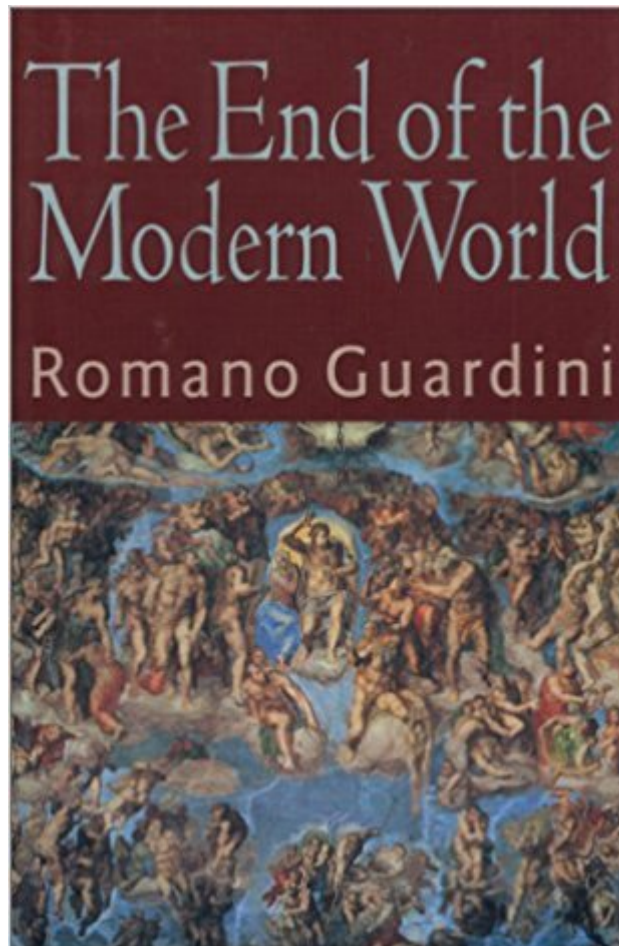




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The End Of The Modern World



Synopsis

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.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Guardini here contemplates the human condition in the wake of two world wars and numerous other horrors and offers his thoughts in two of his best essays: "The End of The Modern World: A Search for Orientation" and "Power and Responsibility: A Course of Action for The New Age." Pretty heavy stuff, this is more for academic libraries. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

"...[F]ifty years on, [Guardini's analysis] still has resonance because many of the problems he poses about modernity have not been overcome." -- The Times Literary Supplement, TLSAs Neuhaus and Wilhelmsen warn us, Guardini's vision of the present and the future is bracing stuff, going beyond optimism and pessimism into the prophetic wilderness where the difficult truth can be proclaimed. The truth, in his view, is that man has lost his place in the universe--and he has not lost it because God no longer has a place there. Guardini sees a new age coming, however, in which the fight between Christianity and secularism will be sharpened and in which it will be possible, if we have

the nerve for it, to restore man's dignity and his sense of place.... It is a urgent call to holiness, and inspiring challenge, and an exceptionally important book for a new millennium. -- First Things, January 1999 --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is a powerful read comprising two Guardini essays which were originally published in 1956, nearly a decade before the commencement of Vatican Council 11. One was called "The End of Modern World" and the other, "Power and Responsibility". Romano Guardini, (1885-1968) , at the time of writing these works, was a professor of philosophy and theology at the University of Munich. His central thesis is that a new ,emerging technological age of "Mass Mann" threatens to smother individuality and creative initiative and allow the rise of a dysfunctional meaning of "power". This requires the response of a new and deeper theological frame of reference for those wishing to culturally adapt their lives according to the Christian tradition of freedom and integrity. In the 1950s, one of Guardini's other works, "The Lord", was a favourite read of many young men and women training for religious life around the world. The present Pope Frances was one of those young people. His personal interest took him as far as moving from Argentina to Germany to enter a preliminary PhD. programme that would specifically examine Guardini's work and thought more closely. According to the Pope's authoritative biographer, Austen Iverleigh, (The Great Reformer), it was Guardini's "deep thinking about modernity that fascinated Bergoglio". - the future Pope - and informed his "underlying interest in politics and institutional reform", helping "to shape what ,as cardinal, he would promote as a 'culture of encounter'. This was a prophetic book I could not put down. Challenging, confronting and hard-hitting, nevertheless, it left me with an affirmed personal sense of direction, in a world now entering its next set of monumental, historical changes.

Since the content of this book is rather general and sketchy, each person who reads it may well come away with a somewhat different message. Nevertheless, virtually anyone who reads it attentively would obtain some credible and valuable insights. Especially for those not committed to Christian beliefs, the book offers an authentic perspective on Christian revelation and its timeless mission, and in turn, its counsel for purpose, stability, and harmony in our increasingly troubled world. In contrast, the disturbing symptoms of the now emerging new epoch (following modernity), as described in this book, have become even more acute as well as evident since its publication over sixty years ago. Moreover, the cogent analysis of those symptoms by Romano Guardini ought to provide all readers, especially non-believers, especial inducement to consider his advocated remedial measures or conditions more deliberately. The book has two parts numbering about 100

pages each. The title of Part 1 is the same as that of the book, and its subtitle quite aptly is "Search for Orientation". It recounts the three prior epochs of human existence and their respective worldviews, and now the ongoing transition beyond the third one (modernity). Currently, we are in a disruptive transition stage to the fourth epoch, whose eventual outcome is hardly predictable. The highly complementary Part 2 is entitled "Power and Responsibility", with its subtitle being "Course of Action for the New Age". It analyzes the interrelated disorders in today's culture, society, and government, and examines the prospects for human existence in an increasingly coercive realm of human "progress". The two overriding factors in play are man's banishment of God from the human arena, and an overarching agenda oriented toward organizing and enforcing a vision of ideal material conditions on earth. Needless to state, the human spirit would thereby be progressively repressed along with any acknowledgement of the Creator. The vision is one of non-human humans living in a non-natural form of Nature. In the context of now unfolding trends and phenomena, I found this book's analysis and its rather general and disconcerting projections to be rather compelling. As a non-humanities oriented reader, the insights provided were for me both illuminating and constructive in better comprehending our present age. Moreover, I appreciated the book's broad scope coupled with brevity in distilling and delivering an impactful message.

If there is one book from the middle of the twentieth century to invest in, it's this one. It captures globalization at its inception and clearly presents us with the truth of a world that has turned to violence as its way forward. But the book is not a doom and gloom work but one that points a way forward to a new culture and a new world. Guardini does not give details, but only qualities of what might be. It should be a handbook for anyone who takes the public service portion of political office seriously as for the common good. You can bet the current flock of goats will thumb their noses at what could provide them a path forward toward a new world. The Feudal world, surpassed by the Enlightened world is not on the brink of a new birth. Hope the baby is healthy and kind.

Want to understand where we are and how we got here? Prescient vision. We are in the era of Mass Man. We are told what to think about and how to think about it in accordance with corporate objectives; usually not much more than quarterly profits. Man used to have a place in this universe.

Monsignor Romano Guardini - the favorite University Professor of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI -

brilliant mind!

Fr. Guardini had true spiritual insight into the world and mankind's place in it. This is made evident in all of his writing but especially in *The End of the Modern World*. I highly encourage people wanting to think... to engage in right reason... to read this book, as challenging as it can be.

This is a deep analysis of human progress and development in the context of the influence of Christianity in the western world as human knowledge evolves--for good or ill. Guardini's final pages are very thought provoking and extremely insightful. The reader will remember it long after turning the last page.

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