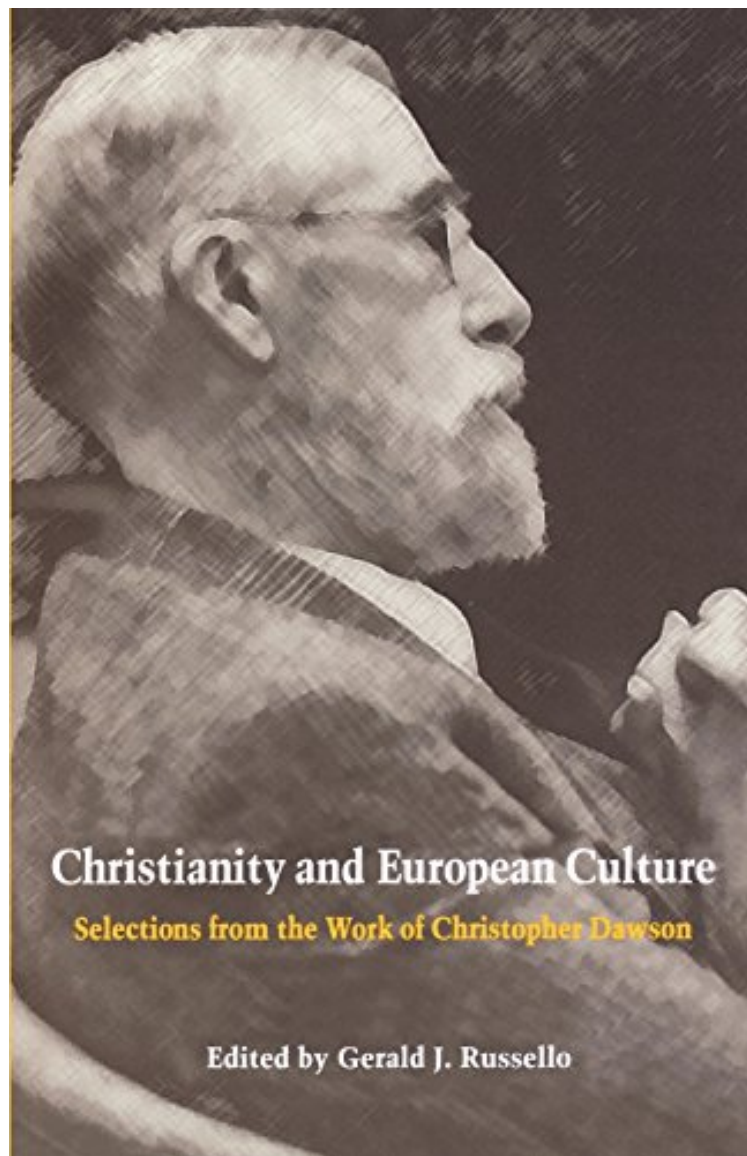


[Mobile pdf] Christianity and European Culture: Selections from the Work of Christopher Dawson (Worlds of Christopher Dawson)

Christianity and European Culture: Selections from the Work of Christopher Dawson (Worlds of Christopher Dawson)

Gerald J. Russello

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Gerald J. Russello : Christianity and European Culture: Selections from the Work of Christopher Dawson (Worlds of Christopher Dawson) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Christianity and European Culture: Selections from the Work of Christopher Dawson (Worlds of Christopher Dawson):

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Christianity and Culture Explained By Steve Jackson Christopher Dawson (1889-1970) was a Roman Catholic author and historian. He, along with a number of fellow converts, created a Renaissance of English Catholic scholarship. This book contains the full text of Dawson's 1960 work, "The Historic Reality of Christian Culture," as well as several essays touching on the general theme of Christianity and European culture. "The Historic Reality of Christian Culture" is an important work explaining why one can speak of a Christian culture. As Dawson notes, no one would describe Arabic culture without a mention of Islam, but when it comes to Europe, culture is discussed as if Christianity wasn't a significant factor. The essays in this work are excellent. In particular, I liked the essay "The Classical Tradition and Christianity." The merging of Christianity and Classical Culture was one of the most momentous facts in world history. In "The Secularization of Western Culture," Dawson draws attention to the neglected figure of Tommaso Campanella, whom he regards as the forerunner of modern revolutionary socialism. There is one other collection of essays by Dawson that I'm aware of: DYNAMICS OF WORLD HISTORY. It is a bit lengthier and contains some of the same essays, as well as essays on a broader range of topics. In addition, after this work was published, Catholic University Press started publishing Dawson's Collected Works. 35 of 37 people found the following review helpful. Backwards Into The Future; Preserving Our Christian Culture. By Bob Mullen Dawson was one of the great historians of western, christian culture. He also brought a knowledge of sociology and psychology to the study of the basis for our classic western civilization. His thesis is quite simple, a culture is a reflection of the ethics and beliefs of the people who form the base society. While western culture is much more "diverse" than many contemporary academics wish to admit, the foundation of our art, literature, law, (as well as religion), all lie in our Christian experience and world view. One of Dawson's more prescient points is the correlation between a religious foundation for our civilization and the separation of same which has recently led to a deterioration of the basic values and mores that have given the western world all that we hold dear. While written several decades ago, many of Dawson's observations prove to be almost prophetic. If you are a fan of the "permanent things", or are at all concerned with the question of how to restore our way of life, you will want to read this book.

Christopher Dawson (1889-1970) has been widely praised as one of the most important Catholic historians of the twentieth century. Commended by T. S. Eliot, Arnold Toynbee, and many others for his sophisticated approach to history, Dawson integrated a providential vision with traditional historical analysis. Many of his works focused on the important relationship between religion and culture. This volume is the first edited collection of Dawson's works to appear in several decades. It includes the full text of *The Historic Reality of Christian Culture* (1960) and features selections from numerous works, including *The Making of Europe* (1932), *The Judgment of the Nations* (1943), and *Medieval Essays* (1959). Dawson believed that the modern era challenged traditional ways of living through its denigration of historical memory. He emphasized the need to understand the role religious values had played in the formation of culture, especially Western culture, and their continuing influence in world affairs. He sought to reconnect Europe's material wealth and economic power with the fundamental religious values that once had formed the core of European identity. This book provides a comprehensive introduction to the development of Dawson's thinking on questions that remain of contemporary importance. It illustrates Dawson's approach in defining "Christian culture," its likelihood in the present era, and its adaptability to non-Western and pluralist societies. The collection also provides insight on issues ranging from the "new evangelization" and the future of modern liberalism to the "clash of civilizations" that is emerging as the newest challenge in the post-Communist world. *Christianity and European Culture* will be of interest to students and scholars of history, historiography, theology, and the history of ideas. It is intended also for those interested in Dawson himself, or in twentieth-century Catholic intellectual history. ABOUT THE EDITOR: Gerald J. Russello is an attorney with the firm of Howard, Smith Levin LLP in New York. PRAISE FOR THE BOOK: "Superbly introduced and shrewdly chosen, this selection of hard-to-find Dawson essays is a powerful contribution. It covers all the central themes of this greatest of all historians of Christian cultures." Michael Novak, American Enterprise Institute "No one was more keenly aware than Christopher Dawson of the need to recover a sense of Western history-and Christianity's centrality to that history-in order to understand the modern world in which we live. Russello's selections from Dawson provide a marvelous introduction to the thought of an unjustly neglected twentieth-century giant. A great book that I hope will lead to the republication of all of Dawson." Robert Royal, Ethics and Public Policy Center "A profound collection of essays from the vast corpus of Dawson studies. . . . Dawson remains an essential teacher about the content of the modern mind and whence it came. His judgments about man's worldly and transcendent meaning are always on the mark." James V. Schall, S.J., Georgetown University "Those concerned with the state of liberal education or the interrelationship of culture, education, and religion will find the late Dawson's essays of more than historical importance. . . ." Booklist "For students of Western culture, Christopher Dawson is an indispensable guide. His opera omnia would number more than twenty-five volumes if brought together in a uniform edition. Absent that, Gerald Russello provides in these selections a valuable collection that can only whet one's appetite for further texts. His introduction to the volume is excellent and in itself worthy of Dawson for its lucidity and vision." The Intercollegiate Review "The selections well represent Dawson's thought."

From Booklist Those concerned with the state of liberal education or the interrelationship of culture, education, and religion will find the late Dawson's essays of more than historical interest. The ones gathered here, written between 1930 and 1960, reflect a struggle on three fronts--against Fascism, against Stalinism, and against secularism--that dates but doesn't archaize them. The question Dawson keeps returning to is that of the relationship between Christianity and European culture. Because Dawson sees the two as being intrinsically connected, he sees an assault on either as an assault on both. That will be instructive for readers trying to make sense of the current "culture wars," debates over multiculturalism, and passionate arguments about language. Dawson's insistence that a common language and a common culture are essential for civilization puts him in the "conservative" camp, but he attends to culture with a seriousness that will interest multiculturalists and to education with a seriousness that will interest those all along the political-cultural spectrum who are committed to obtaining something more from teaching and learning than technique. Steve Schroeder "A profound collection of essays from the vast corpus of Dawson studies. . . . Dawson remains an essential teacher about the content of the modern mind and whence it came. His judgments about man's worldly and transcendent meaning are always on the mark." -- James V. Schall, S.J., Georgetown University "No one was more keenly aware than Christopher Dawson of the need to recover a sense of Western history-and Christianity's centrality to that history-in order to understand the modern world in which we live. Russello's selections from Dawson provide a marvelous introduction to the thought of an unjustly neglected twentieth-century giant. A great book that I hope will lead to the republication of all of Dawson. -- Dr. Robert Royal, Ethics and Public Policy Center "Superbly introduced and shrewdly chosen, this selection of hard-to-find Dawson essays is a powerful contribution. It covers all the central themes of this greatest of all historians of Christian cultures." -- Michael Novak, American Enterprise Institute

About the Author Gerald J. Russello is an attorney presently serving as law clerk to Judge Leonard I. Garth of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.