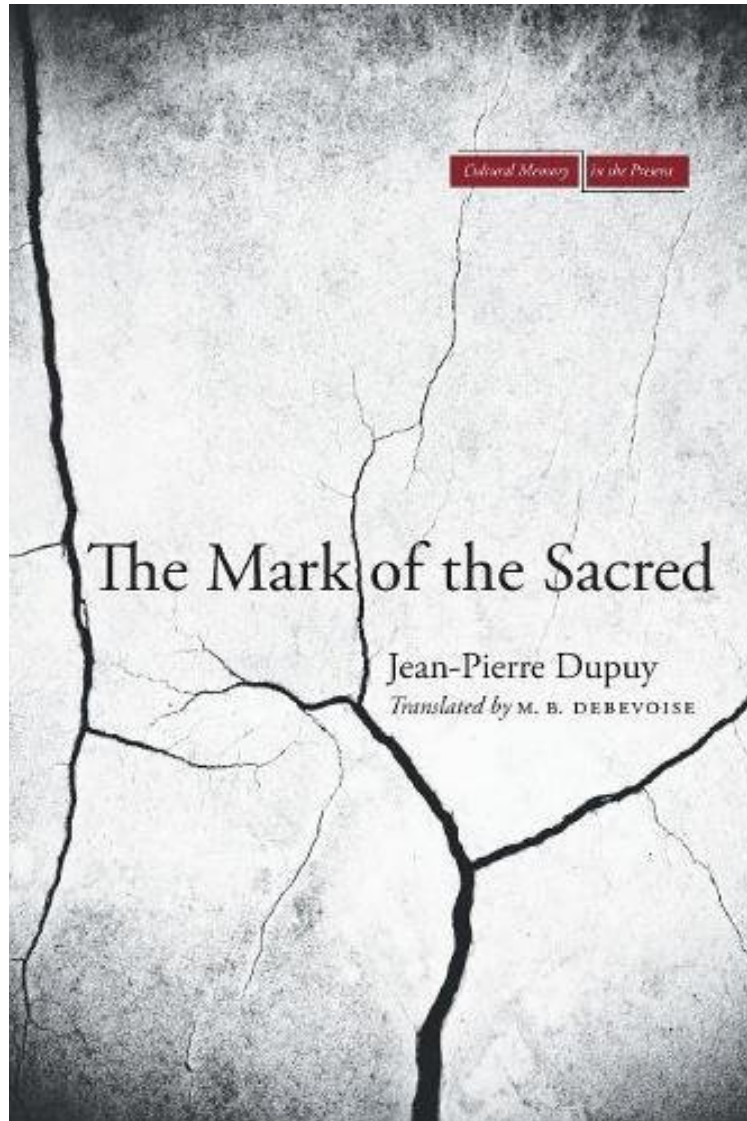


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Jean-Pierre Dupuy

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Jean-Pierre Dupuy : The Mark of the Sacred (Cultural Memory in the Present) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mark of the Sacred (Cultural Memory in the Present):

25 of 25 people found the following review helpful. Scandalous, Moving, TrueBy Timothy MFor those who have been tired of the modern dichotomies either in politics and economics, the sciences and humanities, this work by Dupuy will fascinate and excite. The debate between the Austrian school and Keynesian school, the debates surrounding John Rawls concerning matters of justice, the furor surrounding transhumanism and nuclear holocaust - this small sampling

of modern issues are some of the topics incorporated into Dupuy's work. By far, this work is one of the most important books of 2013 to be translated into English. For those interested in humanity in general, and those interested in philosophy, international politics, economics, social theory, and anthropology in specific, this work will be enlightening and moving. Stop what you are reading and check out this work! The prophetic voice of the polymath, Dupuy, will awaken the late modern imagination through analyzing the sciences, economics, politics, and film. The immanent doom of humanity in a world without the sacred should act to curb modern man's hubris and man's nihilistic tendencies, but to do so it will require something only true transcendence can offer. While Dupuy's analysis is breathtaking and comprehensive, I must disagree with his analysis of Christianity and would refer readers to the work of Paul Ricoeur concerning the imagination and consciousness and Christianity's relation to the sacred (also see Henri de Lubac's *Nature and Grace*). His description of Christianity is thoroughly modern as well. Theologians such as Kevin J. Vanhoozer and Michael S. Horton provide a more robust view of historic Christianity in late modern times as not merely epistemic but in fact ontological and metaphysical. Nevertheless, this concise book will be useful for referencing again and again, and I must repeat that it is singly the most important work of 2013. Dupuy's grasp of pivotal thinkers like John Rawls, Rousseau, de Tocqueville, and others will recapture their place in the late modern discussion concerning humanity and the sacred. A must read...29 of 30 people found the following review helpful.

Nothing Short of Material for Another World Council
By Rev David Froemming
Jean-Pierre Dupuy incorporates insights gained in collaboration with Rene Girard and Ivan Illich, which leads him to the discovery that Christianity is not a religion like those produced through violence and the concealing of victims, and systems that further condone resentment and violence. More so, Dupuy shows that our current crisis of global climate change, nuclear arms, genetic technology and the impending creation of artificial life, the break down of democracy, and the economics of inequality, all driven by globalization, will doom us, unless we realize that the violent religion of old has infected all of the above, including science and technology. In reality, Dupuy is taking both fundamentalists and atheists such as Richard Dawkins, and showing the reader that they are in the same camp, the violent, and so are the rest of us who think that we can grab onto science and technology to solve the path of self-destruction that humanity is now on. Dupuy keenly identifies the idolatry of our own power, which denies human self-limitations, and transcendence (God), as well as unforeseen consequences, as the violence of religion and its dynamics follows us into all our scientific and technological claims of triumph. Dupuy writes, The lesson of Christianity can be applied only if it has been completely and thoroughly understood: human beings must renounce violence once and for all (p. 119). Dupuy argues Christianity is not a morality, but an epistemology (p. 124). That is, Christianity is a belief system in a God who has revealed and confronted us with our own violence through the cross of Jesus Christ, and whose risen life is the very power that leads us beyond resentment and into the rejection of violence. It is this belief, argues Dupuy that constitutes our future (salvation) beyond our self-destruction. As a pastor, with two previous Religious Studies degrees, I find Dupuy truly ground breaking and timely. Dupuy insights are worthy of a renewed dialogue, nothing short of another Vatican World Council and the gathering together of people of all cultures and faiths in order to come to terms with the present crisis of humanity. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

For thinkers like Dupuy, the modern secular
By Dan Knauss
An enjoyable and at times challenging read. Dupuy offers many penetrating (and disturbing) insights into how we should think about religion and the ways modern science, politics, and economics function through rituals and a quasi-religious ir/rationality. For thinkers like Dupuy, the modern secular, liberal social order is a product of the disenchanting, demystifying effects of modernity, but this historical development -- which Dupuy, following Ren Girard, attributes to Christianity -- does not stop us from continuing to create new gods. The societal need for an exteriority from which limits to human freedom can be imagined is a need for "the sacred" that cannot be ignored or easily satisfied in a healthy way. Dupuy finds many examples of the presence and also the weakness of the sacred in the primary institutions and rituals of the modern liberal state. Viewing a techno-capitalism run amok Dupuy invites readers to adopt a "secular eschatology" where we look at the present from the standpoint of a future catastrophe as if it has already occurred while also looking forward from the standpoint of a present contingency where the looming catastrophe is not inevitable. Not every argument Dupuy makes is convincing, and some are quite obtuse -- including much of the concluding chapter -- but there is much reward from trying to think along this unique track. Dupuy's original insights are the best parts of the books; the material he enthusiastically culls from others is generally less interesting, especially when it is familiar. Girard and Illich get lengthy summaries; I have read both fairly extensively. Dupuy's use and appreciation for Gntner Anders, who I have not read, was one of the high points -- the Hitchcock/Vertigo material, not so much.

Jean-Pierre Dupuy, prophet of what he calls "enlightened doomsaying," has long warned that modern society is on a path to self-destruction. In this book, he pleads for a subversion of this crisis from within, arguing that it is our lopsided view of religion and reason that has set us on this course. In denial of our sacred origins and hubristically convinced of the powers of human reason, we cease to know our own limits: our disenchanted world leaves us defenseless against a headlong rush into the abyss of global warming, nuclear holocaust, and the other catastrophes that loom on our horizon. Reviving the religious anthropology of Max Weber, Emile Durkheim, and Marcel Mauss

and in dialogue with the work of Ren Girard, Dupuy shows that we must remember the world's sacredness in order to keep human violence in check. A metaphysical and theological detective, he tracks the sacred in the very fields where human reason considers itself most free from everything it judges irrational: science, technology, economics, political and strategic thought. In making such claims, *The Mark of the Sacred* takes on religion bashers, secularists, and fundamentalists at once. Written by one of the deepest and most versatile thinkers of our time, it militates for a world where reason is no longer an enemy of faith.

"This book explores the relation between violence and religion, but not to endorse the common opinion that we can escape the first by abandoning the second. On the contrary, Dupuy argues that there is a dimension of religion and of the sacred which is inescapable even in a secular age. He challenges us to question the complacency of our received wisdom and forces us to reexamine some of our most cherished self-images of modern liberal democratic societies." "Dupuy approaches the philosophical question at the very heart of today's social and economic crisis: how is self-transcendence possible? How is it that, although we all know that market is just the result of the interaction of millions of individual acts, it appears to all of them as a foreign autonomous power? Through a close reading of Christian theology, Hegel, Heidegger, and Rene Girard, Dupuy provides a unique answer which shatters all our common wisdoms. *The Mark of the Sacred* is one of those rare books that cannot simply be measured by academic standards because they themselves set new standards a book which, in an enlightened well-organized state, should be printed and freely distributed in all schools!" (Slavoj iek) "I'd recommend that all Californians as citizens of a global hub for apocalyptic and utopian thinking read [this] most accessible book." (Joe Mathews) About the Author Jean-Pierre Dupuy is Professor Emeritus of Social and Political Philosophy, Ecole Polytechnique, Paris and Professor of French and, by courtesy, of Political Science, Stanford University. He is a member of the French Academy of Technology, of the Conseil Gnrал des Mines, the French High Magistracy that oversees and regulates industry, energy, and the environment, and Chair of the Ethics Committee of the French High Authority on Nuclear Safety and Security. Dupuy also directs the research program of *Imitatio*, a foundation devoted to the dissemination and discussion of Ren Girard's mimetic theory.