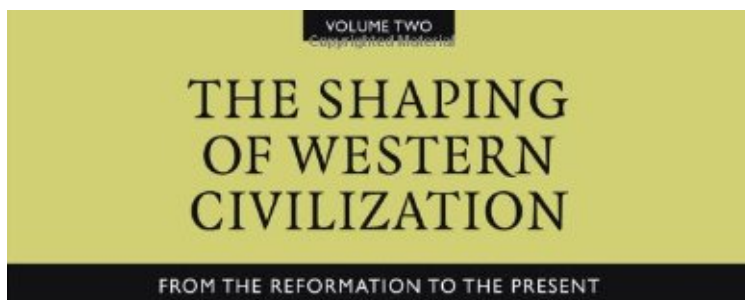


The Shaping of Western Civilization, Volume II: From the Reformation to the Present

Michael Burger

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Michael Burger

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#1096588 in Books Burger Michael 2013-12-16 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.28 x .60 x 7.551, .0 #File Name: 1442607599272 pages The Shaping of Western Civilization Volume II From the Reformation to the Present | File size: 26.Mb

Michael Burger : The Shaping of Western Civilization, Volume II: From the Reformation to the Present before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shaping of Western Civilization, Volume II: From the Reformation to the Present:

Michael Burger's goal in this inexpensive overview is to provide a brief, historical narrative of Western civilization. Not only does its length and price separate this text from the competition, but its no-frills, uncluttered format and well-written, one-authored approach make it a valuable asset for every history student. The Shaping of Western

Civilization: From the Reformation to the Present begins with the Reformation and ends with globalization. Unlike other textbooks that pile on dates and facts, *Shaping* is a more coherent and interpretive presentation. Burger's skills as writer and synthesizer will enable students to obtain the background required to ask meaningful questions of primary sources. In addition to suggestions for further reading, this overview includes over 20 images and 11 maps.

I had become increasingly disillusioned with Western Civ textbooks in general, largely on the grounds that they present a unified, uncontroversial narrative, which is not at all how historians actually understand the past. The *Shaping of Western Civilization* is entirely different, in that, by highlighting puzzles and debates, it actually shows students what historians do. I am also pleased with the low-cost production, as I teach at a campus with many students of modest means. If and when I teach Western Civ again, I will almost certainly assign this text. (William H. Campbell, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg) At last, an introductory text that takes the power of ideas seriously. Judicious and insightful, this book will treat students to the breadth and riches of Western civilization. (Gerry Bowler, University of Manitoba) Instructors of a Western Civilization curriculum can nowadays choose from any number of textbooks, most of which are, in all honesty, perfectly good. But I know of no other textbook in English that I would recommend to undergraduates, graduate students, and colleagues as a thought-provoking read on its own merits. Burger's survey covers all of the expected factual bases, but it also challenges readers to reflect on the process of history-making itself, models enquiry for them, and calls attention to the structuring limitations on our pursuit of historical knowledge: evidence never speaks of its own accord, different questions require different levels of resolution, similarities among cultures serve to heighten the contrasts, past and present ways of looking at the world may be incommensurable, historians must beware of moralizing and all this just in the first chapter! This is a book for those instructors who believe that the goal of teaching history is not to impart knowledge but to provoke their students to a certain way of thinking. (Oren Falk, Cornell University) About the Author Michael Burger is an historian of medieval Europe and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Auburn University at Montgomery. He is the author of *Bishops, Clerks, and Diocesan Governance in Thirteenth-Century England: Reward and Punishment* (2014) and *The Shaping of Western Civilization* (2013).