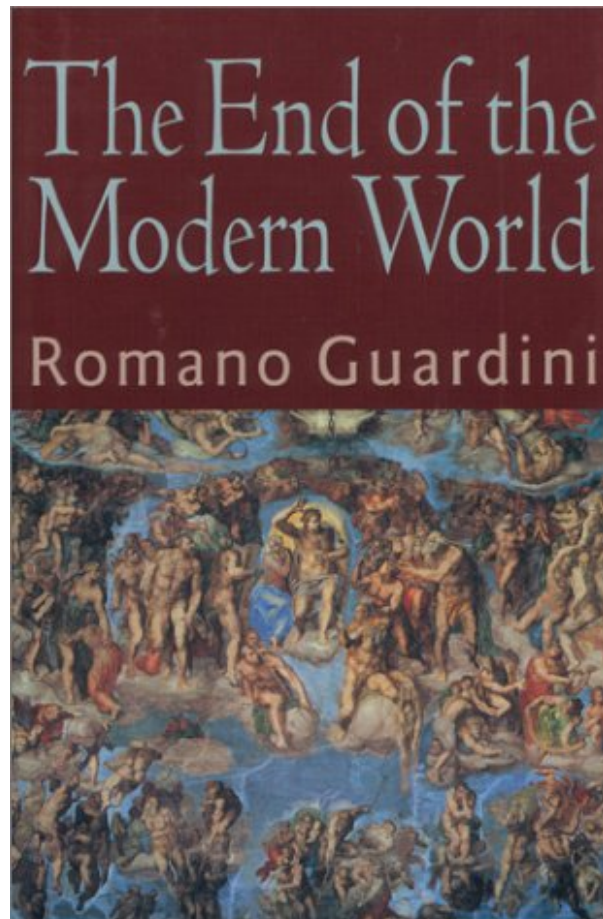


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The End of the Modern World

Romano Guardini



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From Library Journal

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.

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Review

"...[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, TLS

As 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

From the Back Cover

"The End of the Modern World draws every thoughtful Christian's attention to the grave moral problems that beset civilization and "culture" so evidently now. This new and extended edition is more than timely; it requires careful reading and--yes, contemplation--by those who are willing and able to absorb its theme and contents."--John Lukacs, author, *The Hitler of History and The End of the Twentieth Century and the End of the Modern Age* "Once in a great while, a figure arises who seems to scan past, present, and future from some almost timeless mountain peak. Romano Guardini is one of those all-too-rare figures. The publication of an expanded edition of this penetrating Guardini book will provide a whole new generation with a chance to know real wisdom--and the rest of us with a reminder of an inexhaustible treasure."--Robert Royal, editor, *A Century of Catholic Social Thought*

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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.

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Written shortly after the end of World War II, *The End of the Modern World* is a bracing, sometimes bleak jeremiad against the dehumanizing dangers of what we now call postmodernism. Guardini is not a pessimist, but he is vitally concerned about the potential loss of human dignity and individual responsibility in a world culture dominated by technological utilitarianism.

Occasionally Guardini is off target (e.g., about all future wars being world wars), but mostly he is penetrating and prophetic in his analysis of contemporary society. After a brief review of the major epochs in Western history, he focuses on power as the defining problem of our age, and proposes that virtues such as humility, self-control, and faith are more crucial than ever.

After more than 50 years, this thought-provoking book still serves as one of the best introductions to the fundamental ethical and theological issues of our times.

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