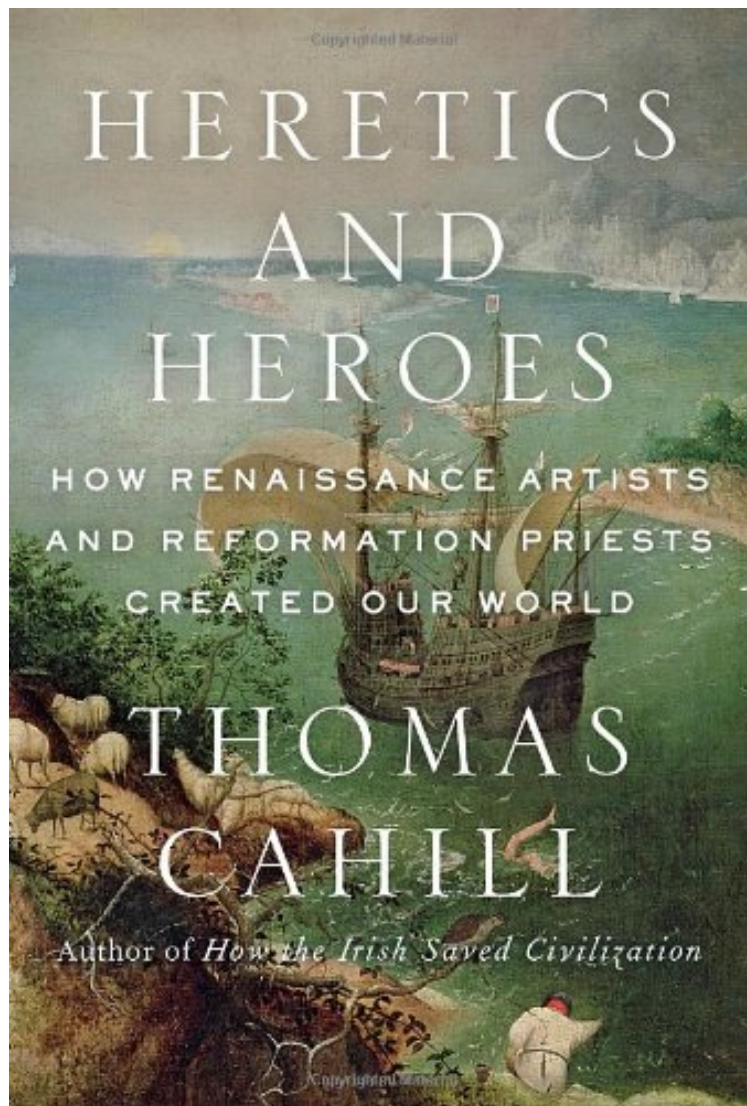


(Download free ebook) Heretics and Heroes: How Renaissance Artists and Reformation Priests Created Our World (Hinges of History)

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Thomas Cahill

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Thomas Cahill : Heretics and Heroes: How Renaissance Artists and Reformation Priests Created Our World (Hinges of History) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Heretics and Heroes: How Renaissance Artists and Reformation Priests Created Our World (Hinges of History):

20 of 20 people found the following review helpful. Painless History By Bonnie I've read all of Cahill's history books and this one continues where "Mysteries of the Middle Ages" left off. I find his writing to make for an interesting read

while discussing sometimes complicated material. So if you're into history, philosophy or theology, I highly recommend this book. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This book is beautifully written and reachly researched. By Alexander Gray This book is an absolute joy to read and to absorb. It is particularly informative for those who are not religious but who are well versed in classical studies and philosophy. More than anything it helps understand the Christian religion, its struggles, catastrophes and success in guiding human development through the past 2000 plus years. It is also a clear pictorial and philosophical condemnation of ignorance and stupidity among those who base their lives on religion without understanding of theology and its history. I am going to read it again after I think about it for few months for one reading is not enough to absorb its vast amount of historical data and ideas, which has challenged humanity for so long and continues to challenge us. And I greatly enjoyed its references to contemporaries and modern events. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I have been reading the series "Hinges of History" and ... By Alma Jeanne Carman I have been reading the series "Hinges of History" and this particular volume included too much personal opinion on subjects which made me question the validity of the author's conclusions. Were they based on objective analysis or were they interpreted in a manner skewed by his personal prejudices. For a volume of history detailing the renaissance and reformation I question the necessity of a derogatory interjection about Donald Trump. When I came upon this statement in the middle of the text I became cautious as to the reason for the reference. Was the author exposing his own prejudices or was he bowing to academic pressures and if either, was the body of the work worth reading at that point.

From the inimitable bestselling author Thomas Cahill, another popular history this one focusing on how the innovations of the Renaissance and the Reformation changed the Western world. A truly revolutionary book. In Volume VI of his acclaimed Hinges of History series, Thomas Cahill guides us through the thrilling period of the Renaissance and the Reformation (the late fourteenth to the early seventeenth century), so full of innovation and cultural change that the Western world would not experience its like again until the twentieth century. Beginning with the continent-wide disaster of the Black Death, Cahill traces the many developments in European thought and experience that served both the new humanism of the Renaissance and the seemingly abrupt religious alterations of the increasingly radical Reformation. This is an age of the most sublime artistic and scientific adventure, but also of newly powerful princes and armies and of newly found courage, as many thousands refuse to bow their heads to the religious pieties of the past. It is an era of just-discovered continents and previously unknown peoples. More than anything, it is a time of individuality in which a whole culture must achieve a new balance if the West is to continue.

From Booklist From *Sailing the Wine Dark Sea: Why the Greeks Matter* (2003) to his recent book on the flowering of the High Middle Ages, Cahill has proven that he can bring even the most obscure epochs back to life. In this sixth of seven projected volumes in his Hinges of History series, Cahill arrives at his most turbulent era yet: the Reformation and Renaissance. Replete with a larger-than-life cast of explorers, innovators, imperialists, and reformers, the era seems built for Cahill's masterful storytelling. Although it is rigorously researched, the book abounds in the serendipities that make for the best fiction: Columbus discovers the New World by accident and Gutenberg modifies a winepress to print books. Even the tragic fall of Constantinople and the horrors of the bubonic plague yield unexpected opportunities. The text is delightfully sprinkled with clever notes and asides as well as dozens of illustrative images and poems. *Heretics and Heroes* is proof that truth is stranger than fiction and that it can be just as entertaining. --Brett Beasley "It's hard to imagine a more palpable or engaging history of venal popes and the horrific torture and burning of heretics in the 1500s than Thomas Cahill's *Heretics and Heroes*, the sixth in his Hinges of History Series. Cahill is our king of popular historians, and rightly so. He is eminently learned and wise, fluent in several languages, and opinionated and unsparing in his view of history. . . . In a little over 300 pages, Cahill encapsulates several dozen major artistic, political and ecclesiastical figures across a spread of several centuries. He touches on so many subjects, is so knowledgeable on everything he touches on, is so pithy and sharp, it doesn't matter if you know a little, a lot or nothing at all about Renaissance art or Northern Europe's rocky break from Catholic Rome. Cahill, you feel, would be the ideal dinner or driving companion. In spirit and in narrative strategy, he's the modern equivalent of popular journalist-historians like John Hersey, Jim Bishop and Walter Lord, who brought factual insight into events blanketed by popular myth." *The Dallas Morning News* "Cahill is a felicitous writer. . . . [H]is erudition is impressive and engaging. No reader will doubt his enthusiasm for or knowledge of great Renaissance masters such as Donatello, Masaccio and Botticelli, as well as the freakishly talented Leonardo and that ruffian Caravaggio. Almost as important, *Heretics and Heroes* is illustrated in a lavish and handsome fashion. Anyone looking for a refresher on Renaissance art . . . or on Reformation conflicts and the subsequent wars of religion could do far worse than to pick up this breezy but reliable guide." *The Washington Post* "The writing is crisp, conversational, and matched by very few non-fiction writers out there today. The great achievement of *Heretics and Heroes* is Cahill's seemingly effortless illumination of the Renaissance and the Reformation. I have learned a lot from what Cahill has done here." James S. Shapiro, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, and author of *Contested Will: Who Wrote Shakespeare?* "Cahill cheerfully explains the enduring value of the Renaissance and Reformation movements to 21st

century Western principles, injecting humor and a conversational style into well-written and easily accessible chapters centering on controversial issues and mesmerizing personalities. . . . Well-chosen illustrations and discreetly placed asides clarify his arguments. . . . Cahill writes passionately about the eras transformational art, the unexpected benefits of the Black Plague, and the intellectual struggles over secular and papal power, resulting in an entertaining yet thought-provoking examination of Western civilization." Publishers Weekly, starred review "Cahill sets his delightfully analytic mind to the major transformations prompted by the Renaissance and Reformation . . . [he] makes it seem so simple to connect the dots, as the 14th through 16th centuries witnessed changes to every facet and walk of life--from the expulsion of the Moors in Spain to the emergence of nations and massive religious upheaval. The breadth of Cahill's knowledge and his jocular style of writing make for a remarkable book." Kirkus s, starred review About the Author THOMAS CAHILL's appealing approach to distant history has won the attention of millions of readers in North America and beyond. Cahill is the author of five previous volumes in the Hinges of History series: How the Irish Saved Civilization, The Gifts of the Jews, Desire of the Everlasting Hills, Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea, and Mysteries of the Middle Ages. They have been bestsellers not only in the United States but also in countries ranging from Italy to Brazil. His most recent book is A Saint on Death Row.