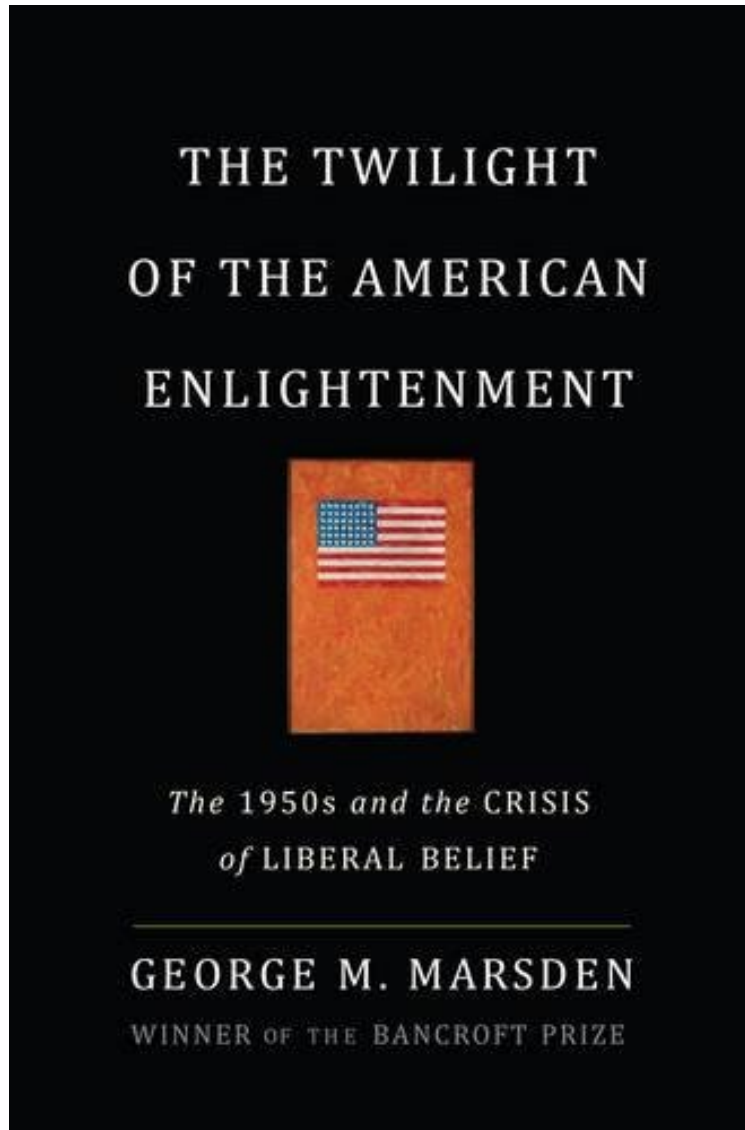


(Download) The Twilight of the American Enlightenment: The 1950s and the Crisis of Liberal Belief

The Twilight of the American Enlightenment: The 1950s and the Crisis of Liberal Belief

George Marsden

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#456926 in Books Basic Books 2014-02-11 2014-02-11 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.40 x 1.20 x 5.80l, .80 #File Name: 0465030106264 pages | File size: 24.Mb

George Marsden : The Twilight of the American Enlightenment: The 1950s and the Crisis of Liberal Belief before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Twilight of the American Enlightenment: The 1950s and the Crisis of Liberal Belief:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Thought provoking. By josh engen I thoroughly enjoyed Marsdens introduction, because it gave a great summation of what to expect for the rest of the book. I especially enjoyed his

section on identifying his viewpoint and the importance of recognizing that objectivity is impossible. I appreciated how he offered different perspectives of how people viewed the problems of the 1950s. Some were cynical, some were neutral, and some were optimistic. A common view was that high culture and education would fix society, but Marsden replies, Germans had more high culture than any nation in history when in 1932 they voted Hitler into power. (10). This book has caused me to question and think more deeply about my own ideals and presuppositions. It was interesting to see that people had some of the same worries about culture, media, and technology as people do today, as well as many differences. I have only come across a handful of books as informative, helpful, and transformational as this one. Marsden connects the dots of famous works, people, and theories that I learned about throughout my schooling, so that I can better understand them and their impact on the world. The book was easily readable and kept me turning the page. His discussion on how the specialization of philosophers lead to their lack of influence on society caused me to think about the similar circumstances in scholarly religion. I agree with Marsden's assessment that we need to figure out a way for religion to exist in the public sphere. I also agree with his conclusion that the starting point is with Kuypers philosophy. His philosophy seems to make sense, which works from the principle set forth by St Augustine, I believe in order to understand. It is important for Christians and non-Christians to think about how we can stop the culture war mentality, but instead move towards a more inclusive pluralism. In order to do this we must widen our perspective, humbly communicate with others, and cultivate shared principles while honoring the differences. This book convinced me of these things and at the same time widening my own perspective own life and the world. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Insightful. Fair. Challenging. By Israel Church In terms of cultural analysis, it was fascinating to read a book about the 50's and find that many of the issues have remained the same or only worsened over time. I have struggled with these very same ideas: that of balancing my own deeply held convictions with a respect for the beliefs and values of others, and how that to legitimately maintain the kind of "inclusive pluralism" that Marsden argues for in the public square. Marsden offers a valuable and fair analysis of culture from a Protestant perspective, as well as a viable option for becoming a more inclusive society. There is much work to be done, as Marsden well knows, but this is a start for exploring the reasons we have gotten to this point in our society and possible solutions. It is a needed book because all too often we negate or neglect certain opinions simply because we disagree with them, rather than giving them a fair hearing or considering them on their own terms. Also, the references to the Soviet Union and comparisons with the U.S. are quite intriguing. And the footnotes! I love a book that sends me to find more books exploring topics of interest. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. and did not see it go the way he would have liked. (But By V. K. Inman This book seems to take the perspective of one who has lived through it all, and did not see it go the way he would have liked. (But, hey, that's me too!) As such it is extremely well illustrated with quotes from the decades under discussion and illustrated with information from popular sources, such as the popular magazines of the time. It is a very "heady" discussion of issues of the time and inciting of discussion. This would be an excellent book for discussion groups, and an excellent text book on history, culture, or philosophy during the 20th century. The author and I share almost the same life span and theological background. I therefore particularly recommend it to people from a Christian evangelical background--but it's relevance goes far beyond this.

In the aftermath of World War II, the United States stood at a precipice. The forces of modernity unleashed by the war had led to astonishing advances in daily life, but technology and mass culture also threatened to erode the country's traditional moral character. As award-winning historian George M. Marsden explains in *The Twilight of the American Enlightenment*, postwar Americans looked to the country's secular, liberal elites for guidance in this precarious time, but these intellectuals proved unable to articulate a coherent common cause by which America could chart its course. Their failure lost them the faith of their constituents, paving the way for a Christian revival that offered America a firm new moral vision one rooted in the Protestant values of the founders. A groundbreaking reappraisal of the country's spiritual reawakening, *The Twilight of the American Enlightenment* shows how America found new purpose at the dawn of the Cold War.

Darren Dochuk, author of *From Bible Belt to Sunbelt: Plain-Folk Religion, Grassroots Politics, and the Rise of Evangelical Conservatism* Piercing and succinct yet astonishingly elegant, *The Twilight of the American Enlightenment* anatomizes the mind of 1950s America with the blend of precision and flair, moral conviction and compulsive readability that this era's public intellectuals and informed citizenry, George Marsden's subjects, prized in their literature. Evocative and poignant, Marsden's prose is also vigorous through and through. Marshaling his unmatched historical expertise and command of modern American religion and thought, he guides his reader through the last days of certainty the early Cold War moment when leading liberal thinkers earnestly shored up their society's shared faith in human freedom and self-determination, individual rights and reason, and the scientific imperative, even as they faced signs of eroding consensus and impending cultural revolution at every turn. Marsden's book is courageous and path-breaking in its recasting of a pivot point the pivot point in twentieth-century American

