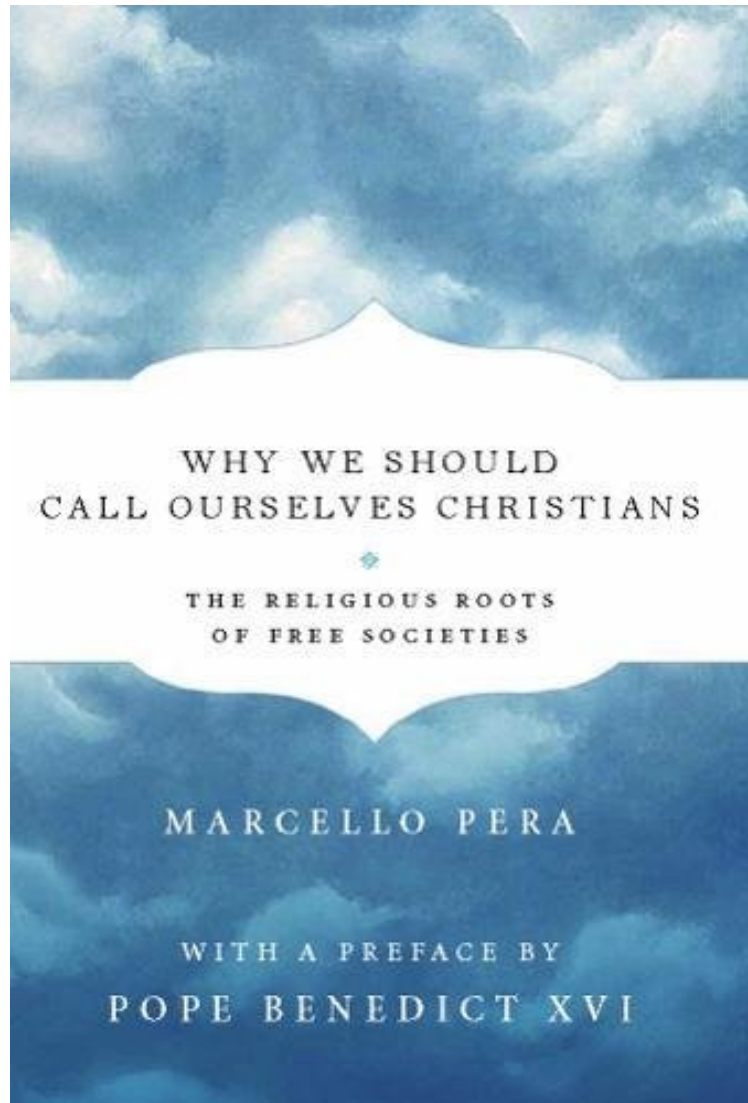


(Download) Why We Should Call Ourselves Christians: The Religious Roots of Free Societies

Why We Should Call Ourselves Christians: The Religious Roots of Free Societies

Marcello Pera

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Marcello Pera : Why We Should Call Ourselves Christians: The Religious Roots of Free Societies before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Why We Should Call Ourselves Christians: The Religious Roots of Free Societies:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ". . . Christian religion . . . prevents freedom from deteriorating . . ."By Always WriteGreat quote from the book that underlines the author's premise of promoting Christianity despite his

non-belief: "With its words, liberal secularism preaches freedom, tolerance, and democracy, but with its deeds it attacks precisely that Christian religion which prevents freedom from deteriorating into license, tolerance into indifference, democracy into anarchy." Pera, Marcello (2011-10-17T23:58:59). *Why We Should Call Ourselves Christians: The Religious Roots of Free Societies* (Kindle Locations 122-124). Encounter Books. Kindle Edition. As a believer in Christ Jesus, I recommend this book to other believers who have the time to read it for the sake of understanding just how important Christianity's role is here in the land of the living. Whether you're called to take to your knees daily to pray for men who lead (a great calling, I know) or to take an active role in politics, this book is one big secular prayer request. Glad the author recognizes the need for true religion's social role. To non-believers, this book offers a good look at how we got your back. You're welcome. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Why right does makes might By Peggy A challenging read but worth the time and energy. This does require an active reader. If you have been looking for an explanation for the foundation of our republic (as well as why not to call it a democracy) this is your book. If you don't believe in "God given" you are left with Man given. Then, there follow all the issues as to which man or group of men will give you your rights or take them away. Understanding our foundation and why it is so special is all important to the strength and goodness of this country. This is a sequel to "Without Roots" which deals with our generalized sense of unease with the taking of ethical and political stands, and leaves us wandering the labyrinth of political correctness. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A book every westerner should read By Javier An It's unfortunately true that, in current political and philosophical discourse, Christianity is often seen as a relic of the past, a religion that has nothing to offer to the modern World. Moreover, its historical role in the development of Western Culture is portrayed in a very bad light. This book sets the record straight, and convincingly shatters these myths. It proves Christianity is the bedrock of our Western Culture (a fact nobody dared to question before the 20th century), and that we should not feel ashamed to recognise this fact, whether we are Christians or non believers (like the author himself).

The intellectual and political elite of the West is nowadays taking for granted that religion, in particular Christianity, is a cultural vestige, a primitive form of knowledge, a consolation for the poor minded, an obstacle to coexistence. In all influential environments, the widespread watchword is We are all secular or We are all post-religious. As a consequence, we are told that states must be independent of religious creed, politics must take a neutral stance regarding religious values, and societies must hold together without any reference to religious bonds. Liberalism, which in some form or another is the prevailing view in the West, is considered to be free-standing, and the Western, liberal, open society is taken to be self-sufficient. Not only is anti-Christian secularism wrong, it is also risky. It's wrong because the very ideas on which liberal societies are based and in terms of which they can be justified the concept of the dignity of the human person, the moral priority of the individual, the view that man is a crooked timber inclined to prevarication, the limited confidence in the power of the state to render him virtuous are typical Christian or, more precisely, Judeo-Christian ideas. Take them away and the open society will collapse. Anti-Christian secularism is risky because it jeopardizes the identity of the West, leaves it with no self-conscience, and deprives people of their sense of belonging. The Founding Fathers of America, as well as major intellectual European figures such as Locke, Kant, and Tocqueville, knew how much our civilization depends on Christianity. Today, American and European culture is shaking the pillars of that civilization. Written from a secular and liberal, but not anti-Christian, point of view, this book explains why the Christian culture is still the best antidote to the crisis and decline of the West. Pera proposes that we should call ourselves Christians if we want to maintain our liberal freedoms, to embark on such projects as the political unification of Europe as well as the special relationship between Europe and America, and to avoid the relativistic trend that affects our public ethics. The challenges of our particular historical moment, as Pope Benedict XVI calls them in the Preface to the book, can be faced only if we stress the historical and conceptual link between Christianity and free society.