

The book, thankfully, ignores a number of modern American deconstructionists, primarily those academics teaching at Harvard and a few other of American Ivy League law schools. This may be due, not only to the fact that it would be—have been—too ambitious an undertaking, but in several areas would not be all that meaningful since several of these recent jurisprudential scholars really have had their moment in the Sun, as it were... .

I would highly recommend the book to the rare lawyer interested in general philosophical thought, who needs to be reminded of some of the basic philosophical theories which were expounded by Heidegger, L. Strauss, MacIntyre, Villey, Arendt on one side, with opposing views of Rawls, Habermas and Apel, as well as the core Greek thoughts expounded by Socrates and his peers which have permeated the Western Judeo-Christian philosophy of law and the study of the rights of individuals in an ever diverse society bound together by the miracle of modern communication. After reading this voluminous collection of jurisprudential thought, one is faced with a number of questions which, of course, go unanswered but which have been raised by the authors' masterful, if laborious analysis.

All in all this is a most worthwhile acquisition to one's jurisprudential library and this treatise certainly belongs in any serious library.

Northern Illinois University

Rodolphe de Seife

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MANENT, PIERRE. *The City of Man.* With an introduction by Jean Bethke Elshtain. Translated by Marc A. LePain. Princeton University Press, 1998. 0-691-01144-3. \$24.95

"This work is more than simply an intellectual history of liberalism, but a powerful and impassioned analysis of modernity. Manent does a masterful job of tracing the influence of his early modern masters on the creation of historicism, political economy and the sociological viewpoint. This work, like his earlier books, is remarkably

erudite, but Manent wears his learning lightly. He writes with a gallic charm or with an *esprit de finesse* that is able to convey philosophical richness as well as be a good read." Steven B. Smith, Yale University.

The "City of God" or the "City of Man"? This is the choice St. Augustine offered 1500 years ago--and according to Pierre Manent the modern west has unequivocally and irreversibly chosen the latter. In this subtle and wide-ranging book on the Western intellectual and political condition, Manent argues that the West has rejected the laws of God and of nature in a quest for human autonomy. But in declaring ourselves free and autonomous, he contends, we have, paradoxically, lost a sense of what it means to be human.

Pierre Manent is Professor of Philosophy at l'Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris.

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GAUCHET, MARCEL. *The Disenchantment of the World. A Political History of Religion.* With a foreword by Charles Taylor. Princeton University Press, 1997. 272 Pp. 0-691-00105-7.

Marcel Gauchet has launched one of the most ambitious and controversial works of speculative history recently to appear, based on the contention that Christianity is "the religion of the end of religion." In *The Disenchantment of the World*, Gaucher reinterprets the development of the modern west, with all its political and psychological complexities, in terms of mankind's changing relation to religion. He views Western history as a movement away from religion society, beginning with prophetic Judaism, gaining tremendous momentum in Christianity and eventually leading to the rise of the political state. Gauchet's view that monotheistic religion itself was a form of social revolution is rich with implications for readers in fields across the humanities and social sciences.

Marcel Gauchet is Professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales.

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