PIERRE-JOSEPH PROUDHON. De la justice dans la Révolution et dans l'Eglise. "Corpus des oeuvres de philosophie en langue française." Paris: Fayard, 1988. 4 vols, 2359 pp.

Charles Renouvier once remarked that the flood of anticlerical and antireligious writings in 19th-century France had produced only two works of real intellectual merit: Ernest Renan's Vie de Jésus and Pierre-Joseph Proudhon's De la justice dans la Révolution et dans l'Eglise. Historians will savor the irony that this reedition of Proudhon's greatest work should be brought out by the once conservative, Catholic publishing house of Fayard as part of its valuable series of the 'Corpus des oeuvres de philosophie en langue française." This edition is a slightly modernized version of the 1860 edition, the last to appear in the author's lifetime. It is not a critical, scholarly edition, and students of modern French thought might still have to refer to the great Bouglé and Moysset edition published by Marcel Rivière in 1935, long out of print, rare and expensive in the second-hand market. Fayard is, nonetheless, to be praised for making this classic once again available in a handy format and a very readable typeface.

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