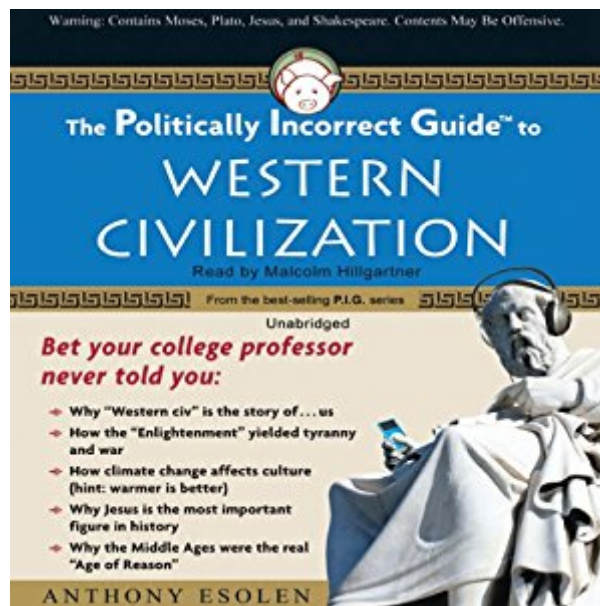


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The Politically Incorrect Guide To Western Civilization



Synopsis

This new installment in the bestselling P.I. Guide series is not just a refreshing road map of Western civilization but also a guide to us: who we were, who we are, and where we are going. --This text refers to the Preloaded Digital Audio Player edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Anthony Esolen examines a wide variety of sources as he builds an alternative view of western civilization. Esolen challenges the currently popular "politically correct" view which holds that the West was built upon a godless and moralless foundation. Certainly, there were those who spoke of good and sound morals, but their words are to be taken with a heavy (lethal) dose of bitter cynicism. It is politically correct to say that there are no absolutes, nothing is purely good or evil. Why, the very notion of an objective (moral) truth is patently absurd, say the politically correct. If anyone needs moral guidelines the state will provide them and enforce them. Of course, the state is dominated by those who adhere to a morally bankrupt ideology. Those who project this politically correct approach are often very well read. They come heavily armed with quotes and anecdotes. They are magicians who can make your moral doubts disappear. Esolen examines many of the sources of this politically correct mindset. Such thinkers easily overwhelm the unarmed; that is, the students in their classes and the readers of their books. And the masses fall in line. Esolen carefully examines the Greek and Roman roots of the West. He stresses how the Judeo-Christian tradition has given the West a vital moral focus, which is suppressed and denigrated by the politically correct today. Even if you don't agree with Esolen's model, the book is a sound guide to the knowledge on which western civilization is based. I found particularly useful his study of Plato, the politics of the Roman Republic,

ancient Israel, the Middle Ages, and the Enlightenment. Many of the sources he quotes reflect his apparent background in literature, primarily English and French. The book is sprinkled with pithy descriptions of people and events. For example, Margaret Sanger was a "hater of blacks, hater of Catholics, admirer of Hitler." Also, Esolen points out that our presidential electoral process undermines potentially dangerous fringe movements because "if you can't win a state, you can't win anything." Esolen challenges one of the top beliefs of the politically correct: the past was backwards, full of ignorance. Therefore, the present is all that matters, and the future will be bright precisely because it rejects the past. This book clearly demonstrates the wisdom of the past and the great ideas on which the West was built.

Excellent product as described!

Very enlightening review of the Western Civilization. There is a philosophical anchor that is difficult to interpret for the neophyte, but it is worth the effort for the reader.

No problems with downloading and working with Kindle. The book itself was very informative and easy to read. I recommend this to all my friends.

Too bad you can only get an education in history away from school. Thank God for the PIG books.

Insightful, witty, worthwhile.

Good job!

Undoubtedly one of the best books I have ever read, Prof. Esolen's book may come as a strong jolt to some, if not many, self-described conservatives, who are nothing but yesterday's Liberals without realizing it. They may find this book too counter-cultural, too Classical and Medieval, to put it bluntly, too Catholic, in the fullest and most genuine sense of the word. His description of the Roman character, especially in the days of the Roman Republic, is nothing short of sublime. Although he may appear to give relatively little emphasis and praise to individualism, a basic postulate of the West since the Reformation, he is fundamentally more rooted in the true Conservatism of the ages: that of Israel and Cicero, of Samuel Johnson and George Washington. He is for true civilization rather than the counterfeit cult of the self. On a different occasion, Prof. Esolen took Aristotle's

observation that man is a communal animal (civic, -politikon-) to the more accurate, more meaningful, and more properly supernatural level by saying, "Man is an ecclesiastical animal." I can hardly think of a more exact way to put it. This book explains and justifies this truth, especially when he writes of the Middle Ages. Along with "The Everlasting Man" and "The Dumb Ox" of Chesterton, this book is simply not to be missed.

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