

FREE REVOLUTIONS IN WORLDVIEW: UNDERSTANDING THE FLOW OF WESTERN THOUGHT PDF



This book covers the story of Western thought from the Presocratics to the end of Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought 20 th Century. It compares the biblical worldview with the worldviews and philosophies that have come and gone throughout history. In ten chapters, the major thinkers and developments of each era are examined, and a narrative thread is pulled through which shows the continuity and discontinuity in Western thought over the centuries.

Thinkers and philosophical movements are evaluated on the basis of the presupposition that the Christian worldview is true.

The contributions of Greek culture and thought are enormous, but we must not adopt their worldviews or synthesize them with the Bible.

Although they knew God Rom. The nouthemoved mover, the logos —these were all conceptions that were infinitely short of who God is. Greek philosophy did not recognize a supreme, personal, absolute God. Philosophy began as a movement away from old religions and myths. Thales and other early philosophers tried to understand the natural order what it was, where it came from, how it worked.

Different pre-Socratic philosophers posited different ways of understanding the world that privileged either experience or rationality. There was an oscillation between rationality and irrationality, and every system had internal inconsistencies. Presocratic philosophy led to the Sophists, who were relativists. Socrates introduced the dialectic method and introspection to find truth. Plato is one of the most important philosophers in world history.

He privileged reason over sense experience and posited the world of the Forms to explain knowledge. The highest form is the Good, and everything participates in it to some extent. He believed that both a city and an individual person should be properly controlled and Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought balanced. For metaphysics he held that substances consisted of both form and matter. Everything except the unmoved mover had both potentiality and actuality i.

In Ethics, Aristotle taught that everyone pursues well-being. People should try to grow in virtue, and virtue is found in the golden mean between two vices of excess. Stoics were fatalists who sought to live according to natural laws and fate. Plotinus was the founder of Neo-Platonism, which held that the highest reality was the One of which nothing could be predicated and that a series of emanations came out of Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought which were abodes of life.

The material world was far down the chain from the One; the Nous was closest to the One, and it was in the Nous that Plotinus located the Forms. All the Greek philosophers tried to interpret the world through their autonomous reason, and as a result they failed. We must understand the world in reference to God and his revelation. Many scholars have mocked the Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought as backwards and without a philosophy, but there is an incredible depth in their world-and-life view.

The foundation for them was the existence of God and his revelation. God revealed himself in creation and historical acts, but also verbally.

The Scriptures were considered infallible and authoritative since they were ultimately the very word of God. Hebrews were radically monotheistic in their beliefs. Their God was the only living God, the maker and ruler of all things. God revealed his nature and power through a variety of names, including Yahweh and various El-forms.

The Hebrew Scriptures began with God creating the world. He was self-existent and everything that exists was made by his will and is dependent on him. Importantly, God created all things through the power of his word. Although evangelical scholars continue to debate how to interpret the details and structure of Genesis 1, and whether the world is young or old, the main points that God is the creator and that creation was ex nihilo should be agreed upon by all. Human beings were.

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Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought by W. Andrew Hoffecker

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Revolutions in Worldview

This work is everything that a primer to worldview thinking should entail. Solomon concluded: 'As for that which is far off and exceedingly deep, who can find it out. I cannot recommend this book too highly. At a time when knowledge of the history of ideas, either by neglect or design, seems to have fallen out of favor, Revolutions in Worldview is a welcome antidote. Sweeping in its scope, without being simplistic, Revolutions shows how the ideas of today, together with their consequences, have not come to us ex nihilo.

The impetus to bring together the disparate elements and institutions that make up a culture is embedded in human nature. In this volume, that impetus is laid out clearly as each historical era builds on the other.

Providing historical perspective as well as critical analysis, these essays give the reader both a telescopic and a microscopic view on present-day Western culture. Learned and lucid, this multi-author Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought of Western thought about God and the world from the Greeks and Hebrews to the exotically furnished vagaries of our own time will be Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought boon to serious students.

It is a major achievement. All by themselves, the chapters 'Christianity from the Early Fathers to Charlemagne,' 'Medieval Theology and the Roots of Modernity,' and 'The Renaissance' justify the price of the book! The book as a whole demonstrates two important reasons for Christians today to take worldview analysis seriously. First, the various essays show that the task of bringing our own thinking and affections into conformity with Scripture is both perpetual and complicated.

The spirit of the world in every age is more diverse and more subtly attractive than we like to admit. Second, the essays show that worldview analysis can serve many different valuable ends, from making us appreciate the faithfulness of Christians in the past, to displaying the ways that Christian worldviews can respectfully differ, to inspiring us to resist the encroachment of a worldly mindset.

For readers ready to enrich their pursuit of a biblical worldview with a historical perspective, this book will be a valuable and challenging resource. If ideas have consequences, Revolutions in Worldview shows definitively that ideas also have contexts. For those interested in defending, maintaining and promoting a Christian worldview, this book gives ample material for considering the complications and importance of the work of cultivating Christian minds.

I warmly recommend it for use as a text in all Christian colleges and seminaries. Revolutions in Worldview is about ten major worldview revolutions, and several sub-revolutions, in Western culture and civilization.

Like its predecessor, Building a Christian World View, the authors of this well-written volume recognize the immense intellectual and practical importance of the concept of worldview itself and its inescapable human significance. This book's historical orientation sheds light on the past up to our own day. Its grounding in Scripture and the Reformed tradition gives it authority and perspective. Its wealth of theological and philosophical insight is sure to make readers better lovers of God and wisdom.

I hope, as the editor does, that it will be used as a formidable text in capstone courses for undergraduates regardless of discipline. I also believe it will help cast a new vision for graduate and seminary education. Having taught history of philosophy and Christian thought at the graduate level for many years, I am delighted to welcome Revolutions in Worldview. This volume joins Colin Brown and Jacques Barzun in providing the student a window into how outlook has informed life in key stages of the development of the Western mind.

Writing from a standpoint that Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought the majesty and lordship of God, and his sovereignty in his redemptive purposes, these chapters provide us with knowledge and perspective crucial for an integrated understanding of history and philosophy, and for current cultural analysis and engagement.

A dreadful irony of our times is that much of the world is looking to the West for constructive models of cultural patterns, while many Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought the West are cynically refusing their own heritage. When I travel to China, or the African continent, I am regularly asked what ingredients from Western history Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought bring inspiration to their local problems and opportunities.

Far from perfect, Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought perhaps not entirely unique, yet the West gave the world so much: health care, human rights, freedom of conscience, the separation of church and state, technology, humane labor laws, and flourishing arts.

This book challenges the cynics and encourages advocates by explaining how it all came about, and by setting forth conditions whereby the West may continue to stay alive. Much is said, but little understood, about worldview, yet the recognition of its importance is gaining adherents daily.

You cannot afford to be uninformed about worldview and its shaping influence on all of life. If you must choose one volume to orient you to this critical subject, you can do no better than Revolutions Revolutions in Worldview: Understanding the Flow of Western Thought Worldview, edited by Andrew Hoffecker, one of the foremost experts on this subject.

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