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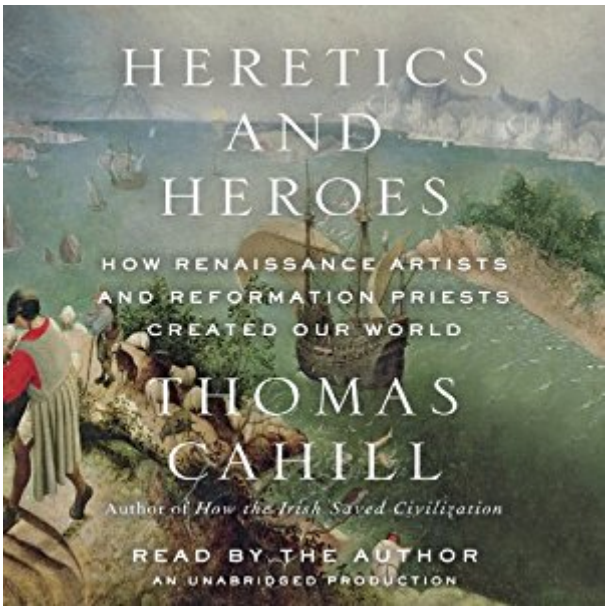
Heretics And Heroes: How Renaissance Artists And Reformation Priests Created Our World



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Synopsis

From the inimitable bestselling author Thomas Cahill, another popular history - this one focusing on how the innovations of the Renaissance and the Reformation changed the Western world. A truly revolutionary audiobook. In Volume VI of his acclaimed Hinges of History series, Thomas Cahill guides us through the thrilling period of the Renaissance and the Reformation (the late fourteenth to the early seventeenth century), so full of innovation and cultural change that the Western world would not experience its like again until the twentieth century. Beginning with the continent-wide disaster of the Black Death, Cahill traces the many developments in European thought and experience that served both the new humanism of the Renaissance and the seemingly abrupt religious alterations of the increasingly radical Reformation. This is an age of the most sublime artistic and scientific adventure, but also of newly powerful princes and armies and of newly found courage, as many thousands refuse to bow their heads to the religious pieties of the past. It is an era of just-discovered continents and previously unknown peoples. More than anything, it is a time of individuality in which a whole culture must achieve a new balance if the West is to continue.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I’ve read all of Cahill’s history books and this one continues where "Mysteries of the Middle Ages" left off. I find his writing to make for an interesting read while discussing sometimes complicated material. So if you’re into history, philosophy or theology , I highly recommend this book.

This book is an absolute joy to read and to absorb. It is particularly informative for those who are not

religious but who are well versed in classical studies and philosophy. More than anything it helps understand the Christian religion, its struggles, catastrophes and success in guiding human development through the past 2000 plus years. It is also a clear pictorial and philosophical condemnation of ignorance and stupidity among those who base their lives on religion without understanding of theology and its history. I am going to read it again after I think about it for few months for one reading is not enough to absorb its vast amount of historical data and ideas, which has challenged humanity for so long and continues to challenge us. And I greatly enjoyed its references to contemporaries and modern events.

I love all of Cahill's books and highly recommend them! Cahill focuses on those moments he calls "the hinges of history." They are those moments when someone thought something new - in art, music, philosophy, or architecture - and things were never the same. I also enjoy how he sheds light on the contributions of women, albeit those who could contribute because they were given to the church or learned to read and write, and how those women left a lasting influence on art and music. Cahill's writing style is very accessible and makes you feel like you're learning something new from a familiar friend. This series is great!

Another excellent book by Thomas Cahill. It traces how religion influences art, particularly during the Middle Ages, and also how that art reflected society during the period. However, as usual Thomas Cahill allows his bias towards one sect of Catholicism over another get in the way. This is why I decline to give it 5 stars for this otherwise excellent study.

This series is terrific! Cahill makes history come alive like one was reading a great novel--the story is great. I decided I had to have each of them in hardback, so has been a great help in acquiring the older ones, too.

Thomas Cahill is a profound scholar who has the additional gift of writing beautiful prose. His love of his subject is evident on every page. It is impossible to read this book or any of its predecessors without being drawn in by his enthusiasm. All six of the "hinges of history" have been a joy to read for anyone interested in how we got here.

Excellent!

As with other Cahill works, Heretics and Heroes clears away the mist of history scrubbed clean and sweet. Much of what we imagine as history is a sanitized myth told by people ashamed to reveal the truth of the founding of our societies. We need to know the truth of our collective actions so we might rise above the cruel selfishness and create a better tomorrow. Thank you Thomas. It cannot be easy to be the truth teller in a world still comfortable in deceit.

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