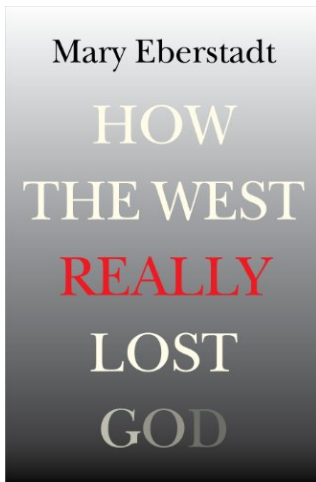


[PDF] How The West Really Lost God: A New Theory Of Secularization

Mary Eberstadt - pdf download free book



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Description:

Review "An absolutely brilliant and strikingly fresh portrait of the 'double-helix' of faith and family, coupled with a potentially game-changing analysis of the why and how of secularization, all written with the sparkle and empathy that characterize the work of one of America's premier social analysts." —George Weigel, Distinguished Senior Fellow, Ethics and Public Policy Center, Washington, D.C.

"You cannot understand the real philosophical problems of the West—which have been mounting for 40 years—without reading Mary Eberstadt's new book *How the West Really Lost God*."—**Jonathan V. Last**, author of *What to Expect When No One's Expecting: America's Coming Demographic Disaster*

"How the West Really Lost God" is a clear, compelling and ultimately convincing presentation of the relationship between faith and family. It's not a call to action. But it doesn't need to be. The Church has already told Christians what to do. The book just dispels any lingering doubts about the necessity of doing it. —Emily Stimpson, *Our Sunday Visitor*

"Mary Eberstadt's account of the synergistic relationship between the fracturing of the family and declining religiosity is both chilling and utterly convincing. No theorist of secularization has come close to Eberstadt in sociological insight or explanatory power."— **Mary Ann Glendon**, author of *The Forum and the Tower: How Scholars and Politicians Have Imagined the World from Plato to Eleanor Roosevelt*

"A brilliant contribution to the really big question about the future of the West, and a pleasure to read."—**Rodney Stark**, author of *The Rise of Christianity*

"Mary Eberstadt's account of the connection between religion and family, showing that the two institutions rise and fall together, is finely written, impressively argued and entirely persuasive. This book tells us much about the condition of Western societies today and reminds us that the atheists and the Nietzscheans owe their influence less to the truth of their views than to the loneliness to which they appeal." —**Roger Scruton**, author of *The West and the Rest: Globalisation and the Terrorist Threat*

"Mary Eberstadt is one of the most acute and creative social observers of our time. She is not afraid to challenge received wisdom and her insights are always well worth pondering."—**Francis Fukuyama**, author of *The End of History and the Last Man*

"In *How the West Really Lost God*, Mary Eberstadt paints a provocative and powerful portrait of the familial roots of contemporary secularization in the West. Recent declines in church attendance throughout Europe and the Americas have been driven in large part by declining rates of marriage and childbearing among their citizens. Apparently, when men and women cease to find their way to the altar and the maternity ward, they are less likely to look heavenwards. As Eberstadt notes, the decline of faith and family have gone hand in hand throughout the West. "This spells trouble for the men and women of the West, insofar as the one other institution besides family and religion that now supports them from cradle to grave is the welfare state. But, from Greece to the United States, the welfare state is running out of money. Eberstadt speculates that the demographic and financial collapse may well spur a revival of the fortunes of faith and family as people come to realize they cannot rely on the state. Only time will tell." —**W. Bradford Wilcox**, director of National Marriage Project, University of Virginia

"*How the West Really Lost God* is clear as a bell, beautifully plotted, and the point it makes not only overturns conventional wisdom but strikes far deeper into reality than any rival argument in the field." —**Michael Novak**, author of *The Myth of Romantic Love, No One Sees God, Belief and Unbelief*

"Her short, elegantly written book repeatedly shows that strong families help to keep religious practice alive, and that too many people see a causal connection running exclusively in the opposite direction."—**The Economist**, 4/27/2013

“A short column cannot do justice to the wide and deep reading and all the evidence Eberstadt has marshaled for her argument, so you are urged to read this book. What is certain is that this is one of those books that will forever change the conversation about why Christianity is in decline in the West.” —*Crisis Magazine* “In her deeply insightful new book, *How the West Really Lost God*, Mary Eberstadt suggests that there is a more fundamental cause underlying the cultural loss of religion—a cause that all the previous research has mistaken for just another effect. What if the decline of religion is integrally connected to, and perhaps even a result of, the decline of the natural family?” —*Washington Times*

About the Author Mary Eberstadt is a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center. She has written widely for magazines and newspapers, among them *First Things*, *Policy Review*, the *Weekly Standard*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Commentary*. Her previous books include *Home-Along America*, *Adam and Eve after the Pill*, and the satire *The Loser Letters*.

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Tell us the thesis of your new book. A: How the West Really Lost God opens with a review of the conventional arguments for Western secularization and observes that those arguments don't adequately explain the decline of Christianity in certain parts of the Western world. If that's correct—if, pace the new atheists and other secular thinkers, material progress and education and rationalism alone have not caused secularization—then what has? My book argues that the great puzzle of secularization has been missing a critical piece: the family, and the ways in which changes to the Western family ha... So let's consider Scandinavia as one petri dish for the book's theory. Mary Eberstadt talked about her book, *How the West Really Lost God: A New Theory of Secularization*, in which she argues that the decline of the family has led to the decline of religion in the Western world. She spoke at the Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC. close. Report Video Issue. 00:00:48. C-span.org. .. >> The purpose of my book is to consider is the pattern of secularization in the united states and elsewhere in a new way in though wes. In this magisterial work, leading cultural critic Mary Eberstadt delivers a powerful new theory about the decline of religion in the Western world. The conventional wisdom is that the West first experienced religious decline, followed by the decline of the family. Eberstadt turns this standard account on its head. Mary Eberstadt is an essayist, novelist, and author of several influential works of non-fiction, including *How the West Really Lost God: A New Theory of Secularization*; *Adam and Eve after the Pill: Paradoxes of the Sexual Revolution*; and *Home-Along America*. Her novel *The Loser Letters: A Comic Tale of Life, Death, and Atheism*, has been adapted for stage and will premiere in fall 2016. What people think about *How the West Really Lost God*. 3.0. Rating: 3 out of 5 stars. How did the Western world go from being one that widely feared God to one that in some places now widely jeers Him? We can begin to approach that question by correcting the public record and noting, first, what did not happen: secularization has not spread for the reasons most commonly supposed. Therein lies an important tale. Mary Eberstadt is a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. This essay is adapted from her new book, *How the West Really Lost God: A New Theory of Secularization* (Templeton Press, 2013). NOTES. David Voas, "The Rise and Fall of Fuzzy Fidelity in Europe," *European Sociological Review* 25, 2: 155-68. No theorist of secularization has come close to Eberstadt in sociological insight or explanatory power."-- Mary Ann Glendon, author of *The Forum and the Tower: How Scholars and Politicians Have Imagined the World from Plato to Eleanor Roosevelt*. "In *How the West Really Lost God*, Mary Eberstadt paints a provocative and powerful portrait of the familial roots of contemporary secularization in the West."--Crisis Magazine "In her deeply insightful new book, *How the West Really Lost God*, Mary Eberstadt suggests that there is a more fundamental cause underlying the cultural loss of religion--a cause that all the previous research has mistaken for just another effect. What if the decline of religion is integrally connected to, and perhaps even a result of, the decline of the natural family?"