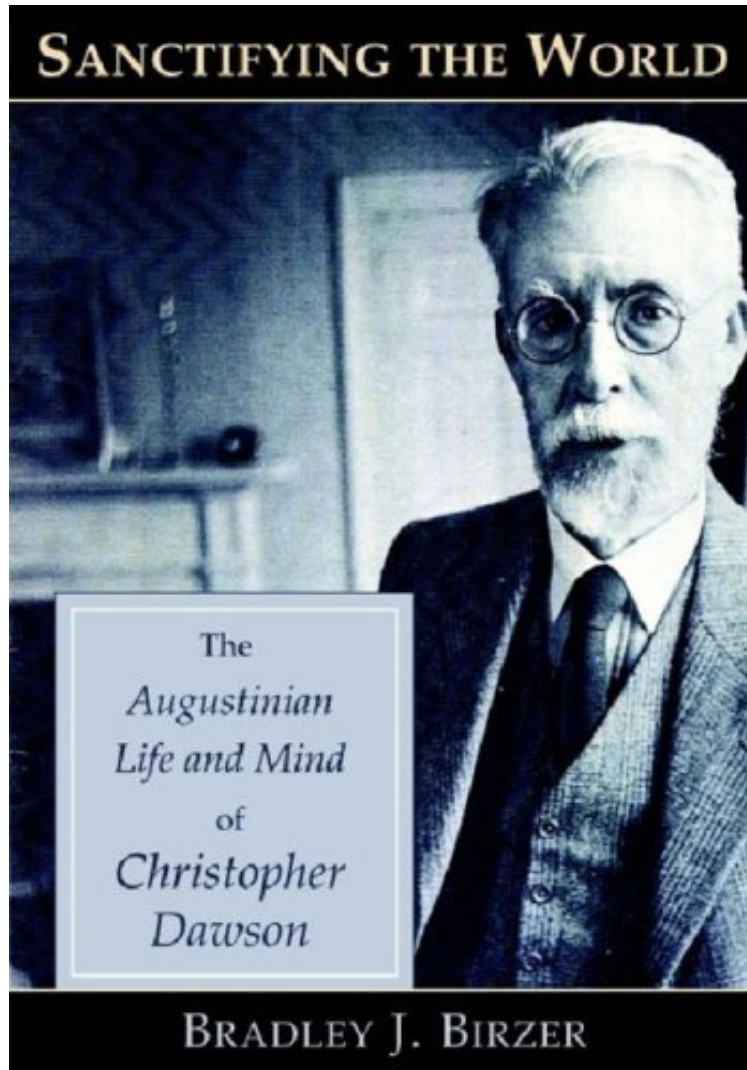


(Free) Sanctifying the World: The Augustinian Life and Mind of Christopher Dawson

Sanctifying the World: The Augustinian Life and Mind of Christopher Dawson

Bradley J. Birzer

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Bradley J. Birzer : **Sanctifying the World: The Augustinian Life and Mind of Christopher Dawson** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sanctifying the World: The Augustinian Life and Mind of Christopher Dawson:

24 of 25 people found the following review helpful. An Artist's Advocate By MirabilisForgotten by some and unknown to others, Christopher Dawson's extraordinary mind comes to life in Birzer's thorough and insightful book. Dawson was a writer and thinker for writers and thinkers and (somewhat unexpectedly) also for artists. In an age of

propaganda, Dawson proclaimed the truths that the ideologues chose to ignore, suppress and in many cases destroy. Keenly aware of the horrors of totalitarian government, yet also aware of the dangers of "totalitarian" free-markets, Dawson recognized the reality that humanity thrives not as a manipulatable mass or a disinterested collection of free agents, but as a culture. In Europe this culture had Christian roots that grew out of the ashes of the Roman empire. That culture developed over the course of centuries. Dawson realized that though it took many generations to mature, culture could only be sustained by a people willing to live up to its ideals and truths. And it could be destroyed in an instant by those seeking only the "new" and who somehow considered its past as of little consequence. Dawson took up the challenge of trying to sustain and nurture Christian culture at one of its darkest hours. Like Chesterton, Dawson's insight and understanding is pertinent now more than ever. His influence can clearly be seen in the works of Eliot but more recently in the works of Pope John Paul II. For artists in particular, Dawson reminds that the power of poetry, paint and music does not aimlessly spew from the fountain of individual whim, but blossoms from the rich soil of works, and indeed the very lives, of those whose world we inherit. Bradley Birzer has done a great service by resurrecting the story and the ideas of Christopher Dawson. Highly recommended to historians, theologians, philosophers and artists alike. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This book tells the fascinating story of a great Catholic intellectual. By Joseph A. Franceschi This book tells the fascinating story of a great Catholic intellectual. The writing is a bit turgid, but the subject makes up for an academic writing style. The book could also do with some photographs of Dawson and his contemporaries. Nevertheless, this book has succeeded in convincing me of the importance of reading more of Dawson's works. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well documented, inspiring, trends to be Roman Catholic ... By R. Holvast Well documented, inspiring, trends to be Roman Catholic in its view, and is using Dawson to support modern North American conservatism. But a job well done!

English historian and Christian humanist Christopher Dawson stood at the very center of the Catholic literary and intellectual revival in the four decades preceding Vatican II. One can find his influence throughout the twentieth-century Catholic Right. Poet and social critic T. S. Eliot considered him the foremost thinker of his generation, and the founder of American conservatism, Russell Kirk, wrote that he had been saturated in Dawsonian historical studies [and] my own books reflect Dawson's concepts. Dawson's reputation declined dramatically during the cultural shifts accompanying Vatican II, and few remembered the English Catholic in the final decades of the twentieth century. A revival of interest in Dawson and his body of work increased dramatically in the last years of John Paul II's and the beginning of Benedict's pontificates. This book offers the first study of Dawson's life and thought as a whole. It is especially poignant as a post-9/11 reexamination of the meaning of Western civilization. *Sanctifying the World* was named by biographer Joseph Pearce as the best book of 2008 and the *National Catholic Register* named it one of the top eleven books of the year.

About the Author Bradley J. Birzer is Assistant Professor of History at Hillsdale College. A Senior Fellow with the Center for the American Idea in Houston, he has written extensively on Tolkien, James Fenimore Cooper, the American frontier and American Indians, and Christopher Dawson.