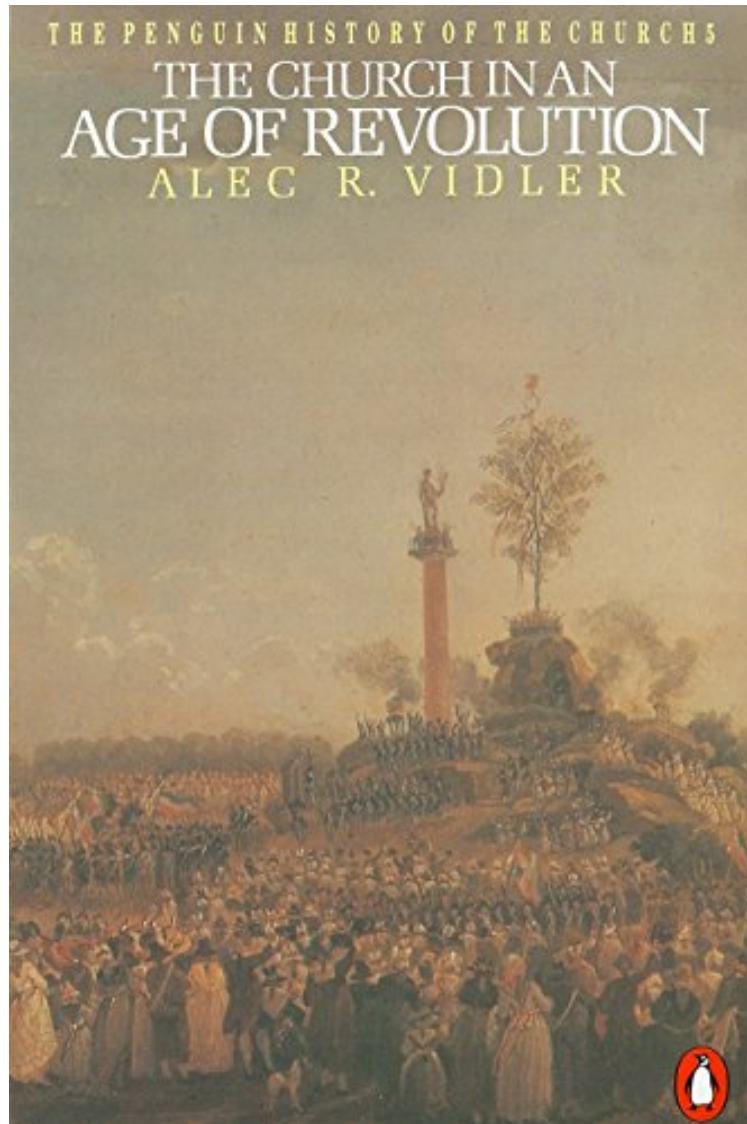


[Library ebook] The Church in an Age of Revolution (The Penguin History of the Church) (v. 5)

The Church in an Age of Revolution (The Penguin History of the Church) (v. 5)

Alec R. Vidler

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Alec R. Vidler : The Church in an Age of Revolution (The Penguin History of the Church) (v. 5) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Church in an Age of Revolution (The Penguin History of the Church) (v. 5):

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. A Quick Study of Nineteenth Century Christianity By Bucherwurm I'm currently engrossed in reading Victorian history and literature, and purchased this book to get a quick

infusion of church history for that period. The book was a perfect choice for my needs. While the book's coverage extends from the French Revolution to the present day, it is mainly concerned with the events of the nineteenth century in Europe, England and Scotland. Mr. Vidler starts with a discussion of Catholicism in France during the periods of revolution. He delineates the struggle between those favoring strong papal control and those who wanted a more secular society. He moves on to the Oxford movement in Britain where there was a tendency toward revival of Catholic beliefs and liturgy. The Chartist movement and the Christian Socialists were a development of the Industrial Revolution. Marked attempts were made to address the political and financial poverty of many of England's citizens. The author also covers the split in the Church in Scotland; the impact of Charles Darwin on Christian thinking; the growth of liberal theology and the Catholic modernists; the influence of Kierkegaard; and the impact of imperialistic missionary programs on European and British colonies. Although written by an Anglican theologian the book is a very even handed treatment of Protestant and Catholic movements and theology during modern times. He presents the good along with the bad, and in sum presents the reader with a concise, informative church history in slightly less than 300 pages. My only caveat is that if you are primarily interested in twentieth century coverage of this topic, then you had best look elsewhere. Coverage of the current period is relatively brief and extends only to 1971, the date of publication.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The church in the age of revolution
By Walter A. Lukaszek
I would like more focus and information on the churches in other parts of the world and how they responded to changes in science and philosophy. There was too much material on England. I did find it enlightening to follow the thesis: leadership and theologians express ways to relate to God but it is the people in the pew that determine if it helps them individually in their relationship to God. It is far wiser to begin with the people and their relationship to God and then theologize/speculate clearer ways to express this relationship. The leaders and theologians often are hundreds of years ahead or behind the people in the pew.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A Brilliant, Informed Analysis
By Timothy Doran
In a small package, Vidler has written an analysis - not merely an overview - of reactions by the Christian Churches to modernity and its discontents from the French Revolution to Vatican II. This is a deceptively small book for it is dense, deep, and highly informed. It may even be too concise for the casual reader; I read it with an abundance of other source materials. Figures such as Coleridge, John Henry Newman, and Kierkegaard are portrayed with sympathy. This is essential to any understanding of the Western world in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The French Revolution dealt a fatal blow to the alliance of Church and State. The Christian church had to adapt to great changes - from the social upheavals of the Industrial Revolution to the philosophical speculations of Kant's 'Copernican revolution', to Darwin's evolutionary theories. Some Christians were driven to panic and blind reaction, others were inspired to re-interpret their faith; the results of this conflict within the fabric of the Church are still reverberating today. In this masterly appraisal of a doubt-ridden and turbulent period in Christianity Alec Vidler concludes with a discussion of the position of the Church in modern times and expertly answers the question: 'Has the Church stood up to the Age of Revolution?'