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Dialogues Between Faith and Reason: Rebuilding Europe After the First and Second World Wars and the Role of Heritage Preservation

By John H. Smith

Cornell University Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 328 pages. The contemporary theologian Hans Kng has asked if the death of God, proclaimed by Nietzsche as the event of modernity, was inevitable. Did the empowering of new forms of rationality in Western culture beginning around 1500 lead necessarily to the reduction or privatization of faith In Dialogues between Faith and Reason, John H. Smith traces a major line in the history of theology and the philosophy of religion down the slippery slope of secularization-from Luther and Erasmus, through Idealism, to Nietzsche, Heidegger, and contemporary theory such as that of Derrida, Habermas, Vattimo, and Asad. At the same time, Smith points to the persistence of a tradition that grew out of the Reformation and continues in the mostly Protestant philosophical reflection on whether and how faith can be justified by reason. In this accessible and vigorously argued book, Smith posits that faith and reason have long been locked in mutual engagement in which they productively challenge each other as partners in an ongoing dialogue. Smith is struck by the fact that although in the secularized West the death of God is said to be fundamental to the modern condition, our current...



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