



Theology and Social Theory: Beyond Secular Reason

By John Milbank

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Theology and Social Theory: Beyond Secular Reason By John Milbank

This is a revised edition of John Milbank's masterpiece, which sketches the outline of a specifically theological social theory.

- The *Times Higher Education Supplement* wrote of the first edition that it was “a tour de force of systematic theology. It would be churlish not to acknowledge its provocation and brilliance”.
- Featured in *The Church Times* “100 Best Christian Books”
- Brings this classic work up-to-date by reviewing the development of modern social thought.
- Features a substantial new introduction by Milbank, clarifying the theoretical basis for his work.
- Challenges the notion that sociological critiques of theology are ‘scientific’.
- Outlines a specifically theological social theory, and in doing so, engages with a wide range of thinkers from Plato to Deleuze.
- Written by one of the world's most influential contemporary theologians and the author of numerous books.

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Editorial Review

Review

Praise for the First edition

"Milbank's work is a tour de force of systematic theology. It would be churlish not to acknowledge its provocation and brilliance."

Times Higher Education Supplement

"The thesis is relatively simple, its orchestration is stunning in scope as well as in harmonies."

Modern Theology

"John Milbank's sprawling, ambitious and intellectually demanding book is in a class of its own."

Studies in Christian Ethics

"John Milbank has written a masterful review of the development of modern social thought that at the same time offers a criticism of its dominant paradigms and suggests inherent limits on its accomplishments."

Journal of Religion

Praise for the Second Edition

"*Theology and Social Theory* has proven to be a bombshell... We are, therefore, extremely fortunate to have this second edition with Milbank's dazzling new 'Preface'. Re-reading this book is always a pleasure, because it is filled with surprises that force thought."

Stanley Hauerwas, Duke University

"When the first edition was published the reaction was one of shock. Now, fifteen years on, the shock has worn off; more and more people are questioning the universal competency of secular reason. But this makes all the more important the publication of this second edition. Milbank develops an alternative which has been steadily developing and enriching in the intervening years."

Charles Taylor, McGill University

"[*Theology and Social Theory*] remains a dense, challenging and elusive masterpiece of a book, which has lost none of its power to intrigue and repel in equal measure."

Times Literary Supplement, Sept 2006

"This second edition is a vital aid to any reader who wishes to understand more fully how Theology and Social Theory relates to Milbank's continued publications and radically orthodox sensibilities."

Theological Book Review

"An influential and important book ... instructive for students in that it analyses and challenges contemporary assumptions about society and religion." *Teaching Theology & Religion*

From the Back Cover

In modern times, the social sciences have sought to explain religion from a neutral, secular vantage-point. In response, theology has tried to legitimate itself by building upon social scientific conclusions. In this acclaimed book, John Milbank suggests that both enterprises are compromised by the theological and anti-theological assumptions built into the social sciences themselves.

This new edition of *Theology and Social Theory* brings John Milbank's classic work fully into line with his most recent views and is laid out in an easier-to-read format. It features a substantial new preface in which Milbank answers his critics by defending and further elaborating his metahistorical vision.

Provocative and well-argued, this updated classic from one of the world's leading theologians offers a comprehensive treatment of the relation between theology and social theory, all the way from Plato to Deleuze.

About the Author

John Milbank is Professor of Religion, Politics and Ethics at the University of Nottingham and one of the most influential contemporary theologians. He is also the author of *The Word Made Strange: Theology, Language, Culture* (Blackwell, 1996).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Evelyn Rodrigue:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the guide untitled *Theology and Social Theory: Beyond Secular Reason* can be excellent book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Marie Miles:

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David Murray:

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