



What Is the West?

Philippe Nemo

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In this short, illuminating and very readable work, Philippe Nemo argues that what we call "the West" is one and only one cultural entity, to which both North American and Western Europe belong. In contemporary debates, then, Nemo asserts, it is simply incorrect to exaggerate the differences or gaps between countries that are indeed "Western."

Brilliantly and succinctly surveying the last five or six millennia, Nemo pieces together the history of the West's development. He weaves together political events, philosophical discoveries, religious movements, and scientific and technological innovations to demonstrate the factors that have influenced and shaped Western culture. Nemo acknowledges the essential contributions of Greek science and philosophy, Roman law, Christian thought and modern democratic revolutions to our contemporary liberal democracies.

In his conclusion, Nemo also presents a case for closer geopolitical cooperation among Western societies.

Already translated from the original French into Portuguese, Italian, German and Greek, What is the West? has received considerable interest throughout Europe; earlier this year, in fact, it received the Italian "Cittè della Rose" prize for essays.

Now available for the first time in English, this book is essential reading for those interested in contemporary cultural debates on Western culture and nationhood, as well as American values; as well as those interested in world history and politics, philosophy and religion, and contemporary global politics. Not geared to specifically conservative or liberal viewpoints but to an accurate rendering of historical ideas and trends, Nemo's book should do much to advance our understanding of each other in an increasingly global community.

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