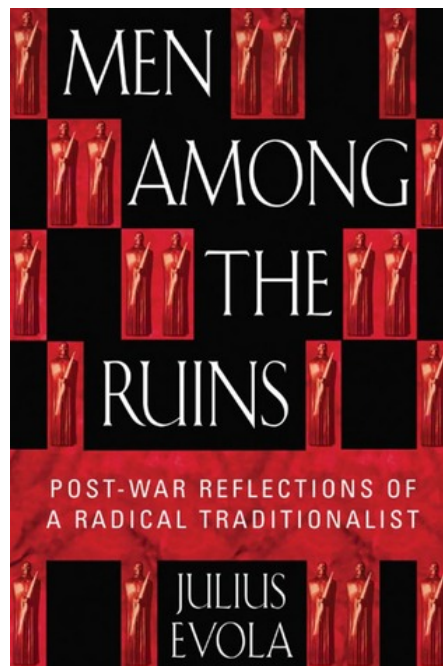




Men Among the Ruins: Post-War Reflections of a Radical Traditionalist

Julius Evola , Joscelyn Godwin

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Men Among the Ruins: Post-War Reflections of a Radical Traditionalist Julius Evola , Joscelyn Godwin
Julius Evola's masterful overview of the political and social manifestations of our time, the "age of decline" known to the Hindus as the Kali Yuga.

- Reveals the occult war that underlies the crises that have become a prevailing feature of modern life.
- Includes H. T. Hansen's definitive essay on Evola's political life and theory.

Men Among the Ruins is Evola's frontal assault on the predominant materialism of our time and the mirage of progress. For Evola and other proponents of Traditionalism, we are now living in an age of increasing strife and chaos: the Kali Yuga of the Hindus or the Germanic Ragnarok. In such a time, social decadence is so widespread that it appears as a natural component of all political institutions. Evola argues that the crises that dominate the daily lives of our societies are part of a secret occult war to remove the support of spiritual and traditional values in order to turn man into a passive instrument of the powerful.

Evola is often regarded as the godfather of contemporary Italian fascism and right-wing radical politics, but attentive examination of the historical record--as provided by H. T. Hansen's definitive introduction--reveals Evola to be a much more complex figure. Though he held extreme right-wing views, he was a fearless critic of the Fascist regime and preferred a caste system based on spirituality and intellect to the biological racism championed by the Nazis. Ultimately, he viewed the forces of history as comprised by two factions: "history's demolition squad" enslaved by blind faith in the future and those individuals whose watchword is Tradition. These latter stand in this world of ruins at a higher level and are capable of letting go of what needs to be abandoned in order that what is truly essential not be compromised.

Men Among the Ruins: Post-War Reflections of a Radical Traditionalist Details

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Download and Read Free Online Men Among the Ruins: Post-War Reflections of a Radical Traditionalist Julius Evola , Joscelyn Godwin

A brilliant critique of capitalism, economics and the modern world system from the political right. Evola's only failings are his occasional slip into racism, and sexism - though I'd be remiss to call him xenophobic - his views are complex and a reflection of his time. While his call for an imperium is perhaps off the mark, his analysis of the spiritual death of the modern world since the Enlightenment and the French Revolution is poignant. This book gave me much food for thought, and in the parts I found disagreeable and even reprehensible it forced me to dig deeper and ask myself why I felt that way, ultimately coming to a better understanding of my own views and an understanding of the fundamental deficiency and flaws inherent to democracy. Evola's analysis is sharp, barbing, and clear. His views are difficult to dismiss, and should not be ignored.

It started off badly, tailed off a little in the middle, and the less said about the end the better. But other than that, excellent.

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Let's say one star for the feasibility and desirability of implementing these ideas, and three stars for the fascinating experience of reading such an uncompromisingly extreme philosophy presented so eloquently. I have tremendous respect for Evola's writings on esoteric subjects. His *The Hermetic Tradition* is one of the best books available on the symbolism of spiritual alchemy. But his political philosophy was so detached from reality that it led him to associate himself with some truly reprehensible ideas, most notoriously Italian Fascism.

Evola writes as if the kind of regimented, "organic" hierarchical society that he advocates actually existed at some time in the past. Maybe—and this is a big maybe—in Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, or China, or perhaps the Inca Empire, but certainly not in Europe, where Evola's attention is focused. Even in the distant past of the Near East, the Far East, and South America, what documentary and archaeological evidence exists shows that dissent, rebellion, and change weren't unknown even in what are commonly assumed to have been static societies.

Some esoteric schools of thought, such as theosophy, see the Biblical Fall, the Hindu Yugas, and the Greek Ages of Man as metaphors for the gradual descent of our species from a purely spiritual to a tangibly physical mode of existence. Perhaps Evola saw his ideal society as something that only existed in some astral or ethereal state, prior to the messy vagaries of our human, all-too-human world. He seems to hint at something to that effect a couple of times. Whatever the case, it's unlikely that the kind of social order Evola advocates will ever come to pass, and thank goodness for that. But reading such an intelligent presentation of such outlandish ideas makes for an otherworldly experience, if nothing else.

Tvrtko Bali? says

If you are looking for a good book by Evola, this is not it, go read *Revolt Against the Modern World* instead. That still has some flaws, but they are only amplified here.

I admire Evola's idealism, I really do, but if you wondered if one can be too idealistic, the answer is here and the answer is yes. I find it sad that fascism offers so much of what Evola looked for, but he just didn't see it because he was so demanding. We need to revive a lot of the values from before the French Revolution, I agree with him on that, but the world has changed so much since then that we can't look at old systems of government for anything more than inspiration, we need to devise a new system of government that harnesses the immense technological potential of modern civilization instead of shying away from it. Evola also flirts with individualism by opposing totalitarianism, but noting that we should not hold the individual as something sacred, but instead that we should look after the "person" which is what he calls a higher, fully realized individual. I simply don't think we can afford to hold such standards without first establishing a strong authority to shape individuals into persons and maintain them as such. That is just one example, throughout the book he constantly jumps between opposing ideals and justifies his position by making subtle differences without being very convincing. The most absurd case of this is when he tries to differentiate between hierarchism and support for hierarchy.

And then there are things where I just disagree with him and think he could have justified his position better as when he describes the natures of different nations and ethnicities, when he talks about the relation between sex and procreation or when he claims that a union of Europe under traditionalist principles is not possible, but I will not further analyze those issues here.

I still admire Evola as a person and I will come back to him sometimes in the future, but I was very disappointed by this particular work, I hope his other books are more like *Revolt Against the Modern World*.

Matti says

Evola is best left exploring the esoteric aspects of spirituality rather than publishing the same analyses as found by Guenon before him. This book has many redeeming aspects, yet also is very dry in many chapters. An uneven consistency is found throughout the book leaving it hard to mentally absorb.

Perennial Imperium says

Great book, especially because Evola takes a few blows at the conventional Right of today, that focuses on "quantity based solutions" to European problems, particularly the demographic or national solution. The chapter on "Occult War" is also great, as is his analysis of the Protocols. If you want to get further acquainted with Evola's political thoughts, this book, together with *Pagan Imperialism*, is the best way to do it.

TR says

Evola critiques the modern world with traditional standards. Magnificent companion to Revolt Against the Modern World', which should be read first.

IMPERIVM says

Decent analysis of modernity; noteworthy defense of warrior-ascetic values against liberal democrats.

Jacob Senholt says

Another excellent book by Evola, and quite interesting since it deals with the post-war period, and the failure of the totalitarian Fascism and Nazism. A guide for the few 'men among the ruins' (of everything after 1789/French Revolution).

Raimonds Krumbolds says

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