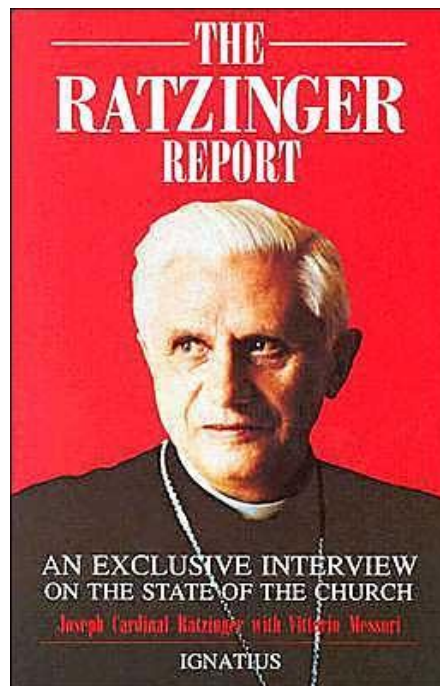




Ratzinger Report: An Exclusive Interview on the State of the Church

Pope Benedict XVI

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Ratzinger Report: An Exclusive Interview on the State of the Church Pope Benedict XVI Joseph Ratzinger (future Pope Benedict XVI), renowned theologian and Cardinal Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, gives an exclusive in-depth interview to a famous Italian journalist, Vittorio Messori, on the state of the church near the end of the of twentieth century. Cardinal Ratzinger speaks candidly and forcefully about the challenges of the Church in the Post-Vatican II era.

Here is the complete text of a meeting many have called a "historical turnabout" in the Church. The roots of the crisis that has troubled Catholics in the twenty years since the Council are analyzed with forthright clarity by one of the most authoritative voices in the Vatican. This is a clear and uncompromising report on the dangers that threaten the Faith, from one who every day receives the most reliable information from every continent.

Yet Ratzinger's observations are as hopeful and balanced as they are clear-sighted, forcefully re-affirming the immense and positive work of Vatican II, whose genuine fruits this book provides a guideline for achieving.

Ratzinger Report: An Exclusive Interview on the State of the Church Details

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Mel says

Real eye-opener!

Daniel Carr says

This book, written in the 80's when Cardinal Ratzinger was "no more than" the Prefect for the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith, gives an excellent glimpse into the major theological issues at that time. Many of these issues remain today, such as questions about marriage and celibacy, but others have seemed to fade into the past, such as liberation theology.

Without going into too much depth, it's always fascinating to listen to a great mind of the Church and a great theologian. There were many excellent insights into the various theological topics. It has less of the depth and rigor of the typical book written by Ratzinger, which makes it more straight-forward and accessible but ultimately less fulfilling. There is not much mention of Scripture, the Fathers, etc. as regards particular issues - we simply get a taste of the thoughts of the man, Ratzinger, as he has considered the issues at hand.

The text feels somewhat dated because of the interview style, but ultimately I found it both insightful and interesting.

Germán says

As prescient as a book can be

Sam Honeycutt says

A very good book about Benedict XVI's views as Card. Ratzinger, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith.

Chad says

A great insight into what then Cardinal Ratzinger thought of the state of the Church just twenty years after Vatican II. He describes the changes that had been made so far; and what he thought was to come and still needed to be accomplished.

John Mellody says

One of the most important books to understand the errors of this century. Goes through in detail showing six heresies of our time.

Ryan says

For any Catholic wishing to make sense of the chaotic post-Vatican II time period in which we live... this is a must read. In this 1985 interview Ratzinger set the record straight on the TRUE reforms of Vatican II. The so-called "spirit of Vatican II" crowd still seeks to push an agenda contrary to authentic Church teaching.

As Ratzinger put it, the true Council, "already during its sessions and then increasingly in the subsequent period, was opposed by a self-styled 'spirit of the Council', which in reality is a true 'anti-spirit' of the Council."

We would be well-served to actually read the Council documents for ourselves. And they must be read with a "spirit of continuity."

Next time you hear, "oh, that changed after Vatican II"... Don't buy it.

Matthew says

fascinating interview with a holy man.

Taryn says

This is an easy to read book on Cardinal Ratzinger's view of the state of the Church. Although it was published in 1985, most of not all of it remains relevant and just as Important today as the Church still debates the best ways to faithfully implement Vatican 2. The interview format allowed for the text to be divided into chapters by topic, making the book a perfect read for someone new to Ratzinger's thought.

Kevin de Ataíde says

Card. Ratzinger presents, in an interview, an excellent overview of the state of the Church in the modern age. As relevant today as it was in the eighties, it deals with, among other things, misunderstandings of the texts of the second Vatican Council that have followed it, reading and responding to the signs of the times, modern spirituality, the revised liturgy and the required response to it and the relationship of the Church to the Christian sects of the Reformation and later.

The sections I have found most helpful are the directions to read the documents themselves of the Council, the discourse on permissivism and its attitude to the Magisterium of the Church, the discourse on the trivialisation of womanhood and the identification of the Last Things.

The book displays clearly the systematic thought of one of the princes of the Church, intimately involved at the time in the defence of the Faith and close now to completing five years as bishop of Rome.

Roger Buck says

Penetrating analysis of the tragedy of the post Vatican II Church. Well-worth reading even if the author were not H.H. Benedict XVI. I have a review here with some powerful quotes from the book.

<http://corjesusacratissimum.org/2009/...>

Peter Webb says

simply the best.

Ramon says

The Ratzinger Report is a historical piece that might have been written today. I wish that I couldn't relate to it as much as I did, especially while reading the part on liberation theology. I was having flashbacks the entire time.

The style of the book is simple. Vittorio Messori provides us simple questions answer format with some expounding on ideas, concerns, and overall context. His insight was helpful to dilute what Ratzinger was saying.

Ratzinger offers us insights into the major issues the Church was facing at the time. While I think some other topic would need to be added for the book if it were written today, overall, it is completely timely, despite its specific historicity. Overall, he does a fantastic job of illuminating the audience with his description of Catholic theology. I highly recommend this book to anybody who wants to know more about how Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict XVI) views specific issues.

Marta says

Escrito hace tanto y tremendamente actual. Imprescindible.

Andrew says

Because theology.

And if theology isn't your thing, then this isn't the review you're looking for. ***waves Jedi hand***

But if it is, then really you can never go wrong with a German theologian. Who ran the modern, kinder Inquisition. Who became Pope.
