

Morin, at the time of writing this book in the late 1950s and early '60s, had a very optimistic view of the economic and social progress for Latinos in the U. S. While his hopefulness may have been a little naïve, his writings remain a valuable source for historians. It was reprinted in 2013 by Morin's son and is particularly valued as a primary source. Morin's book should be of interest to readers of all ages to appreciate the heritage of courage that is a part of their culture.

Culley Eaby

Eamon Duffy. *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England 1400-1580*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed rev. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2005. Pp. 700. Paper \$25.00.

Eamon Duffy, Professor of Divinity at Cambridge University, in a newly revised edition of his classic, *The Stripping of the Altars: Traditional Religion in England 1400-1580* presents a new interpretation of the English Reformation. This book is of great importance to anyone with scholarly interests in the history of Christianity, the Reformation, as well as fifteenth and sixteenth century English art. It is a milestone in changing how readers view the English Reformation because it sheds a positive light on the Catholic Church prior to the creation of the Church of England. Duffy presents a detailed account of Catholic customs during the fifteenth century and relates how they were a necessity in everyday life for many people. It is clear that the Reformation was not inevitable as previous scholarship alleges, challenging many scholars claiming that corruption within the Catholic Church had weakened its influence.

Duffy argues that there was no great economic or social difference between common worshipers and clerics at this time. Many religious scholars believe there was a significant social and economic gap between these two

classes due to the Catholic Church's excessive corruption and vast wealth. Duffy denies this because of how deeply rooted and seriously practiced Catholicism was in the population before it was destroyed by the monarchy.

Duffy uses a wide variety of primary sources, including poetry, tales, plays, carols and hymns, as well as stained glass, statues, and paintings that he includes in excellent illustrations. These sources show fostering religious devotion and education was essential. In addition, these sources reveal how Catholicism was structured by the English people and how stripping the altars affected worshippers.

The book is divided into two large parts. Part I describes English religion in the century leading up to the Reformation. Duffy uses the term 'traditional' rather than 'popular' religion because although it was communal rather than individualistic, a uniform sophistication was found throughout the community across literacy and education levels. Its collective spirit is highlighted as it centered on festivals, feasts, and fasting. He focuses on the intricacies of services performed during Palm Sunday and Candlemas, such as the lighting of symbolic candles in which everyone within the community was involved.

Part II discusses how these customs were stripped away in the sixteenth century due to the creation of the Church of England in 1536. He focuses on religious policies, their origins, and how those actions were carried out to demonstrate that the Reformation was a revolution from the top rather than the bottom. King Henry VIII's quest for a divorce the Pope would not grant him led to the founding of the Church of England with the monarch as the leader. Since most English people were devoutly Catholic, they obeyed anti-Catholic laws without much conviction. Even those who were Protestant and supported the Reformation did not appreciate their religious icons being taken away and violently destroyed. Although they supported the new

church, this did not mean they forgot the icons that had been vital to their religious worship for centuries. Thomas Cranmer, a Protestant archbishop, was widely disliked due to his involvement in the destruction of religious objects that had been sacred to communities for generations.

Duffy provides a well-organized and excellently written account of both traditional religion and the methods by which it was taken away from the English people. The way the Church of England and the Reformation is viewed by readers will never be the same.

*Lindsey Kish*

Jeremy Salt. *The Unmaking of the Middle East: A History of Western Disorder in Arab Lands*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009. Pp. 480. Paper \$26.95.

Jeremy Salt, a former journalist and now Professor of Political Science at Bilkent University, Turkey, argues that we need to know the long history of Western intervention in Arab territories to understand the contemporary Middle East. The book is addressed to students who study politics and readers simply interested in the history of the Middle East. It sheds light on major events that have influenced the formation of modern politics and the relationship between the West and the Middle East. Salt argues that conflicts between the West and the Middle East are based political interests, such as oil and strategic geographic location, rather than a result of Western racism or intolerance to Islam. The book includes multiple examples of conflicts initiated by Western powers, such as the French in Algeria and the British in Egypt in the nineteenth century. It also covers the seemingly never-ending Palestine-Israeli conflict and one of the latest western interventions, the U.S. war in Iraq started in 2003. The author offers mainstream readers an alternative opinion about the major political events in the