

124

A bimonthly audio magazine of contemporary culture & Christian conviction

Part 1

- 1 Introduction
- 2 John Fea, on how American individualism fuels indifference to the study of history, and how K-12 education can counter that apathy
- 3 Robert F. Rea, on how engagement with Church history deepens our faith and enriches our capacity as faithful servants
- 4 John C. Pinheiro, on how anti-Catholic prejudice in midnineteenth-century America was intertwined with beliefs about the virtues of Republicanism, "Manifest Destiny," and the Mexican-American War

Part 2

- 1 R. J. Snell, on how newer ideas about natural law focus less on moral propositions and concepts and more on the thrust for meaning and value
- 2 Duncan G. Stroik, on how architectural styles function as languages that speak to us and enable buildings to speak to each other
- 2 Kate Tamarkin and Fiona Hughes, on the healing power of music
- *An asterisk means that the book is in print; if you wish to purchase it from our friends at Eighth Day Books, call 1.800.841.2541.

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History and church history

John Fea's Why Study History? Reflecting on the Importance of the Past* (2013) is published by BakerAcademic. Robert F. Rea's Why Church History Matters: An Invitation to Love and Learn from Our Past *(2014) is published by InterVarsity Press. John C. Pinheiro's Missionaries of Republicanism: A Religious History of the Mexican-American War* (2014) is published by Oxford University Press. Pinheiro's book is part of a series called RELIGION IN AMERICA, edited by Harry S. Stout. Other volumes in this series include: J. Rixey Ruffin's A Paradise of Reason: William Bentley and Enlightenment Christianity in the Early Republic* (2007); William Kostlevy's Holy Jumpers: Evangelicals and Radicals in Progressive Era America* (2010); and Jonathan D. Sassi's A Republic of Righteousness: The Public Christianity of the Post-Revolutionary New England Clergy* (2001). Robert Rea recommends many books in his bibliography and footnotes; among them are: F. F. Bruce, Tradition: Old and New* (reprinted by Wipf & Stock, 2006); Earle Edwin Cairns, Christianity through the Centuries: A History of the Christian Church* (3rd edition, Zondervan, 1996); Ruth Tucker, Parade of Faith: A Biographical History of the Christian Church* (Zondervan, 2011); Alister McGrath, Christian Theology: An Introduction* (4th edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2006); Vladimir Lossky, Orthodox Theology: An Introduction* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 2001); and Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Introduction to Christianity** (Ignatius Press, 2004). During our interview, John Fea recommended Sam Wineburg's Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts: Charting the Future of Teaching the Past* (Temple University Press, 2001). Other books discussed in Fea's book include: Gordon S. Wood, The Purpose of the Past: Reflections on the Uses of History* (Penguin, 2008); David Lowenthal, The Past is a Foreign Country* (Cambridge, 1985); and Roy Rosenzweig and David Thelen, The Presence of the Past: Popular Uses of History in American Life* (Columbia, 1998).

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Natural law

R. J. Snell's *The Perspective of Love: Natural Law in a New Mode** (2014) is published by Pickwick Publications. The article by David Bentley Hart that ignited a vigorous debate among natural lawyers and others is called "Is, Ought, and Nature's Laws." It was published in *First Things* in March 2013. Hart followed this piece with two sequels: "Nature Loves to Hide" (May 2013) and "Purpose and Function" (August 2013). A summary of many of

the responses to Hart was published in a post on the "Against the Grain" blog, April 15, 2013 (http://christopherblosser. blogspot.com/2013/04/david-bentley-harts-is-ought-and.html). R. J. Snell wrote two of those responses on the Witherspoon Institute's Public Discourse blog ("Understanding Natural Law: A Response to Hart and Potemra," published on February 27, 2013, and "Natural Law is neither Useless nor Dangerous: A Response to Hart and Potemra," February 28, 2013. Russell Hittinger's The First Grace: Rediscovering the Natural Law in a Post-Christian World* (ISI Books, 2003) presents the traditional understanding of natural law. The anthology, Common Truths: New Perspectives on Natural Law, edited by Edward B. McLean (ISI Books, 2000), contains essays by Ralph McInerny, Russell Hittinger, Robert P. George, and others. Alasdair MacIntyre's contribution to the volume is called "Theories of Natural Law in the Culture of Advanced Modernity," which discusses (among other approaches) the new natural law theory of John Finnis and Germain Grisez. MacIntyre's essay ends with the claim that "the dominant culture of North American modernity is inimical to any adequate conception of natural law." Matthew Levering's provocative Biblical Natural Law: A Theocentric and Teleological Approach* (Oxford, 2008) is "a first step toward reclaiming natural-law doctrine as an exegetical, and not solely philosophical, project—that is, 'natural law' as understood by the Christian tradition prior to the modern reconfiguration of natural law"

Other Works Mentioned

Duncan G. Stroik's *The Church Building as a Sacred Place: Beauty, Transcendence, and the Eternal** (2012) is published by Hillenbrand Books.

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