



The Enlightenment and the Intellectual Foundations of Modern Culture

By LOUIS DUPRE

Yale University Press November 2005, 2005. Paper Back. Condition: New. Dupre has continued in this book his quest to 'explain the cultural physiognomy of the present age' that began in *Passage to Modernity*. While *Passage* focused on what Dupre has called the 'first modern revolution' of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries (especially its emphasis on the creative role of the human person), this work focuses on the 'second modern revolution' of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Instead of producing yet another intellectual history of the Enlightenment, Dupre seeks 'to draw an intellectual portrait of a crucial epoch in European history with particular emphasis on the development and interaction of those ideas that most contributed to the formation of our own spiritual identity.' In addition to his analysis of the impact of Enlightenment ideas upon our own assumptions and attitudes, particularly our cosmological and religious ones, our sense of selfhood and our conception of art, Dupre also describes the various ethical, social, and historical theories that emerged out of these pivotal years. However, in contrast to recent trends of rejecting Enlightenment assumptions (frequently oversimplified dismissals of eighteenth-century thought as mere rationalism), Dupre is less pessimistic. While admitting its rationalist tendency, he...



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