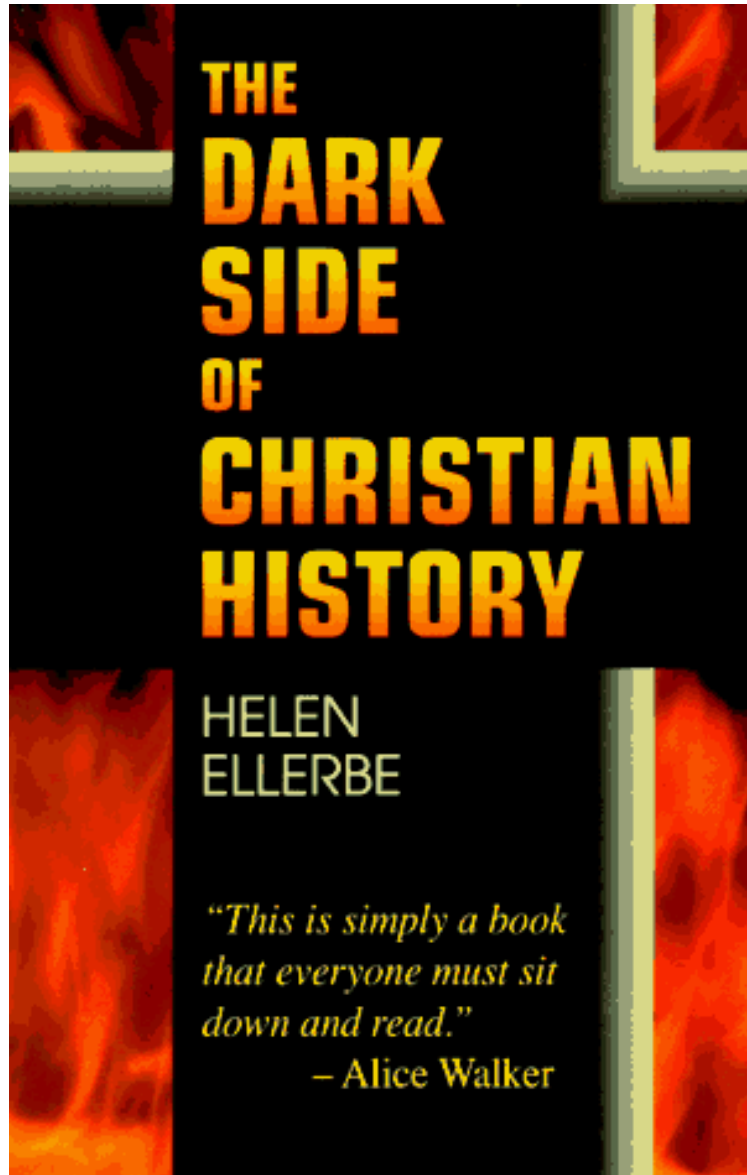


The Dark Side of Christian History

Helen Ellerbe

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#192162 in Books Helen Ellerbe 1995-07Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x 5.75 x .50l, .74 #File Name: 0964487349221 pagesThe Dark Side of Christian History | File size: 30.Mb

Helen Ellerbe : The Dark Side of Christian History before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dark Side of Christian History:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. The "greatest story" too seldom toldBy bossaboyHaving read a number of histories of the Inquisition and witch trials,I found the author's approach most refreshing. She provides her own interpretation of the historical events as well as reporting them, connecting the dots as she see's them between the

teachings and actions of the church (Catholic and Protestant) and our current Western Civilization's quagmire. That some reviewers critique her for doing so I find disingenuous. Through wide readings in many other sources prior to this author's work, I and many friends have come to quite similar conclusions regarding the connections between Christianity and our current issues related to patriarchy and male violence, torture, hierarchy, racism, intolerance for differences, estrangement from nature, and our scientific mechanistic view of the world. She does a very nice job doing just what our atomized scientific perspective frequently struggles to do, that is connect disparate information into a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. I applaud the author and think this would be an excellent choice for any progressive book club looking for a work that will stimulate creative thought and analysis. If you are uncomfortable with any challenge to our current culture's world view, by all means stay away from this book as it may make you uncomfortable. If you're not afraid to think for yourself, hear the author out and form your own conclusions. Highly recommended. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An Essential Read By Dennis Freeman A great book.....especially if you have doubts about the infallibility of "the church". This one turned out to be a great source for information about the early days of the church that is presented with as little pro-church bias as possible. Ms. Ellerbe certainly makes no pretense about her loathing of the church. The thing is.....she backs up her anti-church bias with a lot of very sound research. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. There really is a dark side to it By Tommy B I had to re-order this book that I had lost, because it is a gem of a book to describe the awful history of the Church. I remain a Christian in the sense that I love the gospels of Luke, John, Mark and Matthew in that order, but, I find it odd that the Church did not allow translations of those gospels until gosh, the Gutenberg press-era? What were the people worshipping at a mass in Latin if they didn't understand anything? Ms. Ellerbe goes into the history quite thoroughly, and it is quite violent and corrupt. Such a disappointment to know that it was that bad. You will get a blow by blow, and it ain't pretty. Makes a grown man cry.

The Christian church has left a legacy, a world view, that permeates every aspect of Western society, both secular and religious. It is a legacy that fosters sexism, racism, the intolerance of difference, and the desecration of the natural environment. The Church, throughout much of its history, has demonstrated a disregard for human freedom, dignity, and self-determination. It has attempted to control, contain and confine spirituality, the relationship between an individual and God. As a result, Christianity has helped to create a society in which people are alienated not only from each other but also from the divine. This Christianity - called "orthodox Christianity" - has had a devastating impact upon the whole of mankind, and its study can help enlighten us as to the very core difference between religion and spirituality. When we understand how we have come to be separated from the divine, we can begin to heal not only the scars, but the very alienation itself. The author notes that her intention here is to offer, not a complete picture of Christian history, but only the side which hurt so many and did such damage to spirituality. It is in no way intended to diminish the beautiful work that countless Christian men and women have done to truly help others. And it is certainly not intended as a defense of or tribute to any other religion.

Over a period of nearly two millennia, the Christian Church has oppressed and brutalized millions of individuals. Meticulously researched and courageously written, "The Dark Side of Christian History" by Helen Ellerbe examines the Church's devastating impact upon human freedom, dignity and spirituality. Written for the lay reader, this controversial book is especially relevant today as the religious right is attempting to assert greater influence in American politics and society. "The Dark Side of Christian History presents a compelling argument that the Church's desire to control and contain spiritually motivated its persecution of heretics, its burning of libraries, the Crusades, the Inquisition, and the witch-hunts. This dark Christianity has left a legacy, a world view, which permeates every aspect of Western society. It is a legacy which fosters sexism, racism, the intolerance of difference and the desecration of the natural environment. Helen Ellerbe is a researcher, writer, and public speaker living in the San Francisco bay area. -- Midwest Book