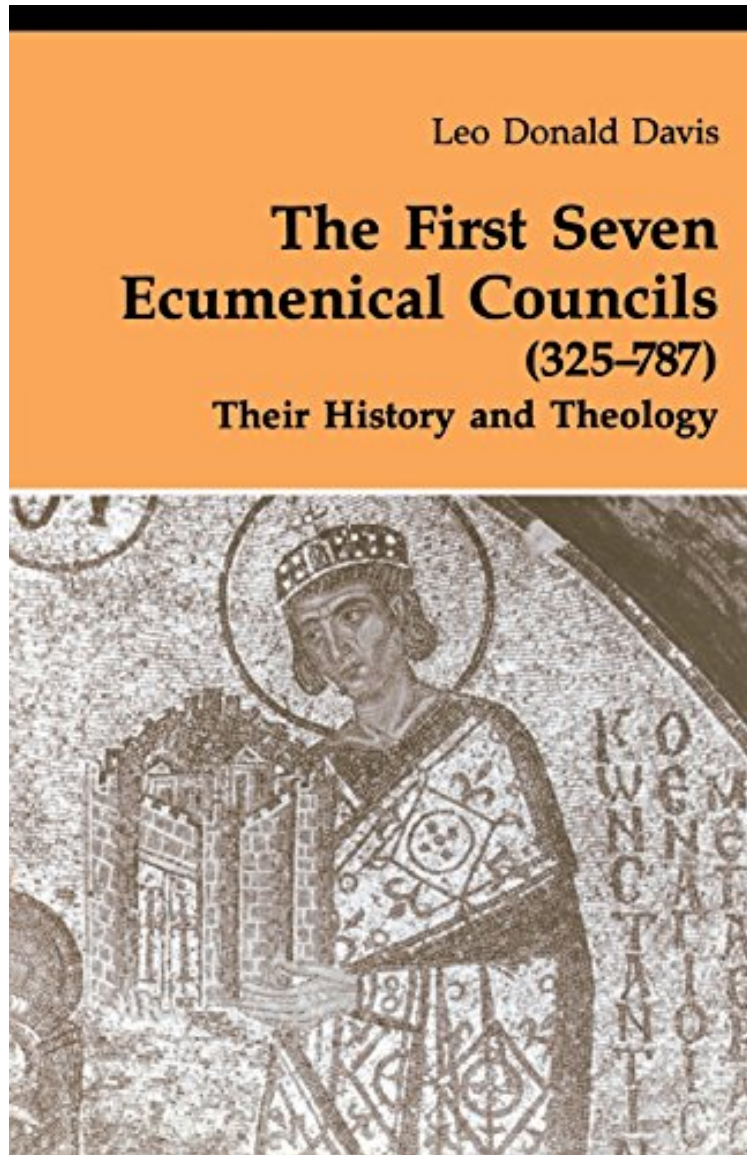


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The First Seven Ecumenical Councils (325-787): Their History and Theology (Theology and Life Series 21)

Leo D. Davis SJ

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Leo D. Davis SJ : The First Seven Ecumenical Councils (325-787): Their History and Theology (Theology and Life Series 21) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The First Seven Ecumenical Councils (325-787): Their History and Theology (Theology and Life Series 21):

0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good book, though. By Eddy I took a break from reading this in order to focus on more spiritual reading during Lent. Good book, though. Honest and thorough. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I read/reviewed this for a class. Good intro into early church history. By Shelley Furr Overall, Leo Davis presents his audience with a solid introduction into early Church history. Davis himself was a university professor and Catholic priest from Oregon, ordained July 18, 1964 in Rome. He has taught the content of this non-academic book to many theology and history students across the United States and Europe. Non-academic because the book was not written for experts in the field of early church history. Instead Davis makes clear that it was designed to be an introduction for history students or any curious layman. The sources used for this book were purely modern writings. Davis references his fellow experts works the vast majority of the time with some of the only original sources being the translated creeds that resulted from each of the councils. Despite being a great introduction to early church theology and history, the book comes off as a bit dry. Many of the details are lost in the barrage of names and this loss often leads to a lack of interest. This was a necessary sacrifice, as Davis had a bulky topic to undertake and summarize. A very rewarding read though, and agreeing with the author that Rome's secular politics can be paralleled to that of the church is rather easy. The complexity of positions and stubbornness to hold those positions lead to way more controversy than was necessary and the book leaves the reader in a mindset similar to Constantine the Great: a wish for unity and the inability to see why differences could not be put aside. 17 of 17 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding examination . . . By David Zampino. . . of the "Age of the Councils" -- that 450 year period which gave the Church the first Seven Ecumenical Councils. This is the single best one-volume treatment of this extensive subject that I have ever seen. An in-depth introductory chapter sets the historical, political, and religious stage, with the ending of the Diocletian persecution, the conversion of Constantine, and the beginning of the toleration of Christianity. After the introduction, an entire section is devoted to each Council, beginning with the historical and political milieu, and the various reasons for the various controversies. Fr. Davis then continues each section with an account of the Council itself, a detailed description of the proceedings, major personalities involved, etc. Following the conclusion of each section is a timeline and a detailed bibliography. I highly recommend this book for undergraduates studying higher level theology and for graduate students -- as well as for the informed layman who wants a greater level of understanding -- both historical and theological -- of this very important era in Church history.

This unique work - no other work yet available in English treats this subject - illustrates the contribution of these Councils in the development and formulation of Christian beliefs. It then shows how their legacies lingered throughout the centuries to inspire - or haunt - every generation.