



THE MIDWEST BOOK REVIEW

JAMES A. COX
Editor-in-Chief
mwbookrevw@aol.com
<http://www.midwestbookreview.com>

278 Orchard Drive
Oregon WI 53575
(608) 835-7937
mbr@execpc.com

MBR Bookwatch: December 2014
James A. Cox, Editor-in-Chief
Midwest Book Review
278 Orchard Drive, Oregon, WI 53575

Dunford's Bookshelf

Dialectical Theology and Jacques Ellul
Jacob E. Van Vleet
Fortress Press
P.O. Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209
<http://fortresspress.com>
9781451470390, \$34.00, 284pp, www.amazon.com

Synopsis: "Dialectical Theology and Jacques Ellul: An Introductory Exposition" argues that the work of Jacques Ellul is frequently and deleteriously misread on account of inattention to the theological underpinning that governs Ellul's thought. In a penetrating analysis, the first of its kind, "Dialectical Theology and Jacques Ellul" provides a substantive account of the theological structure of Ellul's work and demonstrates the determinative role that theology, especially dialectical theology, plays in a proper understanding of Ellul. "Dialectical Theology and Jacques Ellul" offers a major introduction to Ellul's thought, his contribution to theology and philosophy, and how his philosophy of technology is both theologically informed and culturally relevant. As well, this work situates Ellul's theological and philosophical thought within an important genetic context, from Kierkegaard to the dialectical theologians of the twentieth century.

Critique: The late Jacques Ellul (January 6, 1912 - May 19, 1994) was a French philosopher, law professor, sociologist, lay theologian, and Christian anarchist. Ellul was a longtime Professor of History and the Sociology of Institutions on the Faculty of Law and Economic Sciences at the University of Bordeaux. A prolific writer, he authored 58 books and more than a thousand articles over his lifetime, many of which discussed propaganda, the impact of technology on society, and the interaction between religion and politics. The dominant theme of his work proved to be the threat to human freedom and religion created by modern technology. Among his most influential books are "The Technological Society" and "Propaganda: The Formation of Men's Attitudes". "Dialectical Theology and Jacques Ellul: An Introductory Exposition" by Jacob E. Van Vleet (Lecturer in Humanities and Philosophy, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hills, California) is an impressive work of seminal scholarship. Enhanced with fourteen pages of References and a comprehensive Index, "Dialectical Theology and Jacques Ellul: An Introductory Exposition" is an important contribution to academic library Christian Philosophy collections and supplemental studies reading lists. It should be noted that "Dialectical Theology and Jacques Ellul: An Introductory Exposition" is also available in a Kindle edition (\$18.35).

Michael Dunford
Reviewer