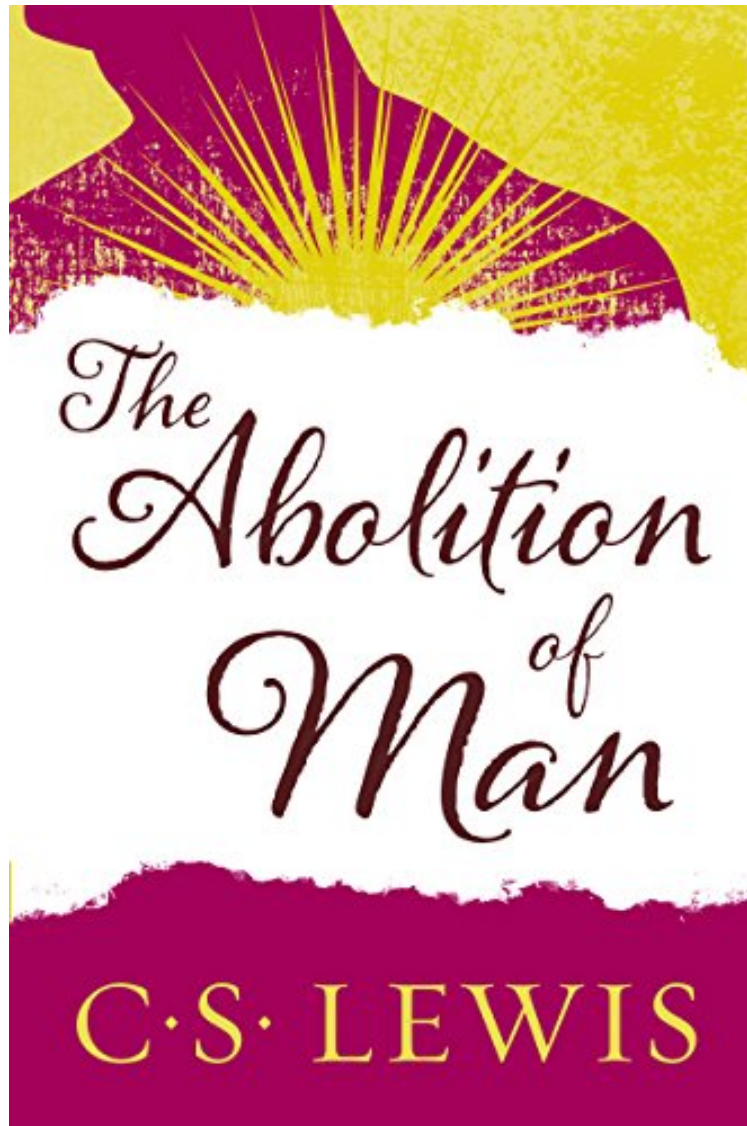


(Get free) The Abolition of Man: Readings for Meditation and Reflection (Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis)

## The Abolition of Man: Readings for Meditation and Reflection (Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis)

Von C. S. Lewis

ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



 Download

 Read Online

Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #26267 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2009-06-03Erscheinungsdatum:  
2009-06-09File Name: B002BXH5RU | File size: 15.Mb

**Von C. S. Lewis : The Abolition of Man: Readings for Meditation and Reflection (Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Abolition of Man: Readings for Meditation and Reflection (Collected Letters of C.S. Lewis):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen6 von 6 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Reads like an open letter to Richard Rorty. . . Von Curmudgeon. . . but written when Rorty was still in diapers. This is by far

the most prophetic, and the most disturbing, of Lewis' works. Starting with a deceptively simple observation - that modern (now postmodern) philosophy tends to reduce all statements of value to mere statements of subjective feeling - Lewis goes on to demonstrate the corrosive and ultimately fatal effect of this line of thinking on any civilized culture. Lewis accurately predicts the parallel development of two trends: (1) the loss of any objective transcendent moral standards; and (2) the ability of a scientific or political elite, through social conditioning and/or genetic manipulation, to affect the thinking of successive generations of the rest of us - the great unwashed. The ascendancy, during the last decade, of moral relativism and the political correctness movement demonstrate how far down these parallel tracks we have come (i.e., Rorty: truth is what gets us what we want; truth is what my peers will let be get by with saying; Christians are "the natural constituency of Hitler"). While he's at it, Lewis refutes the postmodern, and generally unexamined, truism that the historic moral principles of Western Civilization are fundamentally different from other cultures' norms, and thus are arbitrary and nonbinding. In a lengthy appendix, Lewis shows that the great moral principles are timeless and have been generally accepted by all civilized societies, at all times (until ours). So where will it end? In an ironic conclusion, Lewis predicts that what will be hailed as man's ultimate victory over Nature (such as human cloning?) will actually be Nature's ultimate victory over man. This will occur when we can fully control the kind of people the next generation will be (i.e., how they think), but in the absence of moral standards, this choice will be made arbitrarily; that is, according to purely Natural impulses - thus we have the Abolition of Man as man and the ascendancy of man as animal. I must take issue with the reviewer who referred to the book as a "disguised apologetic" for Christianity. While Lewis openly acknowledges his Christian beliefs, he takes great pains to establish that the existence of objective moral standards is transcultural; that it is "trans-" any specific religious or ethical system other than relativism. Those who insist otherwise are simply out of touch; controlled by their own hermeneutic of suspicion, they see closet Christians lurking behind any and all moral absolutes. A final point - I must also disagree with the reviewer who referred to the book too difficult for the average reader. I'm an accountant, I have no training in philosophy, and I'm definitely not a candidate for MENSA membership - but I had no trouble "getting it." Light reading it's not, but, hey, it's short, the type is large, the book is cheap, and it's written in Lewis' inimitable conversational style. Don't be intimidated, the stakes are too high! 2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A truly profound book Von Brian C.S. Lewis's masterpiece, THE ABOLITION OF MAN, is a great work not only because it challenged the thinking of readers 50 years ago and continues to challenge our thinking today, but because it is one of the most visionary books of its time. Here Lewis discusses not only the issue of "objective vs. subjective" truth in a fascinating (if not definitive) manner, he also brings to bear philosophical questions about the nature and epistemology of scientific research and the ethics of genetic programming and evolutionary biology. In doing so Lewis was at least 30 years ahead of his time: his answer to the question of whether ethics could possibly be the product of evolutionary forces, a current hotspot in philosophy, has been reformulated and perhaps improved upon but not yet challenged. And while his book is a tour de force on the necessity of believing in objective truth, his question about whether empirical research is inevitably "a basilisk that kills what it sees and only sees by killing" has been echoed over and over by constructionist philosophers of science in recent years. You may not be persuaded by Lewis's arguments, but you will certainly be intrigued by the questions he raises. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Need For Universal Truth Von Ein Kunde Attack on the idea of universal truth and the values that derive from it is stronger now than in 1944 when this book was written. Yet, despite many rhetorical defenses of universal truth and values launched in the "culture wars," this remains one of, if not the best, defenses of universal truth and values. Lewis believes in Natural Laws - laws of morality, such as duty to children, parents, elders, the "golden rule," mercy, magnanimity, justice - which have been accepted both throughout history and by varied cultures. Lewis calls these laws "the Tao." The problem as Lewis outlines it, is that if nothing is self-evident (i.e., true), then nothing can be proven. And, if nothing is obligatory because it is self-evident, then nothing is obligatory for its own sake, i.e., because it is true. If nothing is obligatory, then rules of conduct are subject to pleasure or whim and are enforced only by power of some over others. Ultimately, this robs of us our humanity. Lewis says, "A dogmatic belief in objective value is necessary to the very idea of a rule which is not tyranny or an obedience which is not slavery." The consequence of rejecting the idea of universal truth, or "the Tao," is the destruction of the society which rejects it. This is, as Lewis says, tragically comical because "we continue to clamour for those very qualities we are rendering impossible."

Kurzbeschreibung In the classic *The Abolition of Man*, C.S. Lewis, the most important Christian writer of the 20th century, sets out to persuade his audience of the importance and relevance of universal values such as courage and honor in contemporary society. Both astonishing and prophetic, *The Abolition of Man* is one of the most debated of Lewis's extraordinary works. National chose it as number seven on their "100 Best Nonfiction Books of the Twentieth Century." de C.S. Lewis's *The Abolition of Man* purports to be a book specifically about public education, but its central concerns are broadly political, religious, and philosophical. In the best of the book's three essays, "Men

Without Chests," Lewis trains his laser-sharp wit on a mid-century English high school text, considering the ramifications of teaching British students to believe in idle relativism, and to reject "the doctrine of objective value, the belief that certain attitudes are really true, and others really false, to the kind of thing the universe is and the kinds of things we are." Lewis calls this doctrine the "Tao," and he spends much of the book explaining why society needs a sense of objective values. The Abolition of Man speaks with astonishing freshness to contemporary debates about morality; and even if Lewis seems a bit too cranky and privileged for his arguments to be swallowed whole, at least his articulation of values seems less ego-driven, and therefore is more useful, than that of current writers such as Bill Bennett and James Dobson. --Michael Joseph Gross

Kurzbeschreibung

In the classic *The Abolition of Man*, C.S. Lewis, the most important Christian writer of the 20th century, sets out to persuade his audience of the importance and relevance of universal values such as courage and honor in contemporary society. Both astonishing and prophetic, *The Abolition of Man* is one of the most debated of Lewis's extraordinary works. National chose it as number seven on their "100 Best Nonfiction Books of the Twentieth Century."