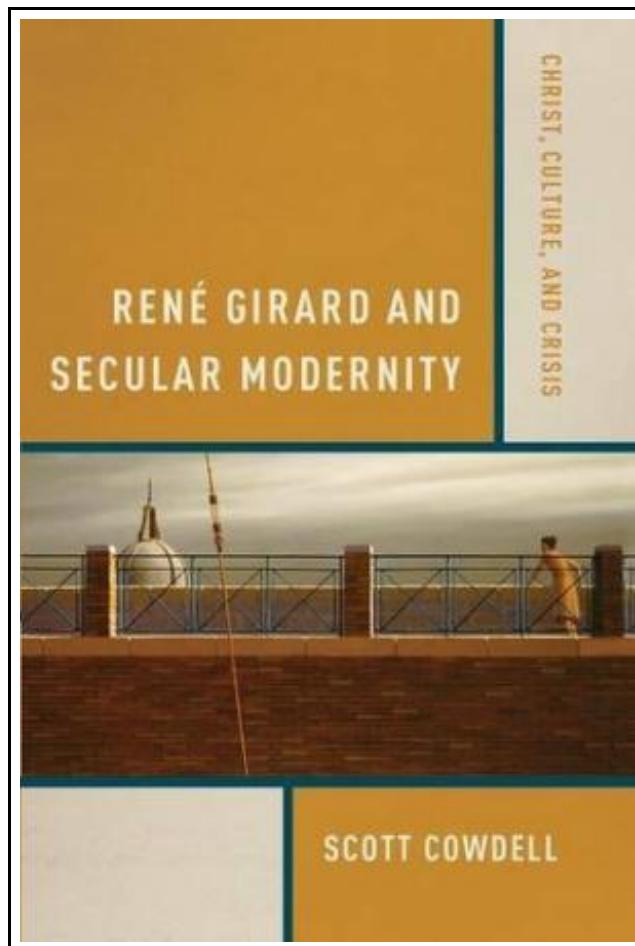


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University of Notre Dame Press, United States, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In *Rene Girard and Secular Modernity: Christ, Culture, and Crisis*, Scott Cowdell provides the first systematic interpretation of *Rene Girard* s controversial approach to secular modernity. Cowdell identifies the scope, development, and implications of *Girard* s thought, the centrality of Christ in *Girard* s thinking, and, in particular, *Girard* s distinctive take on the uniqueness and finality of Christ in terms of his impact on Western culture. In *Girard* s singular vision, according to Cowdell, secular modernity has emerged thanks to the Bible s exposure of the cathartic violence that is at the root of religious prohibitions, myths, and rituals. In the literature, the psychology, and most recently the military history of modernity, *Girard* discerns a consistent slide into an apocalypse that challenges modern ideas of romanticism, individualism, and progressivism. In the first three chapters, Cowdell examines the three elements of *Girard* s basic intellectual vision (mimesis, sacrifice, biblical hermeneutics) and brings this vision to a constructive interpretation of secularization and modernity, as these terms are understood in the broadest sense today. Chapter 4 focuses on modern institutions, chiefly the nation state and the market, that function to restrain the outbreak of violence. And finally, Cowdell discusses the apocalyptic dimension of *Girard* s theory in relation to modern warfare and terrorism. Here, Cowdell engages with the most recent writings of *Girard* (particularly his *Battling to the End*) and applies them to further conversations in cultural theology, political science, and philosophy. Cowdell takes up and extends *Girard* s own warning concerning an alternative to a future apocalypse: What sort of conversion must humans undergo, before it is too late? Scott Cowdell s book is the first comprehensive study of modernity and secularity in *Rene...*

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