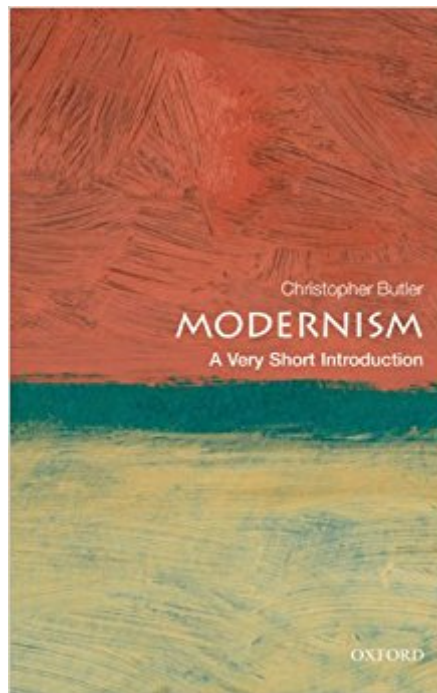




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Modernism: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)



Synopsis

Is a tower block, your unmade bed, your lavatory basin, or the bicycle chained to the gate next door a work of art? Why should a novel have a beginning, a middle, and an end; or even a story? Whether we recognise it or not, virtually every aspect of our life today has been influenced in part by the aesthetic legacy of Modernism. In this Very Short Introduction Christopher Butler examines how and why Modernism began, explaining what it is and showing how it has gradually informed all aspects of 20th and 21st century life. Butler considers several aspects of modernism including some modernist works; movements and notions of the avant garde; and the idea of 'progress' in art. Butler looks at modernist ideas of the self, subjectivity, irrationalism, people and machines, and political definitions of modernism as a whole. ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As advertised.

Although I had expected something clear and understandable... it was far from that!

it's awfully pedantically written.

I like this collection (A Very Short Introduction) a lot, but this book in particular fails at giving a definition of modernism.

This is a good quick introduction. A good supplement to a course on modernist literature or art. What is important is that it shows the Modernist project as something that encompassed art, literature, psychology, science, and politics--in other words, it contextualizes the movement.

Very good comprehensive introduction to Modernism. Only not too helpful for me at the moment because I was looking for something more specific. Butler has this wonderful ability to make connections between the arts. He constructs a bigger picture of the Modern movement where many forms are interlinked, influenced and informed one another. He also has a longer book Early Modernism that might be more helpful if you are looking for in-depth and more detailed discussions.

Excellent intro to a complicated subject. Much superior to other more well-known -- and wordier -- attempts at explaining modernism.

This book is everything it claims to be. It's a short but relatively comprehensive introduction to its subject matter that you could easily read in one sitting, maybe while out on your back porch on a day off. You learn enough of the subject matter that, while you may not have a full understanding of it, you'll at least be able to follow along with a conversation about it.

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