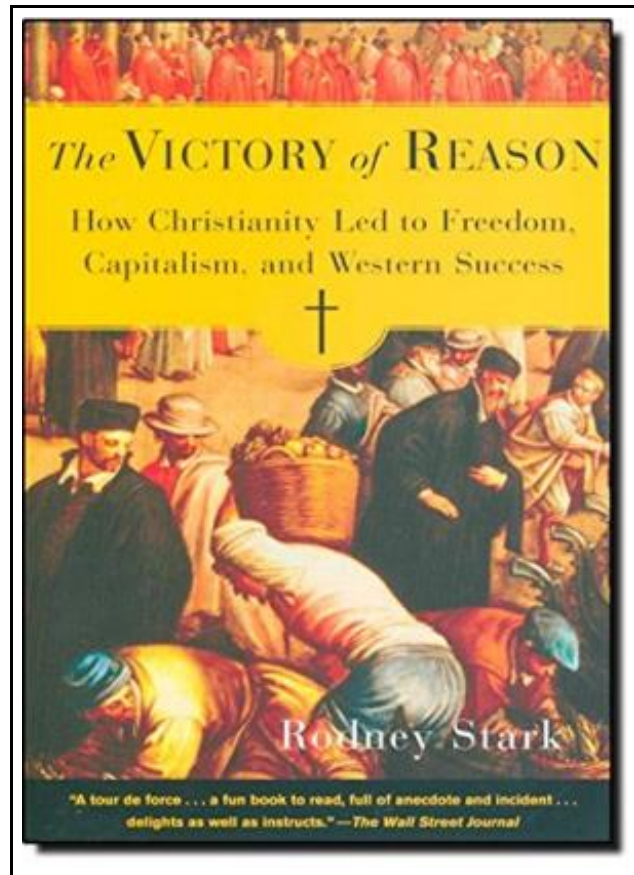


The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism, and Western Success (Paperback)



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Reviews

This publication may be really worth a go through, and a lot better than other. It really is full of knowledge and wisdom Its been printed in an exceptionally easy way in fact it is simply after i finished reading this publication by which basically modified me, affect the way i really believe.


(Troy Dietrich DDS)

THE VICTORY OF REASON: HOW CHRISTIANITY LED TO FREEDOM, CAPITALISM, AND WESTERN SUCCESS (PAPERBACK)



Random House USA Inc, United States, 2006. Paperback. Book Condition: New. annotated edition. 198 x 132 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Many books have been written about the success of the West, analyzing why Europe was able to pull ahead of the rest of the world by the end of the Middle Ages. The most common explanations cite the West's superior geography, commerce, and technology. Completely overlooked is the fact that faith in reason, rooted in Christianity's commitment to rational theology, made all these developments possible. Simply put, the conventional wisdom that Western success depended upon overcoming religious barriers to progress is utter nonsense. In *The Victory of Reason*, Rodney Stark advances a revolutionary, controversial, and long overdue idea: that Christianity and its related institutions are, in fact, directly responsible for the most significant intellectual, political, scientific, and economic breakthroughs of the past millennium. In Stark's view, what has propelled the West is not the tension between secular and nonsecular society, nor the pitting of science and the humanities against religious belief. Christian theology, Stark asserts, is the very font of reason: While the world's other great belief systems emphasized mystery, obedience, or introspection, Christianity alone embraced logic and reason as the path toward enlightenment, freedom, and progress. That is what made all the difference. In explaining the West's dominance, Stark convincingly debunks long-accepted truths. For instance, by contending that capitalism thrived centuries before there was a Protestant work ethic-or even Protestants-he counters the notion that the Protestant work ethic was responsible for kicking capitalism into overdrive. In the fifth century, Stark notes, Saint Augustine celebrated theological and material progress and the institution of exuberant invention. By contrast, long before Augustine, Aristotle had condemned commercial trade as inconsistent with human virtue -which helps...

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