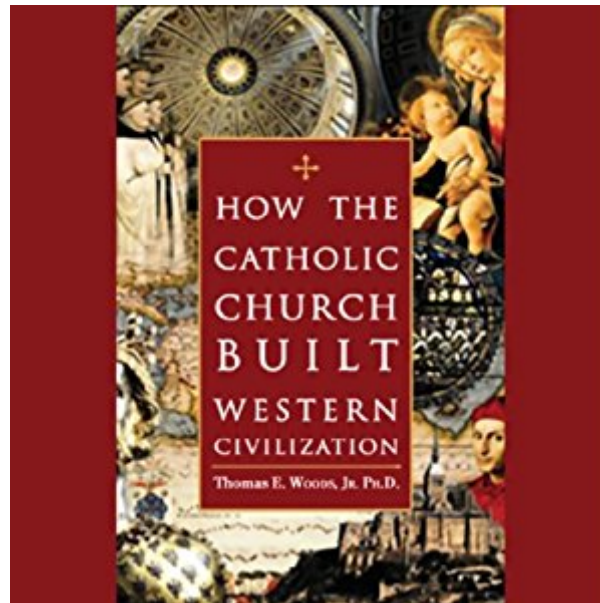


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# How The Catholic Church Built Western Civilization



## Synopsis

Ask someone today where Western Civilization originated, and he or she might say Greece or Rome. But what is the ultimate source of Western Civilization? Bestselling author and professor Thomas E. Woods, Jr. provides the long neglected answer: the Catholic Church. In the new paperback edition of his critically-acclaimed book, *How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization*, Woods goes far beyond the familiar tale of monks copying manuscripts and preserving the wisdom of classical antiquity. Gifts such as modern science, free-market economics, art, music, and the idea of human rights come from the Catholic Church, explains Woods. In *How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization*, you'll learn: Why modern science was born in the Catholic Church How Catholic priests developed the idea of free-market economics five hundred years before Adam Smith How the Catholic Church invented the university Why what you know about the Galileo affair is wrong How Western law grew out of Church canon law How the Church humanized the West by insisting on the sacredness of all human life No institution has done more to shape Western civilization than the two-thousand-year-old Catholic Church—and in ways that many of us have forgotten or never known. *How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization* is essential reading for recovering this lost truth. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Thomas Woods' book titled *HOW THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BUILD WESTERN CIVILIZATION* is an unanswerable antidote to anti-Catholic bashers and their mindless sychophants. Prof. Woods

provides a compelling case that Western Civilization could not have thrived without the valuable achievements of the Catholic Church over the past 2,000 years. Prof. Woods' survey of the Catholic Church in late Ancient History and during the Dark Ages makes clear that the Catholic Church authorities and especially the monks were invaluable in preserving learning. He makes clear that the early Catholic monks and nuns were the only literate people in Europe, and they preserved learning by handcopying books and teaching. Prof. Woods' treatment of this historical episode gives the thoughtful reader an insight as to how crucial those who were in religious orders were to European recovery. Prof. Woods' chapter on Medieval universities is solid. He gives the conditions under which teachers and students operated and makes clear that the "Age of Scholasticism" was an intellectually vibrant age. The book gives examples of the curriculum and the emphasis on logic and reason both in learning and solving intellectual issues. The Age of Reason actually began in the Medieval Catholic universities rather than in the 17th and 18th centuries. Prof. Woods' evaluation of Medieval Scholasticism compares favorably with John Baldwin's *THE SCHOLASTIC CULTURE OF THE MIDDLE AGES, 1000-1300*. Chapter five of this book undermines the notion that the Catholic authorities tried to undermine scientific study. For example, Prof. Woods cites numerous examples of Catholic university officials supporting scientific study and lending considerable resources to the study of astronomy.

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