Introductions & Historical Background

1. Christianity in the 20th Century
2. Theology in the 20th Century
3. Vatican II: Event & Theology
4. John XXIII & the Papacy Before Vatican II
5. Reference Works

1. CHRISTIANITY IN THE 20th CENTURY

*The Cambridge History of Christianity* (New York / Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005). This new comprehensive *Cambridge History* will be recognized in coming decades as *the* standard survey of Church history. Each of its massive volumes offer thorough introductions both to key events and to broad themes and includes contributions from leading contemporary historians. For researching recent developments, this is the place to begin. The two volumes which focus on the modern world are:


2. THEOLOGY IN THE 20th / 21st CENTURY: SURVEYS & HANDBOOKS

In recent years, there has been a huge upsurge in multi-author handbooks and surveys, published by leading publishers such as Oxford, Cambridge, and Blackwell. Different handbooks take up one or another theological discipline or topic. Generally, they are very high quality and are great places to survey the terrain. I've listed a wide range of these below:


David F. Ford & Rachel Muers, eds., *The Modern Theologians: An Introduction to Christian Theology since 1918*, 3rd ed. (Oxford: Blackwell, 2005). There are surprisingly few introductory surveys to contemporary theology. This volume fills an important gap. The first half has chapters on leading figures, both Protestant (Barth, Bonhoeffer, Bultmann, Tillich) and Catholic (Congar, Rahner, von Balthasar, Schillebeeckx, and Kung). The second half surveys regional theologies (North America, Latin America), themes (feminist, ecumenical, postmodern), and method (influences of natural sciences, the arts, social sciences).

Nicholas Adams, George Pattison, and Graham Wards, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Theology and Modern European Thought* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013) hardcover, $150. NEW.


### 3. VATICAN II: EVENT & THEOLOGY

#### Texts & Translations


#### Studies

John W. O'Malley, *What Happened at Vatican II* (Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press / Harvard University Press, 2008). At last, we have a comprehensive, balanced, and nuanced one-volume survey of Vatican II: the events, the debates, the behind-the-scenes politics, the theological issues. O'Malley is a master historian, best known for his work on the Italian Renaissance and the early Jesuits. He takes huge amounts of raw historical data and distills it down to its core without shortchanging nuance or the vibrant issues at stake. This work will become the new standard for understanding the council and its enormous achievements.

Giuseppe Alberigo & Joseph Komonchak, ed, *History of Vatican II* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books / Leuven: Peeters, 1995-2006) 5 vol. This massive project is the most thorough study of the events and debates of Vatican II to date. The authors draw on the texts of the debates, diaries of the participants, and news reports to trace out the
slow evolution of each of the documents. A vital tool for all scholarly study of the Council:


Xavier Rynne, *Vatican Council II* (reprint: Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1999). Francis X. Murphy was a patristics scholar working as a *peritus* at Vatican II. Writing under the pseudonym of “Xavier Rynne,” he sent weekly dispatches to *New Yorker* magazine, published as “Letters from Vatican City.” In the process, he unveiled to the wider public what was happening behind closed doors: the backroom politics, the pitched debates, and the wide-ranging theological issues. This enormously popular account of the day-to-day happenings at the Council still reads well after 40 years—now back in print, with a new edition and preface.

*Rediscovering Vatican II* (New York: Paulist Press, 2005-2009). This series offers a popular and very brief introduction to individual documents of Vatican II, highlighting how they have been implemented over the last 40 years. Volumes to date are:


Note: The journal Theological Studies has been running a series of studies “On the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II,” beginning in the fall of 2012. The major essays have been excellent and are included in the listing below:


Catherine E. Clifford, Decoding Vatican II: Ecclesial Self-Identity, Dialogue, and Reform (New York: Paulist Press, 2014) paperback, $10. NEW.

Yves Congar, My Journal of the Council (Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2012). Congar was one of the architects of the council. This publication of his private journal is a significant event.


Massimo Faggioli, “Vatican II and the Church at the Margins,” On the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II (Set VI), Theological Studies 74.4 (2013): 808-818.


Peter Hünerrmann, Herders theologische Kommentar zum Zweiten Vatikanischen Konzil, 5 vol. (Freiburg im Bresigau: Herder, 2005.).


### 4. POPE JOHN XXIII & THE PAPACY BEFORE VATICAN II


### 5. REFERENCE WORKS: DICTIONARIES & ENCYCLOPEDIAS


