



Pilate and Jesus (Meridian: Crossing Aesthetics)

By Giorgio Agamben

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Pontius Pilate is one of the most enigmatic figures in Christian theology. The only non-Christian to be named in the Nicene Creed, he is presented as a cruel colonial overseer in secular accounts, as a conflicted judge convinced of Jesus's innocence in the Gospels, and as either a pious Christian or a virtual demon in later Christian writings. This book takes Pilate's role in the trial of Jesus as a starting point for investigating the function of legal judgment in Western society and the ways that such judgment requires us to adjudicate the competing claims of the eternal and the historical. Coming just as Agamben is bringing his decades-long *Homo Sacer* project to an end, *Pilate and Jesus* sheds considerable light on what is at stake in that series as a whole. At the same time, it stands on its own, perhaps more than any of the author's recent works. It thus serves as a perfect starting place for readers who are curious about Agamben's approach but do not know where to begin.

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Pilate and Jesus (Meridian: Crossing Aesthetics) By Giorgio Agamben Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #996619 in Books
- Published on: 2015-02-04
- Released on: 2015-02-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.00" h x .40" w x 4.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 84 pages

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Giorgio Agamben is a contemporary Italian philosopher and political theorist whose works have been translated into numerous languages. His most recent title with Stanford University Press is *Opus Dei* (2013).

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