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BOOK REVIEWS

Catherine E. Clifford, Massimo Faggioli, (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook on Vatican II* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023, 778 p.).

Fruit of a complex work realized by a rich group of scholars from all around the world coordinated by Catherine E. Clifford and Massimo Faggioli: *The Oxford Handbook on Vatican II* released by Oxford University Press in 2023 comes not only to bring again into attention an event that shifted the history of the Christianity in the 20th century, but also to provide a complex overview on its meanings and on its consequences.

Segmented into five big parts and 44 chapters, the book comes to present and the moment starting from the historical landscape and until its later reception. Therefore, the first part is dedicated to the context and the sources of the Council, the second one to the documents issued by the meeting, the third to its catholic reception, the fourth to the way how it was understood by the Christians and non-Christians at the time when it took place, and the last thematic unity to its global reception. As the coordinators underline in the introduction of the work (p. 1-6), such a demarche cannot be anything else that the fruit of a complex work that took several years (nine, in fact, p. 1).

The first section of the book starts with a research signed by John H. O'Malley, SJ, dedicated to the evolution of the situation of the Catholic Church from Trent Council, to the first Vatican Council and until the moment which constitutes the main topic of the book (p. 9-25). It is continued by the one of Massimo Faggioli who presents the historical context of the Council (p. 26-43), the one of David Gurnett who takes into attention the movements of "ressourcement" in theology at the time (p. 44-60), the one of Norman Tanner SJ, who takes into account the editions of the Council Documents in English (p. 61-68), the one of Piero Doria, who speaks about the relevance of a potential archive of the event (p. 69-88), the one of Frederico Ruozi, who presents the other sources for the Study of Vatican II, namely the diaries and mass media (p. 89-113), and the one of Peter Hunterman, who emphasizes "the unique character of Vatican II's Teaching" (p. 114-129).

The second part of the demarche is filled by a series of research dedicated to the documents issued by the meeting and their relevance. Scholars like the Jesuit John F. Baldovin come to emphasize the landmarks on the constitution on Sacred Liturgy (p. 148-165), Richard Gaillardetz brings into debate the ecclesiology of Vatican II (167-

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182), Stephen Bevans, SVD speaks about its missiology (p. 250-266), Silvia Scatena about the religious liberty according to it (p. 267-281), Catherine Clifford, about the ecumenism as a main concern of the Council (p. 282-299), and John Borelly about the interreligious dialogue and the way how it was shifted there (p. 300-314).

The 3rd part of the book deals with the Catholic reception of the documents and of the entire moment. Authors like Gilles Routhier, Salvator-Pie-Ninot, Philippe Roy-Lysencourt, Andrea Riccardi, Paul D. Murray, James T. Bretze, SJ, John Beal or Serena Noceti, come to emphasize aspects related with the history of Conciliar reception in the Western space (p. 346-359), the way how it was understood by the traditionalist Catholics (p. 360-378), the papacy and its way of seeing according to it (p. 379-395), the reception of Vatican II in systematic Theology (p. 396-417), the way how it influenced the moral theology (p. 418-421), but also delicate aspects like the feminist theology (p. 449-471). It is continued by the 4th one dedicated to its reception among Christians and non-Christians, where authors like Radu Bordeianu bring into attention aspects like “the reception of Vatican II by the Orthodox Church” (p. 493-503), Mark D. Chapman about its reception by Anglicans (p. 504-519), William G. Rusch, about its reception in the Lutheran Church (p. 520-528), David Carter about the Methodist reception of it (p. 544-555). An important part is dedicated to *Nostra Aetate* document (p. 570-597).

The demarche is continued by the final section, dedicated to the global reception of the Council. There, Matthew A. Shadle presents a research dedicated to the Catholicism and the International Affairs since Vatican II (p. 621-637), Shaji George Kochuthara, CMI, about its reception in Asia (p. 638-656), while other scholars speak about its impact and reception in Africa (p. 657-675), its echoes in the Latin America and Caribbean (p. 675-694), in North America (p. 695-712), in Europe (p. 713-734), and Oceania (p. 735-754).

Offering a rich bibliographic synthesis and presenting a topic that is relevant not only for the Catholic space, but also for the global theological one, *The Oxford Handbook on Vatican II*, published by Oxford University Press in 2023 is an useful tool both for theologians, historians, sociologists or philosophers and should not be neglected by a researcher who wants to have a word to say in the contemporary research.

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