

God: an itinerary by Régis Debray. Translated by Jeffrey Mehlman. Verso 2004.

This is a tour de force of gallic intellectualism by a philosophy professor at the University of Lyon-III. It is a challenging and demanding read that requires 100% attention on every page.

Professor Debray divides his book into three parts, Coronation, Deployment, Effacement detailing the development of various theologies and the deities on whom they focus. The itinerary is partly developmental, partly a recounting of the influence that these evolving ideas have had on the societies that they have helped to shape.

Debray's approach is never predictable or conventional and is often so multi-layered that a single page requires sustained study before all its riches may be understood and assimilated.

This is not mainstream theology by any means but a stunning synthesis of ideas conceived in a most original way.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh