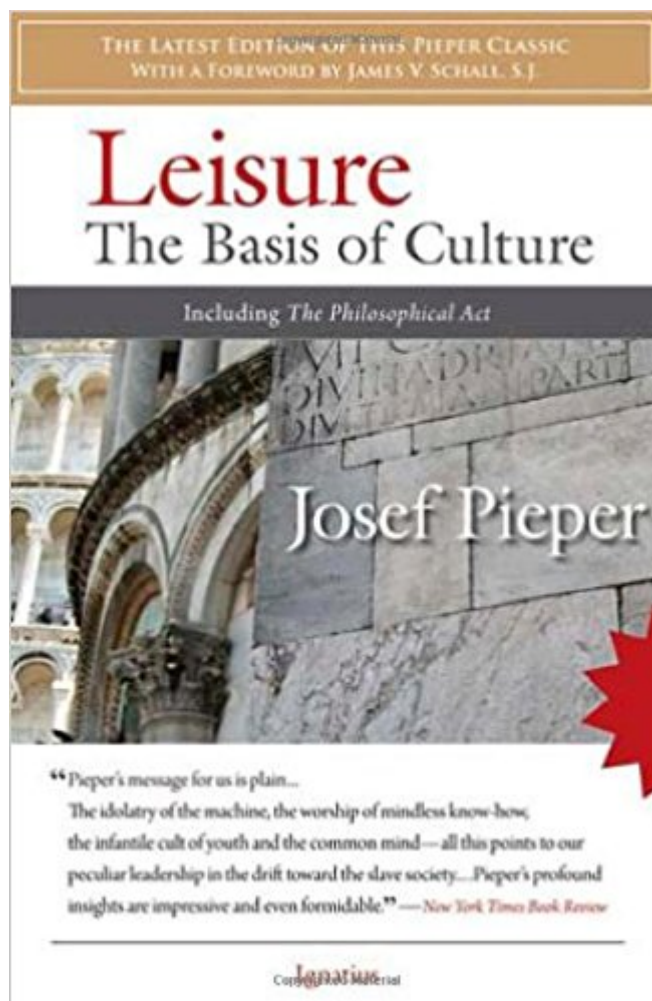


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# Leisure: The Basis Of Culture



## Synopsis

One of the most important philosophy titles published in the twentieth century, Josef Pieper's *Leisure, the Basis of Culture* is more significant, even more crucial, today than it was when it first appeared more than fifty years ago. This edition also includes his work *The Philosophical Act*. Leisure is an attitude of the mind and a condition of the soul that fosters a capacity to perceive the reality of the world. Pieper shows that the Greeks and medieval Europeans, understood the great value and importance of leisure. He also points out that religion can be born only in leisure -- a leisure that allows time for the contemplation of the nature of God. Leisure has been, and always will be, the first foundation of any culture. Pieper maintains that our bourgeois world of total labor has vanquished leisure, and issues a startling warning: Unless we regain the art of silence and insight, the ability for non-activity, unless we substitute true leisure for our hectic amusements, we will destroy our culture -- and ourselves.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Pieper has subjects involved in everyone's life; he has theses that are so counter to prevailing trends as to be sensational; and he has a style that is memorably clear and direct. --Chicago Tribune  
Pieper's message for us is plain.... The idolatry of the machine, the worship of mindless know-how, the infantile cult of youth and the common mind-all this points to our peculiar leadership in the drift toward the slave society.... Pieper's profound insights are impressive and even formidable. --New York Times Book Review  
These two short essays by a contemporary German philosopher go a long way towards a lucid explanation of the present crisis in civilisation.... The first

essay... should be read by anyone-and young people in particular-anxious to come to some conclusions about the nature of society." --The Spectator, London

Josef Pieper (1904-1997) was an influential German Catholic philosopher, scholar, and author.

which isn't all that obvious until you focus in on the cover. our family book club benefited from learning pieper's post World War 2 take on the philosophy of liesure. i am a chemist, not a philosopher, but all but one early chapter was an easy read for me. reading amongst a group of philosophers made that chapter easier to grasp.

Pieper raises some very interesting questions that allow you to rethink why you do what you do (and why you don't). This book will make you think about leisure in a whole new way!

A clear description of the demean of today -when work and the time off from work engulf our lives,

I have enjoyed this book very much. In my work-cluttered world, it has given me a lot to think about.

This seemed like an academic essay to me; while a difficult read I found the essay to provide a framework for evaluating how I use my "leisure" time. I now think much more about the quality of my leisure.

Truth is what it is about.

A classic. Great info.

Loves it

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