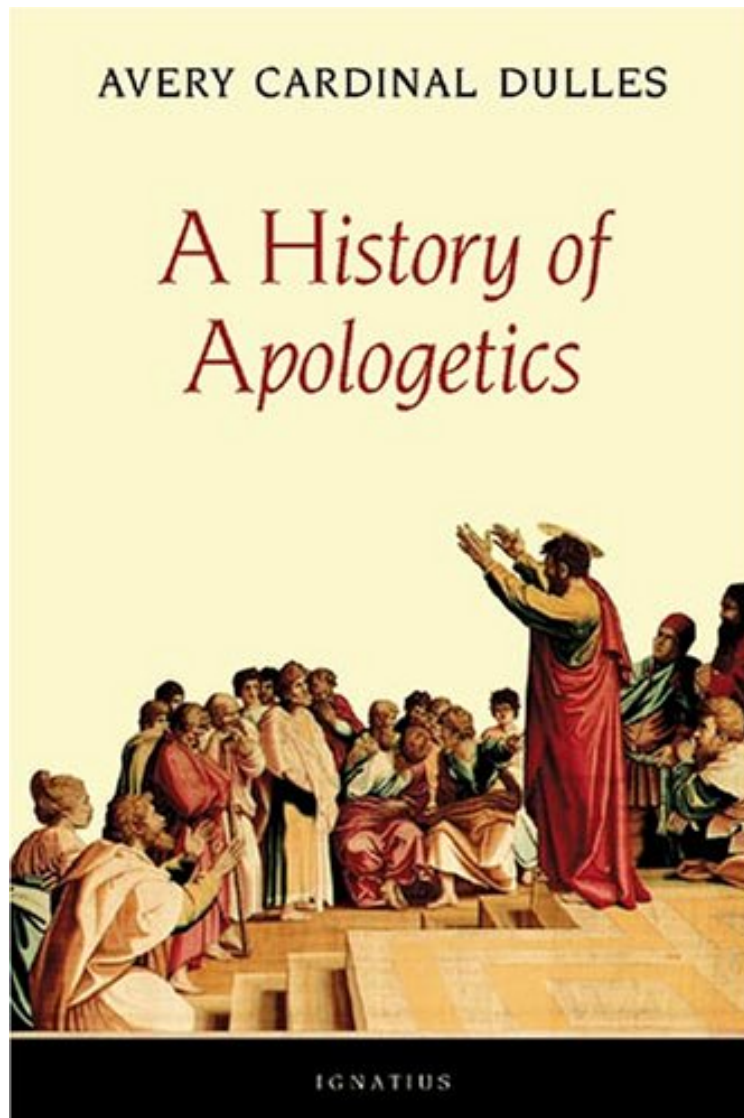


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## A History of Apologetics

Avery Robert Cardinal Dulles  
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**Avery Robert Cardinal Dulles : A History of Apologetics** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of Apologetics:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More of a historical survey as the title suggests By Prince The book serves more as a survey of the history/waves of different sorts of apologetic methods/dogmatic theology/philosophy written at a scholarly level. But if you are a reader/person who thinks deeper and wants more, you will have to read detailed and specific resources. The author himself is a Convert to Catholicism but his writing appears to me not in any way biased towards Catholic theology. I was impressed by the author's hold and understanding of a topic that

spans such a long period of time and is not an easy thing to discuss and write. Also he appears to go in details about the different writers/thinkers of French Catholic/German Lutheran/Protestant writings. I grew more in knowledge about how apologetic waves changed and took on a new mode during/after reformation and enlightenment and modern period. I would not suggest to read this book if you looking to learn about different methods of apologetic or even theology. Read it to learn about the different waves in the history of apologetic/theology in the last 2000 yrs beginning with the times of our Lord and the blessed apostles. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent Overview of Apologetics By Matthew K. Miner Cardinal Dulles' overview of Christian Apologetics is quite thorough and deserves to be looked at in the present age. The task of apologetics is always one which presents much difficulty, for the relationship between faith and reason is one which always tries to maintain its balance while apologetics can sometimes tip the scale entirely toward reason while depriving faith of its gracious nature. However, when one is trying to truly define apologetics, it is most excellent to have a historic overview to see the true development of it throughout history. From this, one can then surmise the high and low points of apologetical work and then march forth in a more fully formed understanding of how the Faith is to be defended. I do not doubt that many readers will appreciate that Dulles does not approach inner-Christian polemic apologetics. Instead, he tries to retain a spirit of presenting it as a defense to the world and as a whole. History is littered with such polemic arguments between Protestants and Catholics, Catholics and Orthodox, etc. He does not deny that these exist but does not wish to even open that road up. He instead wants to outline the currents of thought in Christian apologetics to the world from various views. The footnotes for the text are absolutely wonderful. The reader is given the chance to see many different sources to further their investigation of apologists of their choice. I think that the primary aim of this text is just that. It introduces the reader to the generalities of apologists throughout history and opens the door to deeper investigation. Although it does seem that much of the East is not given heavy treatment, I cannot respond greatly to this, as I am not as familiar with the general currents of the Orthodox communities. Nevertheless, when it is possible, Dulles does speak of eastern theologians. Perhaps the role of Eastern theology since the break in the West would be helpful. It seems that Dulles concentrates on Protestant and Catholic apologetics only after that point. Overall, I suggest this text as a great introduction to the history of Christian apologetics. It provides a full picture from which the reader can proceed to further reflection. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Eturnbull Excellent book and of great interest

NEW UPDATED AND REVISED EDITION (2005) Making the case for the Christian faith apologetics has always been part of the Church's mission. Yet Christians sometimes have had different approaches to defending the faith, responding to the needs of their respective times and framing their arguments to address the particular issues of their day. Cardinal Avery Dulles A History of Apologetics provides a masterful overview of Christian apologetics, from its beginning in the New Testament through the Middle Ages and on to the present resurgence of apologetics among Catholics and Protestants. Dulles shows how Christian apologists have at times both criticized and drawn from their intellectual surroundings to present the reasonableness of Christian belief. Written by one of American Catholicism's leading theologians, A History of Apologetics also examines apologetics in the 20th and early 21st centuries including its decline among Catholics following Vatican II and its recent revival, as well as the contributions of contemporary Evangelical Protestant apologists. Dulles also considers the growing Catholic-Protestant convergence in apologetics. No student of apologetics and contemporary theology should be without this superb and masterful work.

"The historical information he gathers and his penetrating analyses of apologetic methods make this book an invaluable resource for Christian apologetics today." From the Publisher REVISED UPDATED EDITION (AUGUST 2005) About the Author Cardinal Avery Dulles, S.J., is the author of over 700 articles and 22 books. He has served on the International Theological Commission and as a member of the United States Lutheran/Roman Catholic Coordinating Committee. He is presently an advisor to the Committee on Doctrine of the NCCB, and is the Laurence J. McGinley Professor of Religion and Society at Fordham University.