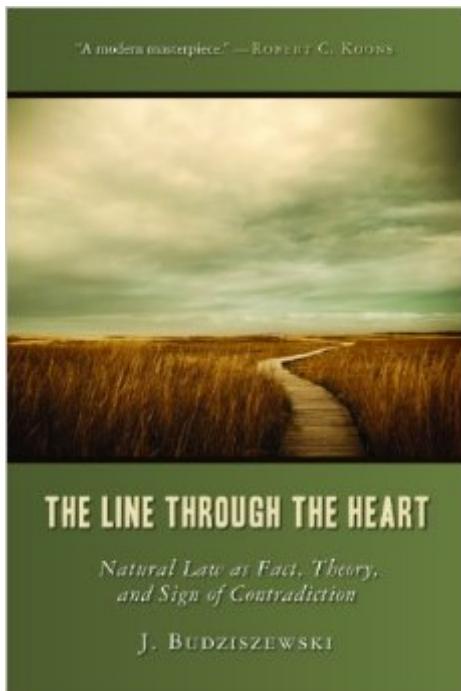


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The Line Through The Heart: Natural Law As Fact, Theory, And Sign Of Contradiction



Synopsis

Budziszewski on natural law is simply the best. . . . A must read. "James V. Schall, S.J., author of *Another Sort of Learning* "Truly fundamental . . . I shall enjoy reading [it] over and over again." Russell Hittinger, author of *The First Grace* Why do we demand happiness on terms that make happiness impossible? In this brilliantly persuasive book, bestselling author J. Budziszewski examines the suicidal proclivity of our time, which is to deny the obvious. Our hearts are riddled with desires that oppose their deepest longings. Why? And what can we do about it? Acclaimed philosopher J. Budziszewski addresses these questions in the brilliantly persuasive book *The Line Through the Heart*, finding the answers in the natural law. The journey of exploration takes us through politics, religion, ethics, law, philosophy, and more, with Budziszewski as expert guide. While investigating the natural law and its implications, Budziszewski boldly confronts a wide range of contemporary issues, offering a newly integrated view of abortion, evolution, euthanasia, capital punishment, runaway courts, and the ersatz state religion built in the name of religious toleration. Written in Budziszewski's usual crystalline style, *The Line Through the Heart* shows that natural law is a matter of concern not merely to scholars but to everyone, for it touches how each of us lives, and how all of us live together. His profound examination of this subject helps us make sense of why habits that run against our nature have become second nature, and why our world seems to be going mad.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

J. Budziszewski has written a book that has both those with little formal recognition of natural law

(we all have an internal recognition) and those who are natural law veterans in mind. The book is a collection of essays dealing with the recognition of natural law, the impossibility of a successful secular natural law theory, the composition of the human person, Liberalism and various other topics. Unquestionably, the highlight of the book comes in Budziszewski's essay, "Accept No Limitations: Naturalism vs. Natural Law." Budziszewski does not sit idly by and let secularist get away with saying ridiculous things such as "logic is a brute fact" that does not need justification or that morality or intentionality is an "emergent" quality as though this justifies sneaking them into discourse without providing an adequate metaphysical grounding. This chapter also includes a brief, but sufficient critique of evolutionary psychology and ethics, as well as a deconstruction of utilitarianism and desire utilitarianism (although he doesn't refer to it as such). This exceptional chapter ends with a firm rebuttal of the attempted secular natural law theory of Larry Arnhart. The final chapter was also very engaging. The focus was on Liberalism and the strange paradox within Liberalism where a false pluralism of religious faith actually serves to undermine religious faith completely. Budziszewski shows through internal critique how the entire project suffers from gross misunderstandings of the very religions it seeks to support through pluralistic ideals. It also shows that Liberalism actually only presents a thin veneer of actual pluralism when in fact its aims are to promote its own "illiberal Liberal religion.

This Book Is Not a Romance

The Line Through the Heart: Natural Law as Fact, Theory, and Sign of Contradiction spans the philosophical and theological underpinnings that hold together every individual's worldview. It is in a word (or two) a work concerning Natural Law. It is not an introduction to Natural Law or a full and complete apology for it. The first half of the book covers Natural Law proper as it relates to morality. These first pages read as an expose and apology as Budziszewski sets up the inseparability of the moral aspect and the theological aspect of natural law as outlined in the Decalogue. He turns first to the nature of man. He looks both at what we can't help but know about ourselves and at the implication of nature on revelation and vice versa. Next Budziszewski focuses on the idea of second nature, connaturality, or more simply he considers not the nature of Man but focuses on the what of any given individual in a situation. He shows just how unnatural man can make himself when he seeks to build his edifice from his own image. From here he delves into nature herself looking at different metaphysical presumptions of materialistic and evolutionary theories and what implications can be derived from them. His focus remains intently on morality which leaves contending theories wanting to such a degree that the reader may be left to wonder how he had missed it all before. In the closing chapter of the first half the author deftly tackles what

might be called psuedo-natural law; these are the imitation laws like utilitarianism. The second half of the book takes everything that has come before it and applies it to political law.

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