

CILIPS COVID-19 Book Reviews – No Passion Spent: Essay 1978-1996

Reviewer name: Scott Main

Book title: No Passion Spent: Essays 1978-1996

Author name: George Steiner

Genre: Cultural Criticism

Overall Rating: Excellent

Brief summary: George Steiner (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Steiner) has enjoyed a spectacular academic career, teaching in many prestigious institutions and writing voluminously. He is a comparative literary critic and polymath. This is a miscellany of his writings between 1978-1996. Topics covered are the Hebrew Bible, Homer, Shakespeare, tragedy, Simone Weil, Henri de Saint-Simon, Peguy, Husserl, dreams, Kafka, Kierkegaard, tautology, the two suppers (those of Socrates and Christ) and his famous essay about 'real presences'. Reading Steiner always makes one feel seriously under-educated and one must be impressed by his dazzling erudition. A fine, fine read.

What you liked: The vast erudition of George Steiner is on display here.

Who should read this book?: Anyone interested in culture, discrimination, and the improvement of taste.