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Thank God for the Atom Bomb

Paul Fussell

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Paul Fussell : Thank God for the Atom Bomb before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Thank God for the Atom Bomb:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One of his best, and overlooked, works. By Louis Irwin Brilliant collection of essays, esp. the title piece. Author lived a long, fascinating (and curmudgeonly) life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Serious fun for your brain! By c langridge Paul Fussell is a writer of fascinating essays, and these are some of his best - wide-ranging, articulate, penetrating ... 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thought provoking. By Rodger C. Thompson Paul Fussell was a literary and social critic of major importance. These essays are thoughtful examinations of historical and cultural issues, free of any euphemization of unpleasant facts and a thought provoking alternative to what Mr. Fussell called the "Disneyfiers of life".

From Publishers Weekly A conservative cultural critic with a passion for nude beaches and the Indy 500 auto race, Fussell (The Great War and Modern Memory) explores some of his pet topics in this miscellany of essays and articles. The title piece, a defense of Truman's decision to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, generated lively controversy when it first appeared in the New Republic; a spirited exchange from that journal is included here. Elsewhere, Fussell hails George Orwell's essays as a refreshing counterweight to today's "theory-ridden" criticism.

Mulling the difference between tourists and travelers, he offers disarming observations on travel writers Paul Theroux and John Krich. One piece explores how patriotic fervor thrust Carl Sandburg's propaganda tracts into the literary limelight. Fussell has quirky, interesting things to say about gun control, war poetry, chivalry and modernism as an offshoot of the "melodrama of the French Revolution." Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Most of these 14 essays on topics ranging from Hiroshima to the Indy 500 originally appeared in the New Republic, Sewanee, and other periodicals. One essay praises George Orwell for virtues that Fussell himself has cultivated: an accessible style, a lively interest in the social uses of language, and "a power of facing unpleasant facts." Fussell is even keener on exposing the euphemisms and illusions of others. His most valuable pieces deal with the horrors of modern warfare and its literature somewhat extending and generalizing his powerful *The Great War and Modern Memory* (1975). Libraries with well-educated browsers would find this worthy if not mandatory while those covering the two World Wars would find it worthier still. Donald Ray, Manhattanville Coll. Lib., Purchase, N.Y. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.