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Western Attitudes toward Death: From the Middle Ages to the Present (The Johns Hopkins Symposia in Comparative History)

Professor Philippe Ariegrave;s
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Professor Philippe Ariegrave;s : Western Attitudes toward Death: From the Middle Ages to the Present (The Johns Hopkins Symposia in Comparative History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Western Attitudes toward Death: From the Middle Ages to the Present (The Johns Hopkins Symposia in Comparative History):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A mixed reviewBy Priscilla StilwellI feel that the book is too short. In the noble attempt to give a short overview, the author touches much but leaves us feeling less informed at the conclusion than before we knew about the book's existence. Some of the criticism might be attached to the translation, so I cannot hold the author exclusively responsible.I might be inclined to read the author's larger work on the subject in order to get more in-depth and actually understand what he's trying to say. But I fear that at the end I would be left with the same unanswered questions which would just frustrate me.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Dead OnBy Paul A. NelsonA fantastic read - both brief and accessible as well as informative and challenging. Phillipe Aries' seminal study of how the treatment of death and dying has changed dramatically in Western Civilization should provoke the reader to think about death as more than something to be avoided, but something to be anticipated.In American culture obsessed with youth, death has been shoved into the closet to be peeked at only when absolutely

necessary. We deny our own mortality, hiding our advancing years with surgeries and fad diets and fashion and promiscuity. Effectively, we are completely un-equipped to handle death, whether someone else's or our own. We not only don't wish to think about it, we can't. It's hidden, and we are supposed to deny ourselves even the visible grief which a true loss of any kind merits. We are often expected to be more emotional about a damaged vehicle or a bad meal or a rude person in traffic than we are when dealing with the death of a loved one. Read and learn. Read and re-evaluate the wisdom of such intentional ignorance, and what you might wish to do differently for yourself and for those around you whenever the time comes to shuffle off this mortal coil. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. the best concise history of death By pop eye This is hands down the best concise history of death in the West. Remarkable erudition packed into a tight, vivid prose.

"Ariegrave;s traces Western man's attitudes toward mortality from the early medieval conception of death as the familiar collective destiny of the human race to the modern tendency, so pronounced in industrial societies, to hide death as if it were an embarrassing family secret." -- Newsweek

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Language Notes
Text: English, French
(translation)
About the Author
Philip Ariegrave;s was a social historian whose books *Centuries of Childhood* and *At the Hour of our Death* won great acclaim when first published in France, England and the United States.