



Leisure: The Basis of Culture (Mentor Series)



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Josef Pieper

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Einband: Taschenbuch

Kurzbeschreibung

Beginning with the Greeks, and through a series of historical examples, this text demonstrates that leisure has always been the foundation for any culture. It argues that unless the contemporary clamour for entertainment and distraction is challenged, culture will be destroyed. Synopsis

One of the most important philosophy titles published in the twentieth century, Josef Pieper's *Leisure, the Basis of Culture* is more significant, even more crucial, today than it was when it first appeared fifty years ago. Pieper shows that the Greeks understood and valued leisure, as did the medieval Europeans. He points out that religion can be born only in leisure - a leisure that allows time for the contemplation of the nature of God. Leisure has been, and always will be, the first foundation of any culture. He maintains that our bourgeois world of total labour has vanquished leisure, and issues as startling warning: Unless we regain the art of silence and insight, the ability for nonactivity, unless we substitute true leisure for our hectic amusements, we will destroy our culture - and ourselves. These astonishing essays contradict all our pragmatic and puritanical conceptions about labour and leisure; Josef Pieper demolishes the twentieth century cult of "work" as he predicts its destructive consequences.

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