

A history of modern culture

Smith, Preserved, author

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Abstrak

Preserved Smith (1880–1941), a professor in the history department of Cornell University, owed his unusual first name to Puritan ancestors who could be traced back to the seventeenth century. His great interest was in the Protestant reformation, and its wide-ranging political and cultural effects in Europe and America. An obituary remarks that his writings 'reveal a remarkable breadth of knowledge and interest and a consistent devotion to high standards of scholarly integrity'. This two-volume work of 1930–4, discussing 'modern culture' from 1543 to 1776, displays these qualities in abundance. Volume 2 deals with the Enlightenment from 1687 to 1776, and, like Volume 1, starts by considering the role of science as the driver of rapidly evolving cultural, social and political change. The work is a remarkable and readable overview of the emergence of modern society.