



ReviewforReligious.com | 7300 Hanover Drive Suite 304, Greenbelt, MD 20770 | 240.436.1311

Book Review Guidelines

Revised December 2, 2020

A. General Guidelines

1. The length of a single book review is 700–800 words and rarely longer. If you judge that a book can be reviewed in less space, email us and write a 250–350 word review following the same guidelines.
2. A review essay of two books can be between 1300–1500 words, and rarely longer. A review essay of three or more books can be between 1700–2000 words, and rarely longer.
3. In some circumstances, *RfR* will solicit review articles, which would cover more than three books and be roughly article length (2000–6000 words).
4. The readers of *RfR* go beyond university theologians. Keep in mind those in ministry and religious life as you read the book and write your review.
5. If you cannot meet the deadline, please email us so we can agree on an alternative timeframe. If an agreement cannot be arranged or if you become unable to complete the review, please return the book to us.

B. Writing the Review

1. *Overall judgment*: we pick books we think are appropriate and interesting for our readers but rely on you to make an informed judgment. Our preference is only to publish reviews of recommended books. If you cannot recommend a book, please let us know and return the book. If there is an especially pressing reason to review a book you do not recommend, email us to discuss before proceeding.
2. *Content*: The bulk of your review should be evaluative. It is best to describe as you evaluate, rather than writing numerous descriptive details and then evaluating. Avoid deep dives into details unless they shed light on a major evaluative point.
3. *Tone*: Let a hermeneutic of charity govern your review. Maintain a courteous tone, even when expressing disagreement or pointing out problems.
4. *Style*: We follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th ed. If you have a pressing reason to follow another style guide, email us.
5. *Citations*: When citing, use only in-line citations in parentheses without the author's name, title of the work, or "p" or "pp," e.g. (155), not (Teresa of Avila, *Interior Castle*, 155), (*Interior Castle*, 155), (p. 155) or (pp. 155–56). Do not use "ff" or block

quotations. Avoid citing works other than the book being reviewed.

6. After your initial mention of the author's name, use only the initial of the author's last name. If an author has more than one last name, make a judgment as to what is the most recognizable part of the name and use that letter, e.g. "B" for Hans Urs von Balthasar.

C. Formatting

1. Create a heading for your review as follows: *Title: Subtitle*. Author. Editor. Translator. Series. Number of Volumes. Edition. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Introductory pages + number of pages. Price (cloth; paper). Bold the entire heading. For example:

- ***Moses: A Life*. By John R. Forest, CM. Translated from the French by James Jones. Ancient Bibliographies. New York: Macmillan, 2014. Pp. xv + 678. \$70; \$29.50.**

2. Use 12-point Times New Roman. Double space your review.
3. Add your name, institutional affiliation, and location to the end of your review.

D. Submitting Your Review

1. Send your completed review to editor@reviewforreligious.com as a .docx file.
2. We may edit your review for clarity, tone, and style.
3. Any questions should be directed to editor@reviewforreligious.com.