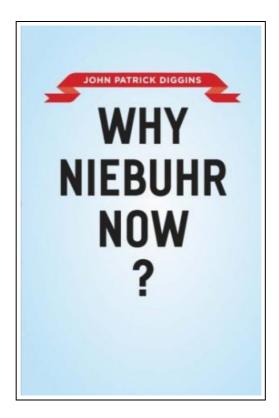
# Why Niebuhr Now? (Paperback)



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# Reviews

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(Giles Vandervort DDS)

# WHY NIEBUHR NOW? (PAPERBACK)



The University of Chicago Press, United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English. Brand New Book. Barack Obama has called him one of my favorite philosophers. John McCain wrote that he is a paragon of clarity about the costs of a good war. Andrew Sullivan has said, We need Niebuhr now more than ever. For a theologian who died in 1971, Reinhold Niebuhr is maintaining a remarkably high profile in the twenty-first century. In Why Niebuhr Now? acclaimed historian John Patrick Diggins tackles the complicated question of why, at a time of great uncertainty about America s proper role in the world, leading politicians and thinkers are turning to Niebuhr for answers. Diggins begins by clearly and carefully working through Niebuhr s theology, which focuses less on God s presence than his absence - and the ways that absence abets the all-too-human sin of pride. He then shows how that theology informed Niebuhr s worldview, leading him to be at the same time a strong opponent of fascism and communism and a leading advocate for humility and caution in foreign policy. Turning to the present, Diggins highlights what he argues is a misuse of Niebuhr s legacy on both the right and the left: while neoconservatives distort Niebuhr s arguments to support their call for an endless war on terror in the name of stopping evil, many liberal interventionists conveniently ignore Niebuhr s fundamental doubts about power. Ultimately, Niebuhr s greatest lesson is that, while it is our duty to struggle for good, we must be wary of hubris and acknowledge the limits of our understanding. The final work from a distinguished writer who spent his entire career reflecting on America s history and promise, Why Niebuhr Now? is a compact and perceptive book that will be the...

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