

The Hatred of Literature (Hardback)

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Reviews

This pdf will never be straightforward to get going on studying but quite enjoyable to read through. This is certainly for all those who statte there was not a really worth studying. You are going to like the way the blogger publish this publication. (Mrs. Adah Sawayn)

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THE HATRED OF LITERATURE (HARDBACK)



Harvard University, Center for Hellenic Studies, United States, 2018. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. For the last 2,500 years literature has been attacked, booed, and condemned, often for the wrong reasons and occasionally for very good ones. The Hatred of Literature examines the evolving idea of literature as seen through the eyes of its adversaries: philosophers, theologians, scientists, pedagogues, and even leaders of modern liberal democracies. From Plato to C. P. Snow to Nicolas Sarkozy, literature s haters have questioned the value of literature-its truthfulness, virtue, and usefulness--and have attempted to demonstrate its harmfulness. Literature does not start with Homer or Gilgamesh, William Marx says, but with Plato driving the poets out of the city, like God casting Adam and Eve out of Paradise. That is its genesis. From Plato the poets learned for the first time that they served not truth but merely the Muses. It is no mere coincidence that the love of wisdom (philosophia) coincided with the hatred of poetry. Literature was born of scandal, and scandal has defined it ever since. In the long rhetorical war against literature, Marx identifies four indictments--in the name of authority, truth, morality, and society. This typology allows him to move in an associative way through the centuries. In describing the misplaced ambitions, corruptible powers, and abysmal failures of literature, anti-literary discourses make explicit what a given society came to expect from literature. In this way, anti-literature paradoxically asserts the validity of what it wishes to deny. The only threat to literature s continued existence, Marx writes, is no hatred but indifference.

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