



## The Shipwrecked Mind: On Political Reaction (Paperback)

By Mark Lilla

The New York Review of Books, Inc, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Main. Language: English . Brand New Book. We don't understand the reactionary mind. As a result, argues Mark Lilla in this timely book, the ideas and passions that shape today's political dramas are unintelligible to us. The reactionary is anything but a conservative. He is as radical and modern a figure as the revolutionary, someone shipwrecked in the rapidly changing present, and suffering from nostalgia for an idealized past and an apocalyptic fear that history is rushing toward catastrophe. And like the revolutionary his political engagements are motivated by highly developed ideas. Lilla begins with three twentieth-century philosophers--Franz Rosenzweig, Eric Voegelin, and Leo Strauss--who attributed the problems of modern society to a break in the history of ideas and promoted a return to earlier modes of thought. He then examines the enduring power of grand historical narratives of betrayal to shape political outlooks since the French Revolution, and shows how these narratives are employed in the writings of Europe's right-wing cultural pessimists and Maoist neocommunist, American theocconservatives fantasizing about the harmony of medieval Catholic society and radical Islamists seeking to restore a vanished Muslim...

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