

## Kazantzakis

Owens (religious studies, Canterbury Christ Church U. College) seeks to clarify the philosophical and religious views of playwright, journalist, and novelist Kazantzakis (1883-1957), arguing that his religious philosophy led him to transcend both communism and nihilism enroute to a union with god. Annotation (c) Book News, Inc., Portland, OR (bookn

Disarmingly personal and intensely philosophical, *Report to Greco* is a fictionalized account of Greek philosopher and writer Nikos Kazantzakis's own life, a sort of intellectual autobiography that leads readers through his wide-ranging observations on everything from the Hegelian dialectic to the nature of human existence, all framed as a report to the Spanish Renaissance painter El Greco. The assuredness of Kazantzakis's prose and the nimbleness of his thinking as he grapples with life's essential questions—who are we, and how should we be in the world?—will inspire awe and more than a little reflection from readers seeking to answer these questions for themselves.

Personal letters interwoven with biographical text reveal a portrait of the novelist, poet, and philosopher, his political causes and his unceasing struggle with the creative process

The inhabitants of a Greek village, ruled by the Turks, plan to enact the life of Christ in a mystery play but are overwhelmed by their task. A group of refugees, fleeing from the ruins of their plundered homes, arrive asking for protection - and suddenly the drama of the Passion becomes reality.

This book explores the philosophical and theological thought of Nikos Kazantzakis. Kazantzakis is a well-known and highly influential Greek writer, having authored such works as *Zorba the Greek* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*, among many others. This volume focuses on the over-arching themes of Kazantzakis' work, namely the importance of the natural world, the nature of humanity, and the nature of God, by means of an analysis of his major novels and other writings. Along the way attention is given to the views of the important scholars who have interacted with Kazantzakis's works, including Peter Bien, Darren Middleton, and Daniel Dombrowski.

Not a stage comedy, but an exploration of Greek writer Nikos Kazantzakis' (1883-1957) view of God, specifically of his attempt to develop a view superior to the traditional one. Finds that he chose Plato's approach over Aristotle and that though his theism is heterodox and controversial, it is a combination of views that grow out of solidly orthodox concerns and sources. No subject index.

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2005 marks the fiftieth anniversary of Nikos Kazantzakis' *The Last Temptation of Christ*. Since Kazantzakis ranks as one of the twentieth century's most important European writers, and given that this particular work of his has garnered so much publicity, this collection of essays re-assesses the novel, though not forgetting the movie, in light of one half century's worth of criticism and reception history. Clergy and laity alike have denounced this novel. When it first appeared, the Greek Orthodox Church condemned it, the Vatican placed it on its Index of Forbidden Texts, and conservative-evangelicals around the world protested its allegedly blasphemous portrayal of a human, struggling Messiah who "succumbs" to the devil's final snare while on the Cross: the temptation to happiness. Assuredly, the sentiments surrounding this novel, at least in the first thirty years or so, were very strong. When Martin Scorsese decided in the early 1980s to adapt the novel for the silver screen, even stronger feelings were expressed. Even today his works are seldom studied in Greece, largely because the Greek government is unable or unwilling to anthologize his material for the national curriculum. After fifty years, however, the time seems right to re-examine the novel, the man, and the film, locating Kazantzakis and his work within an important debate about the relationship between religion and art (literary and cinematic). Until now a book-length assessment of Kazantzakis' novel, and the film it inspired, has not appeared. No such volume is planned to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the novel's publication. For those who work in Kazantzakis studies, a focused anthology like this one is missing from library collections. The volume contains original essays by Martin Scorsese, the film critic Peter Chattaway, and Kazantzakis' translator, Peter A. Bien.

In *Novel Theology*, Darren Middleton engages a conversation between literature and theology by using the narrative fiction of Kazantzakis and the process thought of Whitehead. *Novel Theology* reveals the common philosophy that shapes both Kazantzakis's and Whitehead's understanding of God. It acknowledges that the exercise of sustaining this conversation at times becomes demanding because literature and theology use dissimilar textual modes and forms of discourse. Literature and theology constantly (de)construct each other. Suggesting that this (de)constructive assignment is one that cannot but be "in process itself," Middleton returns to it throughout his study. Middleton brings theology and literature into conversation by comparing specific themes in novels by Kazantzakis and in the works of particular Whiteheadian process theologians. Works explored include *The Last Temptation*; *Christ in a Pluralistic Age*; *Saint Francis*; *Toward a Process Pneumatology*; *Zorba the Greek*; and *God and Religion in the Postmodern World: Essays in Postmodern Theology*. *Novel Theology* is indispensable reading for scholars of literature and theology, Kazantzakis, Whitehead, and process thought.

In this book, Charitini Christodoulou argues that a certain perception of openness that she calls "dialogic" permeates Nikos Kazantzakis' *The Last Temptation*. Partly based on Umberto Eco's theory in *Opera Aperta* and Mikhail Bakhtin's notion of dialogism, the term "dialogic openness" refers to the idea of antithetical forces clashing and thus revealing different forms of tension that are not resolved at the end of the novel. Thus, it is shown that subjectivity and meaning is always in the process of becoming. The different aspects of identity formation unfold before the eyes of the reader, who becomes a witness to the leading characters' process of becoming. Christodoulou demonstrates that there are dialogic elements in tension, which can only be brought forth not as a synthesis, such as the stylistics of a genre implies, but as openness perceived as a process of identity formation.

Novel which portrays Christ as a sensitive human being who is torn between his own passionate desires and his triumphant destiny on the cross.

Crete has always attracted the interest of scholars in modern times not only because of the archaeological discoveries of Sir Arthur Evans, but also because of its rich history and the particular cultural traits and traditions resulting from the fact that the island has been at the centre of geographical, cultural and religious crossroads. The fifteen papers included in this volume explore original aspects of the Cretan cultural and historical tradition, give original insights into already established fields and underline from the vantage point of their own particular discipline its distinctive character and impact. As a result of such a thematic variety, this volume will be of interest not only to scholars and students of modern Greek studies, but also Renaissance Studies,

comparative literature, cultural and social history and anthropology, and travel literature, as well as historical linguistics and dialectology.

Putting Greek writer Nikos Kazantzakis's output into the context of his lifelong spiritual quest and the turbulent politics of 20th century Greece, this title argues that he was a deeply flawed genius. It covers his life after 1938, the period in which he wrote 'Zorba the Greek' and 'The Last Temptation of Christ'.

First published in 1946, "Zorba the Greek," is, on one hand, the story of a Greek working man named Zorba, a passionate lover of life, the unnamed narrator who he accompanies to Crete to work in a lignite mine, and the men and women of the town where they settle. On the other hand it is the story of God and man, The Devil and the Saints; the struggle of men to find their souls and purpose in life and it is about love, courage and faith.

Report to Greco was one of the final writings of Kazantzakis' life before died.

"No author who lives in Greece," writes Peter Bien, "can avoid politics." This first volume of his major intellectual biography of Nikos Kazantzakis approaches the distinguished--and controversial--writer by describing his struggle with political questions that were in reality aspects of a fervent religious search. Beginning with Kazantzakis's early career in fin-de-siècle Paris and his discovery of William James, Nietzsche, and Bergson, the book continues by describing his experiments with communism in turbulent Greece, his visits to Soviet Russia, and the publication of his epic *Odyssey* in 1938. Bien demonstrates that politics and religion cannot be separated in Kazantzakis's development. His major concern was personal salvation, but the method he employed to win that salvation was political engagement. Did deliverance lie in nationalism? Communism? Fascism? He eventually rejected each of these possible solutions as morally appalling. Abused by both left and right, he insisted on an "eschatological politics" of spiritual fulfillment. This compelling biography will be essential reading for Kazantzakis scholars and for a wide audience of those who already admire the Greek author's work. In addition, it will provide an introduction to the first three decades of Kazantzakis's career for those who have yet to enjoy such passionate and stirring novels as *Zorba the Greek*, *The Greek Passion*, and *The Last Temptation of Christ*. This first volume provides an introduction to the initial three decades of Kazantzakis's career for those who have enjoyed such vibrant and stirring novels as *Zorba the Greek*, *The Greek Passion*, and *The Last Temptation of Christ*.

Putting Greek writer Nikos Kazantzakis's vast output into the context of his lifelong spiritual quest and the turbulent politics of twentieth-century Greece, Peter Bien argues that Kazantzakis was a deeply flawed genius--not always artistically successful, but a remarkable figure by any standard. This is the second and final volume of Bien's definitive and monumental biography of Kazantzakis (1883-1957). It covers his life after 1938, the period in which he wrote *Zorba the Greek* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*, the novels that brought him his greatest fame. A demonically productive novelist, poet, playwright, travel writer, autobiographer, and translator, Kazantzakis was one of the most important Greek writers of the twentieth century and the only one to achieve international recognition as a novelist. But Kazantzakis's writings were just one aspect of an obsessive struggle with religious, political, and intellectual problems. In the 1940s and 1950s, a period that included the Greek civil war and its aftermath, Kazantzakis continued this engagement with undiminished energy, despite every obstacle, producing in his final years novels that have become world classics.

This book narrates Kazantzakis' life --- his poverty, his life in exile, his struggle as a writer groping for a 'voice,' and describes the conditions under which that voice brought forth the prolific range of work that included *The Odyssey*, *Zorba the Greek*, and the controversial *Last Temptation of Christ*.

The life of Nikos Kazantzakis--the author of *Zorba the Greek* and *The Last Temptation of Christ*--was as colorful and eventful as his fiction. And nowhere is his life revealed more fully or surprisingly than in his letters. Edited and translated by Kazantzakis scholar Peter Bien, this is the most comprehensive selection of Kazantzakis's letters in any language. One of the most important Greek writers of the twentieth century, Kazantzakis (1883-1957) participated in or witnessed some of the most extraordinary events of his times, including both world wars and the Spanish and Greek civil wars. As a foreign correspondent, an official in several Greek governments, and a political and artistic exile, he led a relentlessly nomadic existence, living in France, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain, the Soviet Union, and England. He visited the Versailles Peace Conference, attended the tenth-anniversary celebration of the Bolshevik Revolution, interviewed Mussolini and Franco, and briefly served as a Greek cabinet minister--all the while producing a stream of novels, poems, plays, travel writing, autobiography, and translations. The letters collected here touch on almost every aspect of Kazantzakis's rich and tumultuous life, and show the genius of a man who was deeply attuned to the artistic, intellectual, and political events of his times.

As a writer and philosopher, Nikos Kazantzakis struggled all his life with existential questions, once spending several months in a monastery in an attempt to attain a closer relationship with God. His relentless quest to understand the nature of life through travel, extensive reading, and constant conversation with a diverse array of compatriots ultimately led Kazantzakis to compose this book of "spiritual exercises" meant to help the reader achieve harmony between the countervailing human impulses toward an immortality-seeking asceticism and toward a more nihilistic and materialist view of death. As with all Kazantzakis's philosophical works, *The Saviors of God* sheds light on a mind uniquely suited to a nuanced examination of what it means to be human, and establishes a hopeful vision for a dazzlingly syncretic approach to spiritual life.

The Greek elders of Lycovrissi gather to select principals from the village for the Passion Play, held every seven years at Easter. As this passionate story of savage emotions and primitive religious feelings evolves, the actors begin to change according to their roles in the biblical story. We see man's desperate attempt to war against evil in the world about him as greed and lust struggle with pity and moral justice. Book jacket.

The manuscript of this one of the earliest (1922) works of the author of *Zorba the Greek* and *The Odyssey: A Modern Sequel*, who lost the Nobel Prize to Albert Camus in 1957, was only recently rediscovered and published in Greece with the help of the author's wife. The editors offer various reasons why Kazantzakis may have "forgotten" it, but neglect the most obvious -- that Symposium was never completed to the author's satisfaction, that it is inferior to his later work, that he probably never intended its publication. Modeled somewhat along the lines of the Platonic forebear (Kazantzakis translated Plato), the modern symposium ("drinking party") brings together Arpagos, seeker after God and liberation, and three of his comrades -- the political revolutionary man of action, the poet, and the athlete -- and contrasts their "philosophies." The tension between the contemplative life and action is a major theme of both this and later books. Arpagos' story of his spiritual exploration takes the form of a highly rhetorical confession about his wanderings among the monasteries of Mt. Athos.

Argues that while Nikos Kazantzakis may have occupied the so-called borderlands between belief and unbelief throughout much of his career, he nonetheless possessed, or was possessed by, an intense awareness of the sacred. These 11 essays analyze in detail Kazantzakis's lifelong struggle to give voice

In this book, Carnegie Samuel Calian, who was baptized in the Eastern tradition and raised a Protestant, promotes greater dialogue and exchange among Christians of the East and West. He seeks to make Christians aware of the diversity of faith and offers suggestions and insight to this end.

Fictional account of Saint Francis of Assisi's heroic single-mindedness in the face of extreme physical and spiritual suffering. He portrays the saint as a great lover and inspiring leader, who embraced radical poverty in the face of many obstacles and temptations.

Dramatizes the life of the Grecian conqueror from his taming of Bucephalus, his spirited horse, as a teenager to his death, as an emperor, at thirty-two

Adopting a pluralist approach, this book presents a detailed analysis of *Zorba the Greek* (1946), by Nikos Kazantzakis, recognised as one of the greatest writers Greece has produced since the days of Homer and the Ancient Greek dramatists. Acclaimed both as a modern classic and as an international bestseller, the novel has increasingly gained popularity not only in the Western world, but also in East Asia. This text reads Kazantzakis's novel from five different critical perspectives: formalist, existentialist, feminist, ecocritical, and intercultural. As such, it will be useful to literary critics, scholars, and general readers, as well as any person interested in literary criticism and theory.

The author recounts his travels in Russia between 1925 and 1930, and shares his observations on the impact of the Revolution

Novel which portrays Christ as a sensitive human being who is torn between his own passionate desires and his triumphant destiny on the cross

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Peter Bien focuses on Kazantzakis' obsession with the demotic, the language "on the lips of the people," showing how it governed his writing, his ambition, and his involvement in Greek politics and educational reform. Kazantzakis' obsession worked against him in his *Odyssey* and found its natural vehicle only in his translation of Homer's *Iliad* and his novels, *Zorba the Greek*, *The Last Temptation of Christ*, and *The Greek Passion*. Originally published in 1972. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905.

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Marking the fiftieth anniversary of Kazantzakis's death, author Darren J. N. Middleton looks back on Kazantzakis's life and literary art to suggest that, contrary to popular belief, Kazantzakis and his views actually comport with the ideals of Christianity.

The nineteenth-century rebellion of Cretan Christians against their Turkish oppressors causes two blood brothers to become enemies

The *Fratricides* is about internecine strife in a village in the Epirus during the Greek civil war of the late 1940s. Many of the villagers, including Captain Drakos, son of the local priest Father Yanaros, have taken to the mountains and joined the Communist rebels. It is Holy Week and, with murder, death and destruction everywhere, Father Yanaros feels that he himself is bearing the sins of the world.

A comprehensive study guide offering in-depth explanation, essay, and test prep for Nikos Kazantzakis' *Zorba the Greek*, the internationally acclaimed novel of opposing forces. As a tale of Greece's Great Famine during WWII, *Zorba the Greek* gives a fresh perspective on the duality between body and mind, beauty and pain, feeling and thinking. Moreover, Kazantzakis empowers readers to pursue life like Zorba. This Bright Notes Study Guide explores the context and history of Kazantzakis' classic work, helping students to thoroughly explore the reasons it has stood the literary test of time.

Each Bright Notes Study Guide contains: - Introductions to the Author and the Work - Character Summaries - Plot Guides - Section and Chapter Overviews - Test Essay and Study Q&As The Bright Notes Study Guide series offers an in-depth tour of more than 275 classic works of literature, exploring characters, critical commentary, historical background, plots, and themes. This set of study guides encourages readers to dig deeper in their understanding by including essay questions and answers as well as topics for further research.

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