**Synopsis**
Gianni Vattimo reexamines the roots of modernism and postmodernism in Nietzsche, Benjamin, and Heidegger. Exploring the links between concepts of nihilism and destiny in nineteenth-century humanism, Vattimo follows these trends in aesthetic and scientific theory from Benjamin to Bloch, Ricoeur, and Kuhn.

**Book Information**
Series: Parallax: Re-visions of Culture and Society
Paperback: 256 pages
Publisher: Johns Hopkins University Press; Revised edition (October 1, 1991)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0801843170
Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.5 inches
Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)
Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (3 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #438,618 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Modern Renaissance #50 in Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Postmodernism #145 in Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods > Renaissance

**Customer Reviews**
Vattimo continues to issue his argument for a soft-ontology after metaphysics has suffered from the end of absolutes. The end is nothing...nihilism. I am convinced that Vattimo and others like him are correct in accessing our age as technocratic nihilism but I am not convinced that Vattimo’s soft-ontology is much more than a "practical" excuse to live as though there is meaning even though tying life to shared experience is impossible. The only real impossibility is that life is impossible. Is a new motivation for innovation and culture possible if we admit with Vattimo that nihilism "gesture[s] toward a new human experience" (26)? I am not convinced that he demonstrates this. Instead I see Vattimo arguing for a kind of soft-ontology that attempts to balance the reification of objective language with the broader givens of life experience that are coordinated in forms of life. Although I am not convinced of Vattimo’s vision for life and society after nihilism I do think this book is worthy of a serious read.
Good

This book is important to understand postmodernism. However, I don't image American readers accepting Vattimo’s thesis about weak subject right to have a place in world. Why modern civilization has imposed on us the obligation of being strong and the first in every action as the only way to be allowed as a member of this society?

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