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## Melloni's "Vatican II: The Complete History" (Book Review)

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scholarship for the sake of global security. Already, he maintains, a virtual “holocaust” of Middle Eastern Christianity has taken place; the world cannot sit idly by.

This book is recommended for anyone interested in current global politics, especially those with a stake in the theological/religious issues at the center of IS’s advance. Thus, Christian universities and seminaries with political science, military science, and even missions departments will benefit from Sookhdeo’s contribution.

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### **Vatican II: The Complete History,**

by Alberto Melloni, translated by Sean O’Neill and Bret Thoman. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 2015. 280 pp. \$79.95. ISBN 9780809106240

*Reviewed by Yvonne Wilber, Manager of Collection Development,  
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The world reeled when Pope John XXIII announced the formulation of the Second Vatican Council in 1969. Nearly 100 years had passed since Vatican I had convened, at which full authority to define Church doctrine had been handed over to the pope. Why then, another council? Yet much had taken place in what had certainly been the most violent and distressing century in history. Following decades of doctrinal totalitarianism, two World Wars, the atrocities of the Holocaust, and a multitude of social changes, the pope decided it was necessary to reevaluate life as it is practiced in the Church, from ecumenical relations to the use of vernacular language in the Mass. Four sessions met between 1962 and 1965, which resulted in 16 documents focused upon reconciliation. Vatican II shaped the Catholic Church into its form which it holds today, but not without controversy.

Italian historian Alberto Melloni provides the text for this lavishly produced volume. Almost every page is adorned in some way: full-color illustrations from the storehouse of art in church history, black and white and color photographs of participants and locations, hand-written notes and letters, as well as charts and maps. The author begins by discussing the difficulties and idiosyncrasies of such a monumental undertaking as this Council turned out to be. The historical narrative brings the reader from the history of the church councils and synods through to the chronologies of Vatican II and the events that led up to its convening. Every session and intersession is covered with enough detail to provide a good history without overwhelming the reader in minutiae. Unique to this text is a confirmed and authoritative lists of participants at the Council and the different roles they played. Of particular interest is the chapter of excerpts from participants who later became popes: Albino Luciani (John Paul I), Karol Wojtyla (John Paul II), Joseph Ratzinger (Benedict XVI), and Jorge Mario Bergoglio (Francis).

While one needs to look elsewhere for the full text of the sixteen documents produced at Vatican II, this volume provides an excellent history with texts and images telling the story of this extraordinary event. The one thing it lacks is a fuller discussion regarding the impact of the Council over the last fifty years and how it is understood today. Regardless, this book is recommended for any collection.

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**War's Ends: Human Rights, International Order, and the Ethics of Peace,**

by James G. Murphy, SJ. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2014.

232 pp. \$29.95. ISBN 9781626160279

*Reviewed by Laura E. Walton, Circulation Librarian, Miller Library,  
Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI*

War, terrorism, and human rights are on the forefront of the minds of many people around the world. James G. Murphy, SJ, an associate professor at Loyola University, Chicago, dives into the philosophical underpinnings of the concepts of *jus ad bellum* (the morality of going to war) and just war tradition (JWT) in order to give us a framework in which to view the modern day conflicts that surround us. The book is organized in a way that each chapter covers one criteria of *jus ad bellum*: just cause, competent authority, right intention, reasonable probability of success, last resort, and proportionality. Furthermore, Murphy uses many historical examples to help the readers understand these criteria. Although the topic is very heavy, extensive notes at the end of each chapter and a thorough index make this volume a sound choice for academic libraries, especially those that are supporting upper level philosophy and theology students.