

## **Personenlexikon zum Zweiten Vatikanischen Konzil**

**Michael Quisinsky and Peter Walter, eds. *Personenlexikon zum Zweiten Vatikanischen Konzil*. Freiburg: Herder Verlag, 2012. 304 pp. \$44.00. ISBN: 3451303302.**

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*Personenlexikon zum Zweiten Vatikanischen Konzil (PZVK)*, edited by Michael Quisinsky and Peter Walter, in cooperation with Clemens Carl, is a work of meticulous research. This German edition reflects comprehensive research into the essential participants of the Second Vatican Council, which was convened by Pope John XXIII on October 11, 1962, and closed by Pope Paul VI on December 8, 1965. The importance of the Second Vatican Council is based primarily on its facilitation of a conversation between Catholic theology and doctrine and modern understanding and interpretation. Among the participants in the council's ceremonies and deliberations were those chosen to be the next four pontiffs of the Catholic Church: Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini, who on succeeding Pope John XXIII took the name Paul VI; Bishop Albino Luciani, the future Pope John Paul I; Bishop Karol Wojtyła, who became Pope John Paul II; and Father Joseph Ratzinger, present at the council as a theological consultant, who became Pope Benedict XVI.

The introductory sections of the *PZVK* describe the declaration of the Second Vatican Council by Pope John XXIII, including the prerequisite preparations and scheduling. These sections are economical in their writing style, presenting brief but pertinent insights into the conversations that formed the discussion and creation of action plans. The German is quite technical and requires a strong background in the language to comprehend the contents. The processes, protocols, and procedures of the Second Vatican Council are clearly delineated, with conversations about implementation and follow-up beyond the council's actions, research into the history of scholarship generated by the council's participants, and subsequent reflective materials. Biographical comments about over four hundred participants, along with lists of published works and contributions to literature regarding the Second Vatican Council, are provided. Pictures accompany discussions of key personnel attending the conference. Among the longest articles in the participants' section are those for Popes John XXIII and Paul VI, the primary active papal influences at the council.

The *PZVK*'s depth of exploration and investigation of those participating in the Second Vatican Council is exhaustive, illustrating the wide breadth of scholars and church dignitaries engaged in its discussions and deliberations. Presented alongside the Catholic participants are contributors from the Eastern Orthodox traditions, including the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and representatives of the Coptic, Russian, Ukrainian, and Armenian traditions. Willem Visser 't Hooft, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, and theologians of both the Lutheran and Reformed ecclesiastical disciplines are included as well.

The participants' theological impact on the Second Vatican Council is expressed in the comments included in the biographical entries and in the indexes of significant academic work for each of the participants. The biographical materials provide the historical context of the identified person's work history, schooling, and significant points of service to the greater church. The indexes include literature and material dating from after the Second Vatican Council, providing the scholar both pre- and post-conciliar reflections and information. The scholar may then retrieve bibliographies pertaining to the academic work (*Werke*) of a particular participant, as well as literature (*Literatur*) written by other scholars, relating and connecting with the cited person and his or her work. This provides an interactive and historical perspective on participants' impact both before and after the council.

As a research source, the *PZVK* is useful for providing insight into the demographics of key personnel influencing the Second Vatican Council. Although there is the expected preponderance of representation from Western Europe (Germany, France, and Italy are the largest country groups represented), there are also surprises (the Belgian contingent, for instance, numbered thirty-five key participants). The low number of women participating (twelve) is indicative of the masculine predominance within the Roman Catholic Church of the period. The thirty-nine representatives from

North America came primarily from the United States (twenty-six) and Canada (twelve). Considering the population of Roman Catholics in the regions, Central and South America were significantly underrepresented with twelve participants. People of color from outside of Western Europe were also poorly represented at the Second Vatican Council (thirteen, not counting Turkish- or Arabic-speaking countries, which had fourteen). The fifty years of history after the Second Vatican Council show significant changes in the representation of economically developing countries within present-day Roman Catholic leadership and membership, and the Second Vatican Council appears to have contributed to this shift. The *PZVK* is an indispensable work for examining the participants of the council that changed the presentation of Catholicism in the world for the remainder of the twentieth century. It provides sufficient source material for continued study and examination of the Roman Catholic Church both before and after the Second Vatican Council. I would highly recommend this work, even though access to its contents is limited to accomplished readers of German.

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