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# Book Review of *Pierre Teilhard de Chardin on People and Planet*, edited by Celia Deane-Drummond

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Revised from their original appearance in *Ecotheology: Journal of Religion, Nature, and Environment* (2005), this fine anthology showcases recent reflections on the eminent Jesuit's thinking about the relationship between humans and Earth. Twelve essays are grouped in five sections dealing with the cosmos, mysticism, ecotheology, environmental responsibility, and the influence that Eastern and Western theologians had on Teilhard's thought. All acknowledge at least implicitly that the geologist-paleontologist's skillful integration of theology and evolutionary biology yielded a mystical theology with enduring significance. Several authors underscore his vision of humans as participants in the evolutionary process.

Theologians, religionists, and scientists—though diverse in method and content—contribute to a uniformly solid and thematically

unified collection. Theologian Robert Faricy argues convincingly that Teilhard's works help correct dichotomous thinking about humans as apart from nature, an understanding that denigrates other-than-human entities while it fails to appreciate our interrelatedness to and radical dependence on them. Another theologian, Mary Grey, prefers a more prominent role for the Holy Spirit than Teilhard provided, though she recognizes that his vision nevertheless continues to nourish activists who identify with the ongoing suffering of people and Earth. Geologist James Skehan informatively sets the stage for understanding Teilhard's mysticism as it was shaped by evolutionary biology, though Skehan so elevates his subject's concept of "building the Earth" without sufficient explanation that he leaves the concept open to an interpretation that bodes ill for the natural environment.

Other contributing theologians are Deane-Drummond, Thomas King, Ursula King, Richard Kropf, and Diarmuid O'Murchú. Religionists Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim present insightful overviews of Teilhard's phenomenology, metaphysics, and mysticism. Zoologist Ludovico Galleni, biologist Francesco Scalfari, and physician André Daleux view Teilhard through the lenses of their disciplines, coupled with their appreciation for his legacy.

The text is appropriate for graduate and more advanced undergraduate students. Teilhardian devotees will be pleased with this addition to their shelves.