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Averroism, Nominalism, and Mechanization: Hahn and Wiker’s Unmasking of Historical Criticism’s Political Agenda by Laying Bare its Philosophical Roots

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“The dismemberment of the Bible has led to a new variety of allegorism: One no longer reads the text but the supposed experience of supposed communities. The result is often highly fanciful allegorical interpretation.”

—Joseph Ratzinger,
The Nature and and Mission of Theology

SCOTT HAHN AND BENJAMIN WIKER’S Politicizing the Bible: The Roots of Historical Criticism and the Secularization of Scripture 1300–1700 is the single most important work to date in the history of modern biblical scholarship. As their subtitle, “Secularization of Scripture,” indicates, these authors particularly have in mind the ways in which the interpretation and the study of Scripture have been secularized over the course of centuries. Far too rarely in brief surveys of biblical scholarship has the role of politics and philosophy been addressed, let alone addressed adequately. In this more than 600-page book, Hahn and Wiker demonstrate how various political concerns and

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