Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age by Modris Eksteins. Illustrated. 396 pages. A Peter Davison Book/Houghton Mifflin Company. $24.95. In "Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age," Modris Eksteins takes a dim view of modernism. The only important objection one might raise concerns the absence of any comment on the implications of the book's thesis for contemporary culture. But that subject has been explored before, and Mr. Eksteins's basic message is clear enough as it is.

In an essay, "The Culture of Modernism," included in his book "Decline of the New" (Horizon), Irving Howe deplored the persistence of the modern sensibility's "nihilism," its ability to live on "through vulgar reincarnation and parodic mimesis." Book Preview. Rites of Spring - Modris Eksteins. Contents. Title Page. Contents. Copyright. Dedication. Map of the Western Front. Rites of spring: the Great War and the birth of the Modern Age / Modris Eksteins. p. cm. A Peter Davison book. Bibliography: p. Includes index. ISBN 0-395-93758-2. 1. World War, 1914–1918 —Influence. Rites Of Spring. Produced by Ian MacKaye. Album Rites of Spring. Spring Lyrics. Caught in time so far away From where our hearts really wanted to be Reaching out to find a way To get back to where we'd been And if summer left you dry With nothing left to try This time Caught at a distance from myself And there was no one there to know What could I do? Rites of Spring book. Read 153 reviews from the world's largest community for readers. A rare and remarkable cultural history of World War I that unearths the roots of modernism. Dazzling in its originality, Rites of Spring probes the origins, impact, and aftermath of World War I, from the premiere of Stravinsky's ballet The Rite of Spring in 1913, to the death of Hitler in 1945. Recognizing that The Great War was the psychological turning point...