



IVAN ILLICH

Ivan Illich was a theologian, philosopher, historian, social critic and Roman Catholic priest. He died in 2002. He criticised the dehumanising nature of modern institutions, describing them as a corrupted institutionalisation of the Christian ethic of freely chosen love.



Selected Quotations

- “Housework, handicrafts, subsistence agriculture, radical technology, learning exchanges, and the like are degraded into activities for the idle, the unproductive, the very poor, or the very rich. A society that fosters intense dependence on commodities thus turns its unemployed into either its poor or its dependents.”
- “Man must choose whether to be rich in things or in the freedom to use them.”
- “The household has become the place where the consumption of wages takes place”
- “Carry a candle in the dark, be a candle in the dark, know that you're a flame in the dark.”



Online Materials:

- [An interview with Ivan Illich on the modern prison system.](#)
- [Ivan Illich on the modern world as a corruption of the Christian ethic of freely chosen love](#)
- [IVAN ILLICH - Un Certain Regard - A 1972 Interview with English Subtitles](#)

Further Reading

- Further interviews with Illich on the corruption of Christianity and other topics
- Deschooling society (1971)
- Celebration of Awareness (1970)
- Ivan Illich in conversation (1992)
- Gender (1982)