

Key/p#	Note (the bottom 3 must be questions recorded as you read)

Questions. Leave nothing blank. Answer with a question if you are uncertain.

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Questions

1. What is the “constitutive tension” that Taylor refers to on p. 71?
2. What does Taylor mean on p. 72 when he refers to this book as a “work of retrieval?”
3. Why does Taylor argue that authenticity is an “ideal worth espousing” (73-75). . . Take some time with this section to try to get to the heart of Taylor’s argument.
4. Taylor makes the argument that the ideal of authenticity is intrinsic to modern Western society. What does this mean? Do you agree?
5. What does Taylor mean by the phrase “La Lotta Continua?” How does this phrase relate to his argument in this chapter? How does it contrast with the idea of “the Trend” referred to on p. 79?
6. Taylor argues that “the analogy for our age is not the decline of the Roman Empire, as decadence and a slide into hedonism make us incapable of maintaining our political civilization” (78). Explain why Taylor argues that this analogy is false and what substitute he proposes for understanding the nature of our modern situation.

Terms (define): Social atomism (58), mimesis (62), Poiesis (62), Postmodernism, anthropocentrism

Please note down three questions you have regarding this chapter: