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An Essay Concerning Human Understanding (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

Includes generous selections from the Essay, topically arranged passages from the replies to Stillingfleet, a chronology, a bibliography, a glossary, and an index based on the entries that Locke himself devised.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This abridgment by Kenneth Winkler is the best that has ever been done. Winkler's judgment as to what must be kept and what may be dropped is unerring, and his literary skill has enabled him to fashion a text that reads smoothly. An illuminating Introduction and comprehensive glossary enhance the value of this volume for students. --Vere Chappell, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
Locke's Essay is a massive, scarcely organized work that is easy for students to get lost in and difficult for teachers to lend coherence to. But Winkler's abridgment succeeds remarkably at bringing out the underlying structure of Locke's masterpiece without sacrificing any of the long and important passages that put the meat on that structure. I didn't think this could be done until I came across Winkler's abridgment. It certainly makes teaching Locke much easier, since it makes the structure of the Essay more apparent, and leaves the teacher thus freer to concentrate on the details of the text. I know of no passages from the Essay left out of this abridgment that I would prefer to use in a lower-level class. If anything, I would have made the abridgment shorter still. But to my knowledge, nobody has yet done a better job than Winkler. --Michael Rolf, University of Pennsylvania

John Locke (1632-1704) was educated at Christ Church, Oxford and held various academic posts at that university, lecturing on Greek and rhetoric. However, his interests lay in medicine and the new experimental sciences and in 1667 he became personal physician to the Earl of Shaftesbury. Under the influence of Shaftesbury, Locke developed his ideas on politics, property, trade, monarchy and the mind. Shaftesbury became a bitter opponent of Charles II and was involved in the plot of 1683. This forced Locke to flee in exile to Holland, but he returned after 1688 and began to publish his most famous works. He wrote also on theology, education, and in defence of religious tolerance, while founding the analytic philosophy of the mind. Roger Woolhouse is Professor of Philosophy at the University of York. He has also edited George Berkeley's *Principles of Human Knowledge* and *Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous* for Penguin Classics.

I read Locke's *Two Treatises of Government* in the late 1970s or even earlier. I wanted to know how our government became so unwieldy and I needed something to contrast it with. Locke came well recommended. I didn't know about his book on understanding or I would have read it then, too. In those days, the lines drawn between liberty and progressivism or socialism were not drawn as clearly. I needed to be able to check the thinking and logic of others around me and in fact, more precisely, my own. To this end I read books on logic, like Jevons and Bacon. I bought this book to round out my library and further my understanding of my fellow Americans. To understand how we come to understand can be an important factor in our relations with other people.

This book is where John Locke laid down his "Tabula Rasa" and this ideology has carried on through centuries (and even up to today for those who aren't educated enough to know he's actually been proven wrong. In fact most modern philosophers have been proven wrong on most of the things they wrote). Nonetheless, this is a great book and an interesting read. There are four "books" within this book and each chapter has a lot of rich information. It's a very dense text with Locke covering a lot throughout. This is (arguably) one of the top influential philosophical texts that has been written and it's studied in modern philosophy courses at my university. I would recommend this book to anyone that's a novice to philosophy.

Locke has a very materialistic view of the world stating that we do not possess innate ideas at birth. Personally, I think it we are born with some innate ideas and those ideas can only be expressed once we accumulate some experience.

Large margins for notes, however highlighted ink bleeds right through. The cover tears very easily, as do the pages. However, this was a perfect copy for a highschool history class.

I had already read it, Just wanted my own copy.

This book is a required read for most philosophy programs across the country for both undergraduate and graduate studies. If you're not in a college class where you can find other minds to chew this with I would recommend reading journal articles or other writings from philosophers that responded in some way to the premise this author is putting forth.

It is a direct reprint of the original text, which is rare. The old English is sometimes difficult to work through, but definitely worth the effort to get the true meaning Locke intended. Great reference material for all who are interested in the ideas that our country was founded on

The book is great, it's exactly what I need for a class I'm taking on Modern Philosophy. It appears to be an unabridged edition of Locke's Essay Concerning Human Understanding. It's clear and understandable as printed. The only complaint I have is that simply opening this book to read it split the cover away from the pages. The book is effectively coming unraveled. I have other books from the Prometheus lineup which have no such problem, however, they are all relatively short books of less than 150 pages. This one is over 600 pages and from what I can tell it appears that the binding just isn't up to task for the amount of pages in the book. I'm not sure if this is just a fluke or not. But to 's credit they refunded me the price of the book. I'm very glad I ordered an .com product due to the excellent customer service I received and feel very safe in future purchases from .

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