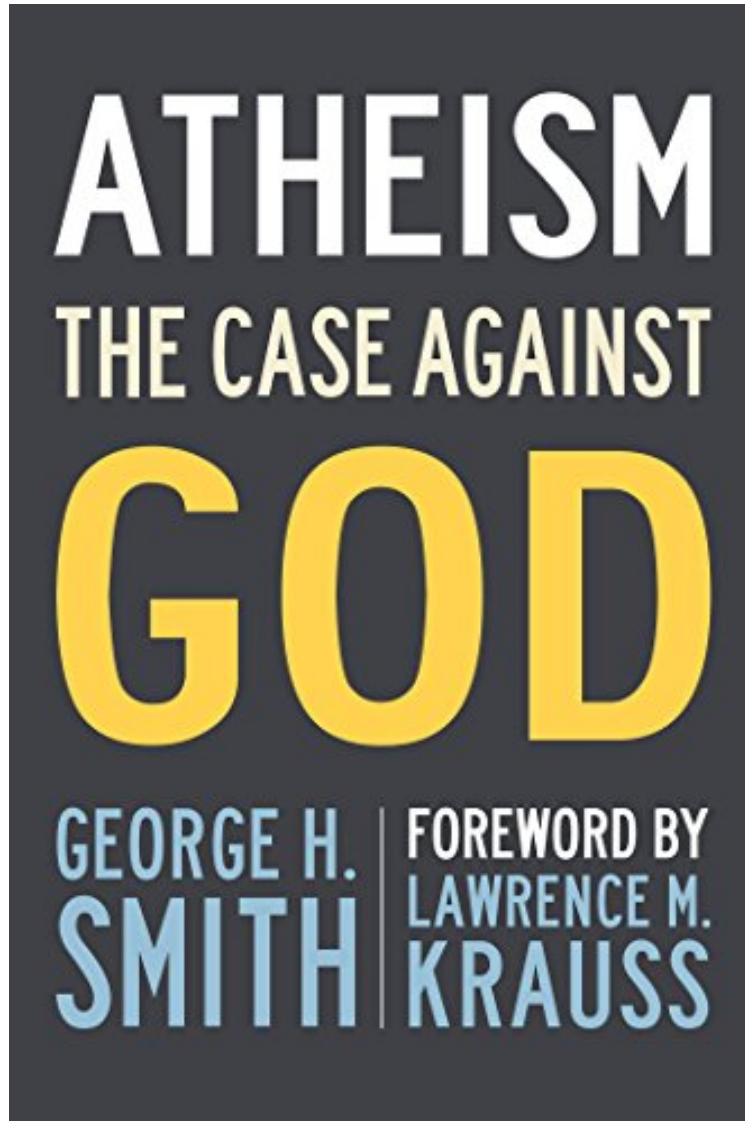


(Download) Atheism: The Case Against God (The Skeptic's Bookshelf)

Atheism: The Case Against God (The Skeptic's Bookshelf)

Von George H. Smith

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Von George H. Smith : Atheism: The Case Against God (The Skeptic's Bookshelf) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Atheism: The Case Against God (The Skeptic's Bookshelf):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen5 von 5 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Does a god exist?Von Mike DorrisThis question which Smith posits at the very beginning of his book and then sets out to answer is well addressed throughout this refutation of theistic belief which Smith has divided into four principle parts.

In Part 1, Smith attacks the general concept of God as an omniscient, omnipotent, omnibenevolent, infallible, and supernatural being. He explains the meaning of such terms as theist, agnostic, and atheist, and the implications of being each. In drawing excerpts from the writings of many theistic authors, he shows the notion of a god to be internally inconsistent and rationally unintelligible, and because theism cannot seek rational justification, he thus sets up his attack on faith. The efficacy of faith as a means to acquire knowledge is discussed in Part 2. Faith, the shortcut to knowledge, is shown here to be inconsistent with reason in that faith calls for an abandonment of rational thought processes in favor of acceptance of an idea without empirical evidence. If faith is to be epistemologically inconsistent with reason, Smith argues, it must be shown to be valid through reason. Smith exposes the inherent inconsistency between miracles and causality, and goes on to reveal contradictions within the Bible, thus forcing the Christian to relinquish his idea of the Bible as the absolute truth of God. By showing faith to be illogical and irrational, Smith cuts the ground under from the acceptance of many religious doctrines and the belief in a god. Part 3 is dedicated to the refutation of the arguments put forth by theists for a god's existence. Each argument is presented and then addressed, and these various "proofs" offered by theists are shown to be fallacious and philosophically invalid. In Part 4, Smith demonstrates that the Christian basis for morals is misfounded. His chapter on "rational ethics," which counters Christianity's moral basis, seeks justification for a moral system and shows that virtues which are beneficent to man are those that should be followed. Smith discusses the terrible psychological consequences of the Christian moral system and how, rather than helping man in achieving happiness, it helps to perpetuate misery. He quotes multiple passages from the Bible and shows their underlying, implicit statements. Smith concludes, "Human misery is a sad spectacle. But it is sadder still when disguised as moral righteousness." This is an excellent exposition to atheism and is highly recommended for both theists and atheists. It is specifically designed for the layman of philosophy. As your exposition to philosophy becomes greater, though, you will progress beyond this book, so to speak. It is a wonderful starting point, nevertheless. Additionally, for a more eclectic look at ethics, I suggest reading Nietzsche as well as several of the Socratic dialogues, specifically Protagoras and Meno. You will not go wrong buying this book.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Can we talk about the book? Von Ein Kunde PLEASE WRITE A REVIEW ONLY IF YOU'VE READ THE BOOK! It seems many reviewers haven't done their homework. At best I see one or two quotes from Smith's book which are generally secondary arguments and are chronically made out of context. To defend the standpoint of the atheist, Smith need not answer the question "Is the universe eternal" or any of these other off-topic questions raised in earlier reviews. Please consult your local cosmologist for opinions on that subject matter. Smith's argument is plain and simple. Forget everything you've learned on the subject of theism (to remove bias and address the issue objectively). Now let the theist propose his theory of God. Evaluate each line of argument posited by the theist. Smith identifies the logical flaws, inconsistencies, and unclear definitions in the theist's arguments. His conclusion is that if the theist can't convince you, using logic and evidence, of the existence of a God, then if you accept the existence of God, you are doing so irrationally. Atheism then stands as the rational alternative, equivalent to saying to the theist "You have not convinced me that 'God' exists." **ATHEISM IS NOT A PROOF THAT GOD DOES NOT EXIST. INSTEAD IT IS THE ASSERTION THAT THEISM DOES NOT PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE PROOF OF THE EXISTENCE OF GOD.** Many of the reviewers of this book have missed this very critical and highly essential pillar of the book, and have instead chosen to attack less important issues or formulate overly-simplistic proofs of why God HAS to exist. Had they actually read the book, they would have found that many of these arguments are addressed. This book will do you no good if you thumb through it and pick out a line or two from a page in the middle and then scoff at it. Like I said earlier, you have to eliminate all your bias on the subject and allow the theist a chance to persuade you to his beliefs. If he doesn't succeed at proving the existence of God, then welcome to atheism. Let Smith's book guide you through the theist's arguments and help you avoid the logical pitfalls and philosophical illusions contained therein.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Demolishes virtually all arguments for the existence of god Von JOSEPH M JAGELLANext to the bible, no book presents as good an argument against god-belief than does "Atheism: The Case Against God." I first read this book in the late 1980s after I had a terrible experience as a born-again Christian. I knew for sure that much fraud, hypocrisy, and fanaticism existed in the Christian religion. I also had a gut feeling that many of its claims were highly suspect. Nevertheless, I felt compelled to remain a Christian because of its polemics. "Atheism" changed all that for me. Smith's arguments are clear and convincing. For example, on page 223 he says: "Since the Christian God is a mass of unintelligible characteristics, it is impossible--in principle--rationally to demonstrate its existence." Bravo! Smith is quite correct here, and it is easy to prove that he is: ask any believer--Christian or otherwise--to explain exactly what it is that he or she wants you to believe in. Ask them to be explicit and to give a definition of "God" that is understandable. I guarantee you that no Christian or Muslim or Jew will be able to supply this type of answer. If you disagree with me than try this tactic. You will win the debate every time. But, hey, the real point is not to win debates: the real goal of rational thinking is to accept truth and reject falsehoods especially pernicious falsehoods like religious belief. "Atheism: The Case Against God" is a good place to start for anyone wishing to break the shackles of theistic belief.

Kurzbeschreibung George H. Smith sets out to demolish what he considers the most widespread and destructive of all the myths devised by human beings - the concept of a supreme being. With painstaking scholarship and rigorous arguments, Mr. Smith examines, dissects, and refutes the myriad "proofs" offered by theists - sophisticated, professional theologians - as well as the average religious layman. He explores the historical and psychological havoc wrought by religion in general and concludes that religious belief cannot have any place in the life of modern, rational man. "It is not my purpose to convert people to atheism . . . (but to) demonstrate that the belief in God is irrational to the point of absurdity. If a person wishes to continue believing in a god, that is his prerogative, but he can no longer excuse his belief in the name of reason and moral necessity." Pressestimmen PRAISE FOR THE WORK OF GEORGE H. SMITH: "... welcome, hard-hitting." --Publishers Weekly (reviewing the first edition of *Atheism: The Case Against God*) "...prose is clear, straightforward, and relatively easy to follow--no small achievement when wading through centuries of epistemology and metaphysics." --Journal of Church and State (reviewing *Why Atheism?*) "George H. Smith is an independent scholar who for many decades has lectured and written about the history of classical liberal and libertarian ideas. *The System of Liberty* is his first extended take on this history to be published by a high-level academic press--a tribute both to Smith's dogged scholarship and to the rise in the respectability of the libertarian tradition he explains and espouses....the information and analysis are always interesting." --Brian Doherty, *Reason* magazine (reviewing *The System of Liberty*) "George Smith's lectures on classical liberalism had a profound effect on my thinking. Now, at long last, others may profit from his prodigious learning in this absolutely 'must read' book for anyone interested in modern libertarianism and its historical roots. Clear, accessible, balanced, and powerfully reasoned." --Randy E. Barnett, author of *The Structure of Liberty: Justice and the Rule of Law* (reviewing *The System of Liberty*) "This is a lucid, concise, but at the same time a deep overview of the origins and structure of classical liberal thought. With a fluid and engaging style, Smith corrects many of our modern misconceptions about how early liberals understood themselves and the terms on which they debated. Anyone interested in liberal thought, whether in its 'classical', modern 'high liberal', or libertarian forms, will find this a valuable resource. Even critics of classical liberalism will find, thanks to Smith, that classical liberal thought contains a great deal of forgotten wisdom." --Jason Brennan, author of *Libertarianism: What Everyone Needs to Know* (reviewing *The System of Liberty*) Kurzbeschreibung George H. Smith sets out to demolish what he considers the most widespread and destructive of all the myths devised by human beings - the concept of a supreme being. With painstaking scholarship and rigorous arguments, Mr. Smith examines, dissects, and refutes the myriad "proofs" offered by theists - sophisticated, professional theologians - as well as the average religious layman. He explores the historical and psychological havoc wrought by religion in general and concludes that religious belief cannot have any place in the life of modern, rational man. "It is not my purpose to convert people to atheism . . . (but to) demonstrate that the belief in God is irrational to the point of absurdity. If a person wishes to continue believing in a god, that is his prerogative, but he can no longer excuse his belief in the name of reason and moral necessity."