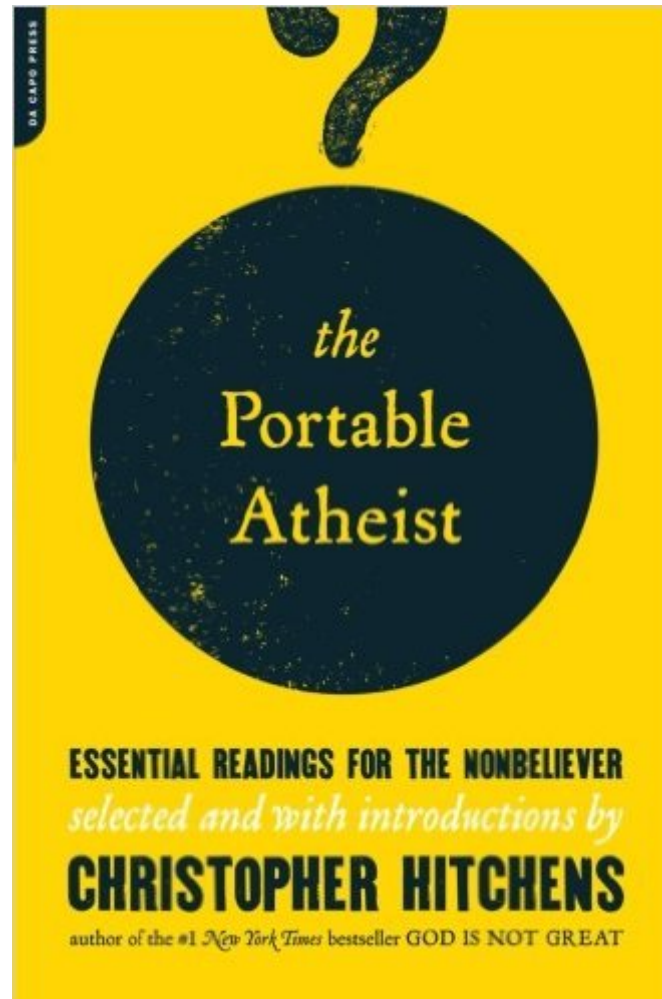


The book was found

The Portable Atheist: Essential Readings For The Nonbeliever



Synopsis

From the #1 New York Times best-selling author of *God Is Not Great*, a provocative and entertaining guided tour of atheist and agnostic thought through the ages--with never-before-published pieces by Salman Rushdie, Ian McEwan, and Ayaan Hirsi Ali. Christopher Hitchens continues to make the case for a splendidly godless universe in this first-ever gathering of the influential voices--past and present--that have shaped his side of the current (and raging) God/no-god debate. With Hitchens as your erudite and witty guide, you'll be led through a wealth of philosophy, literature, and scientific inquiry, including generous portions of the words of Lucretius, Benedict de Spinoza, Charles Darwin, Karl Marx, Mark Twain, George Eliot, Bertrand Russell, Emma Goldman, H. L. Mencken, Albert Einstein, Daniel Dennett, Sam Harris, Richard Dawkins, and many others well-known and lesser known. And they're all set in context and commented upon as only Christopher Hitchens--political and literary journalist extraordinaire--(Los Angeles Times)--can. Atheist? Believer? Uncertain? No matter: *The Portable Atheist* will speak to you and engage you every step of the way.

Book Information

Paperback: 528 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press; 1st edition (November 6, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 9780306816086

ISBN-13: 978-0306816086

ASIN: 0306816083

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.2 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (330 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #19,273 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Atheism](#) #625 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy](#) #5538 in [Books > Reference](#)

Customer Reviews

Hitchens prefaces his book by telling us that the prehistory of our species is riddled with episodes of nightmarish ignorance and calamity, for which religion is used to identify not just the wrong explanation but the wrong culprit as well. The few men of science and reason and medicine had all they could do to keep their libraries and laboratories intact, or their very lives safe from

harm. Today's typical "justification" for religion involves charitable or humanitarian work - obviously this says nothing about the veracity of the belief systems involved. All religions must, at their core, look forward to the end of this world; atheists, on the other hand argue that this world is all we have and that it is our duty to make the most of it. It is one thing, per Hitchens, to believe that the magnificence of the natural order strongly implies an ordering force; quite another to say this creative force cares for our human affairs, and it is interested in with whom we have sex and how, as well as the outcome of battles and wars (and even athletic contests). Even accepting Jesus' birth, it still does not prove he was more than one among many shamans and magicians of the day. Einstein took the view that the miracle is that there are no miracles. Everybody is an atheist in saying that there is a god in which he does not believe - atheists simply go one step further and add another god to not believe in. Sadly, there are the seemingly endless wars and persecutions that go on in the name of religion.

Come to think of it, I've never seen anyone passing out atheist tracts on a street corner or in a parking lot or anywhere else, for that matter. Nor, when the doorbell rings, do I have to worry about being hammered with some unbeliever's version of the atheist's bible. No, a person pretty much has to seek out ammunition for unbelief on his own. For darn sure, no big name foundation, is going to set up a TV channel or any other promotional that goes against the nation's number one industry-- organized religion. So, as atheists in a nation officially "under God", unbelievers are pretty much on their own. But organized or not, deniers have been around for some time, as Hitchens' collection of heretical writings demonstrates. Now, I'm not very conversant about the myriad selections available to him, but it looks like the volume is heavy on 20th century works, such as, the literary (Orwell, Conrad, Updike, et al.); the scientific (Sagan, Einstein, Dennett, et al.); the philosophic (Russell, Ayer, Grayling); along with intellectual troublemakers from the world of Islam (Rushdie, Warraq, Ali). It's this latter category that distinguishes the collection, since many of the others are oft anthologized. What's generally missing (except for Mencken) are selections from the rabble-rousers, such as Darrow, Ingersoll, and Bradlaugh whose pulpits did so much to fend off past generations of Bible-belters. Also, readers looking for material on the classic proofs of god's existence (ontology, cosmology, et al)-- including the classic disproof from the existence of evil (theodicy)-- should probably look elsewhere. Now, I respect Hitchens as a public figure for using his high-profile to press the case for unbelief. He's stuck his neck out on the airways big time.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Portable Atheist: Essential Readings for the Nonbeliever Waiting: A Nonbeliever's Higher

Power The Architect's Portable Handbook: First-Step Rules of Thumb for Building Design 4/e (McGraw-Hill Portable Handbook) Interior Designer's Portable Handbook: First-Step Rules of Thumb for the Design of Interiors: First-Step Rules of Thumb for the Design of Interiors (McGraw-Hill Portable Handbook) The Portable Beat Reader (Viking Portable Library) The Portable Nineteenth-Century Russian Reader (Portable Library) DIVINE LOVE & WISDOM: PORTABLE: THE PORTABLE NEW CENTURY EDITION (NW CENTURY EDITION) The Portable Machiavelli (Portable Library) The Portable Karl Marx (Portable Library) Essential Oils: 50 Essential Oil Dog & Cat Recipes From My Essential Oil Private Collection: Proven Essential Oil Recipes That Work! (Essential Oil Pet Private Collection Book 1) Essential Oils: Ultimate Essential Oils Guide and 89 Powerful Essential Oil Recipes! (2nd Edition) - How to Use Essential Oils for Aromatherapy and Healthy ... Loss, Essential Oil Recipes, Aromatherapy) ESSENTIAL OILS: Aromatherapy, Essential Oils For Beginners, And Essential Oil Recipes To Improve Your Health (Medicinal Herbs) (Essential oil recipes, ... Aromatherapy and essential oils Book 1) Diabetes Journal Log Book: Portable 6in x 9in Diabetes, Blood Sugar Log. Daily Readings For 53 weeks. Before & After for Breakfast, Lunch , Dinner, Snacks. Bedtime. With Daily Notes (Fitness) Strunk's Source Readings in Music History: The Early Christian Period and the Latin Middle Ages (Revised Edition) (Vol. 2) (Source Readings Vol. 2) Readings of the Platform Sutra (Columbia Readings of Buddhist Literature) Readings of the Vessantara Jataka (Columbia Readings of Buddhist Literature) Essential Oils: 40 Amazing Essential Oil Recipes for Diffusers: (Diffusers, Natural Remedies) (essential oils diffusers, young living essential oils book) Essential Oils For Beginners: Essential Oils For Beginners: How To Use The Essential Oils To Maximize Your Health And Longevity (Essential Oils And Aromatherapy) (Volume 1) Essential Oils: 120+ Essential Oils Recipes For Diffusers, Aromatherapy, Natural Remedies For Skin And Hair Care: (Essential Oils For Weight Loss, Aromatherapy) ... Oils, Essential Oils For Allergie) The Portable Essential Oils: A Pocket Reference of Everyday Remedies for Natural Health & Wellness

[Dmca](#)