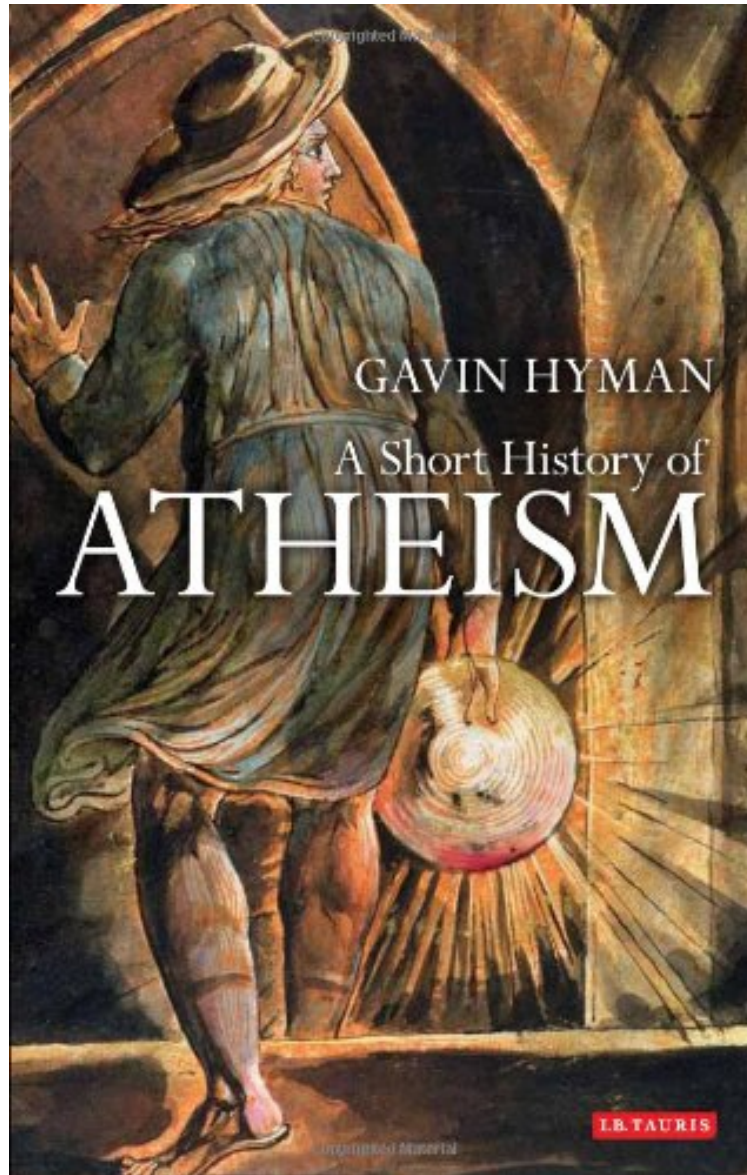


[FREE] A Short History of Atheism (I.B.Tauris Short Histories)

## A Short History of Atheism (I.B.Tauris Short Histories)

Gavin Hyman

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#572655 in Books I. B. Tauris 2010-10-15 2010-10-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.75 x .72 x 5.50l, .65 #File Name: 1848851375232 pages | File size: 71.Mb

**Gavin Hyman : A Short History of Atheism (I.B.Tauris Short Histories)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Short History of Atheism (I.B.Tauris Short Histories):

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A much needed analysis of modern epistemology and its creation of modern atheism By Brent Hyman's history is hardly a who's who of modern atheists. Rather, it traces the route by which modern epistemological discussion produced atheism. Hyman contends that the God the atheist rejects and the

theist defends is a distinctly modern concept whose identity was shaped by subjectivist Enlightenment epistemologies, both rational and empirical. Hyman exposes two tendencies in the modern debate over God's existence. The first is the Theist's unwitting endorsement of epistemic justifications for God's existence that simultaneously present new angles for atheistic counterattack. The second is the atheist's inability to recognize the God he rejects is a modern construct, but God Himself may be immune to rejection. In short, modern theism and modern atheism exist in a symbiotic relationship and flourish on similar epistemic foundations. For anyone who has the sneaking suspicion that the medieval tradition can make a positive contribution to modern thought, Hyman's book is a must read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By anwarthank you 1 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Purchased as textbook By Barry S. This book was used in the class Evil, Suffering, and God. The development of the idea of God that philosophers have held over time is pretty good. As a retiree in a college classromm, I am in over my head; however, I was still able to glean some interesting ideas, thanks to the professor.

The last few years have seen a remarkable surge of popular interest in the topic of atheism. Books about atheism by writers like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens have figured prominently in bestseller lists and have attracted widespread discussion in the media. The ubiquity of public debates about atheism, especially in conscious opposition to the perceived social threat posed by faith and religion, has been startling. However, as Gavin Hyman points out, despite their prevalence and popularity, what often characterizes these debates is a lack of nuance and sophistication. They can be shrill, ignorant of the historical complexity of debates about belief, and tend to lapse into caricature. What is needed is a clear and well informed presentation of how atheistic ideas originated and developed, in order to illuminate their contemporary relevance and application. That task is what the author undertakes here. Exploring the rise of atheism as an explicit philosophical position (notably in the work of Denis Diderot), Hyman traces its development in the later ideas of Descartes, Locke, and Berkeley. Drawing also on the work of contemporary scholars like Amos Funkenstein and Michael J Buckley, the author shows that, since in recent theology the concept of God which atheists negate is changing, the triumph of its advocates may not be quite as unequivocal as Hitchens and Dawkins would have us believe.