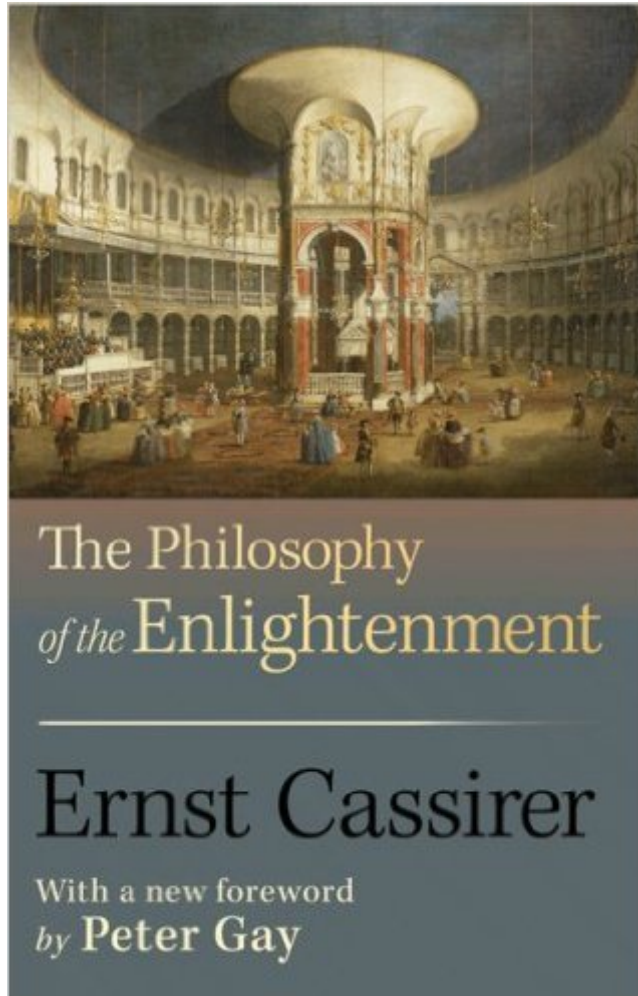


The book was found

The Philosophy Of The Enlightenment



Synopsis

In this classic work of intellectual history, Ernst Cassirer provides both a cogent synthesis and a penetrating analysis of one of history's greatest intellectual epochs: the Enlightenment. Arguing that there was a common foundation beneath the diverse strands of thought of this period, he shows how Enlightenment philosophers drew upon the ideas of the preceding centuries even while radically transforming them to fit the modern world. In Cassirer's view, the Enlightenment liberated philosophy from the realm of pure thought and restored it to its true place as an active and creative force through which knowledge of the world is achieved. In a new foreword, Peter Gay considers The Philosophy of the Enlightenment in the context in which it was written--Germany in 1932, on the precipice of the Nazi seizure of power and one of the greatest assaults on the ideals of the Enlightenment. He also argues that Cassirer's work remains a trenchant defense against enemies of the Enlightenment in the twenty-first century.

Book Information

Paperback: 392 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; Updated edition with a New foreword by Peter Gay edition (August 30, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 069114334X

ISBN-13: 978-0691143347

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 1 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #631,358 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #232 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > Epistemology #529 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Epistemology #1481 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Philosophy > History & Surveys

Customer Reviews

The historian Tim Blanning used the phrase "difficult but profound" to describe this book. Profound because of its insightful treatment of enlightenment intellectual history, difficult because Cassirer employs a fairly technical and unfamiliar vocabulary and the often intricate analysis. This book, however, definitely repays careful reading. Cassirer believed in the Hegelian idea that the study of a period's philosophy allows definition of the distinguishing spirit of that period. Consequently, this is

not a conventional chronological history but a thematic treatment of key areas. Cassirer treats the natural sciences, psychology and epistemology, treatment of religion, attitudes to history, what we would now call political theory and political science, and aesthetics. Each section is distinguished by Cassirer's remarkable erudition. In addition to analysis of major thinkers like Voltaire and Leibnitz, Cassirer discusses now obscure thinkers to illuminate important issues. Another important feature is Cassirer's careful attention to the German enlightenment, particularly the intellectual tradition initiated by Leibnitz. Several key themes run throughout all sections. One is the importance of reason which Cassirer treats usefully as the use of analysis. Very much inspired by the success of Newtonian physics, analysis is an empirically oriented investigation of natural, psychological, and social worlds, the description of the dynamic processes, and the search for mechanisms. As Cassirer remarks, "the power of reason does not consist in enabling us to transcend the empirical world but rather in teaching us to feel at home in it". The emphasis on reason/analysis is accompanied by a heightened sense of human capacities and the possibility of real human progress.

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

From Here to Enlightenment: An Introduction to Tsong-kha-pa's Classic Text The Great Treatise of the Stages of the Path to Enlightenment Introduction to Maat Philosophy (Spiritual Enlightenment Through the Path of Virtue) The Dream of Enlightenment: The Rise of Modern Philosophy The Philosophy of the Enlightenment Philosophy's Second Revolution: Early and Recent Analytic Philosophy The Story of Analytic Philosophy: Plot and Heroes (Routledge Studies in Twentieth-Century Philosophy) Current Controversies in Experimental Philosophy (Current Controversies in Philosophy) Pink Floyd and Philosophy: Careful with that Axiom, Eugene! (Popular Culture and Philosophy) The Cambridge Companion to Renaissance Philosophy (Cambridge Companions to Philosophy) Writing Philosophy: A Student's Guide to Writing Philosophy Essays The Lord of the Rings and Philosophy: One Book to Rule Them All (Popular Culture and Philosophy) An Introduction to the Philosophy of Art (Cambridge Introductions to Philosophy) Embodied Philosophy in Dance: Gaga and Ohad Naharin's Movement Research (Performance Philosophy) Philosophy of Human Rights: Readings in Context (Paragon Issues in Philosophy) Philosophy of Biology, 2nd Edition (Dimensions of Philosophy) The Ultimate Walking Dead and Philosophy (Popular Culture and Philosophy) Images of Enlightenment: Tibetan Art In Practice Theosis, Sino-Christian Theology and the Second Chinese Enlightenment: Heaven and Humanity in Unity (Christianities of the World) The Prism of Piety: Catholic Congregational Clergy at the Beginning of the Enlightenment (Religion in America) Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia's Golden

Age from the Arab Conquest to Tamerlane

[Dmca](#)