



Hume: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)

By Alfred Ayer

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Hume is one of the greatest of all British philosophers, and even in his own lifetime was celebrated as one of the pivotal figures of the Enlightenment. A central theme of his philosophy is the conviction that questions traditionally thought of as completely independent of the scientific realm—questions about the mind, about morality, and about God, for example—are actually best explained using the experimental methods characteristic of the natural sciences. Hume's 'naturalist' approach to a wide variety of philosophical topics resulted in highly original theories about perception, self-identity, causation, morality, politics, and religion, all of which are discussed in this stimulating introduction by A J Ayer, himself one of the twentieth century's most important philosophers. Ayer also gives an account of Hume's fascinating life and character, and includes generous quotations from Hume's lucid and often witty writings.

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- Sales Rank: #158581 in eBooks
- Published on: 2000-10-12
- Released on: 2000-10-12
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

About the Author

The late **A.J. Ayer** was Wykeham Professor of Logic at Oxford University and a Fellow of Wolfson College Oxford and of the British Academy. He was the author of many well-known philosophical works, including *Language, Truth and Logic*, *The Central Questions of Philosophy*, and *Russell*. His autobiographical *Part of My Life* was published in 1978.

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