



# The Portable Atheist: Essential Readings for the Nonbeliever

By Christopher Hitchens

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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.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Hitchens, an avowed atheist and author of the bestseller *God Is Not Great*, is a formidable intellectual who finds the notion of belief in God to be utter nonsense. The author is clear in his introduction that religion has caused more than its fair share of world problems. "Religion invents a problem where none exists by describing the wicked as also made in the image of god and the sexually nonconformist as existing in a state of incurable mortal sin that can incidentally cause floods and earthquakes." The readings Hitchens chooses to bolster his atheist argument are indeed engaging and important. Hobbes, Spinoza, Mill and Marx are some of the heavyweights representing a philosophical viewpoint. From the world of literature the author assembles excerpts from Shelley, Twain, Conrad, Orwell and Updike. All are enjoyable to read and will make even religious believers envious of the talent gathered for this anthology. What these dynamic writers are railing against often enough, however, is a strawman: an immature, fundamentalist, outdated, and even embarrassing style of religion that many intelligent believers have long since cast off. It could be that Hitchens and his cast of nonbelievers are preaching to the choir and their message is tired and spent. However, this remains a fascinating collection of readings from some of the West's greatest thinkers.

Review

"Hitchens has returned to the Belief Wars backed by a full army...the Godless Warrior marshals in an Atheist A-Team...to buttress his own arguments...Hitchens is the guide as well as the commentator linking it all together."--"San Diego Tribune"

About the Author

**Christopher Hitchens** is a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair*. His numerous books include *Letters to a Young Contrarian* and *Why Orwell Matters*.

### Users Review

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**Virginia Combs:**

As people who live in the actual modest era should be change about what going on or data even knowledge to make them keep up with the era and that is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe will update themselves by examining books. It is a good choice in your case but the problems coming to you actually is you don't know what type you should start with. This *The Portable Atheist: Essential Readings for the Nonbeliever* is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

**Matthew Gregg:**

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**Charles Sizemore:**

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**Patty Scheuerman:**

A lot of people said that they feel fed up when they reading a book. They are directly felt it when they get a half elements of the book. You can choose the book The Portable Atheist: Essential Readings for the Nonbeliever to make your current reading is interesting. Your personal skill of reading expertise is developing when you including reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to learn it and mingle the sensation about book and looking at especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to wide open a book and learn it. Beside that the guide The Portable Atheist: Essential Readings for the Nonbeliever can to be your brand-new friend when you're experience alone and confuse with what must you're doing of this time.

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