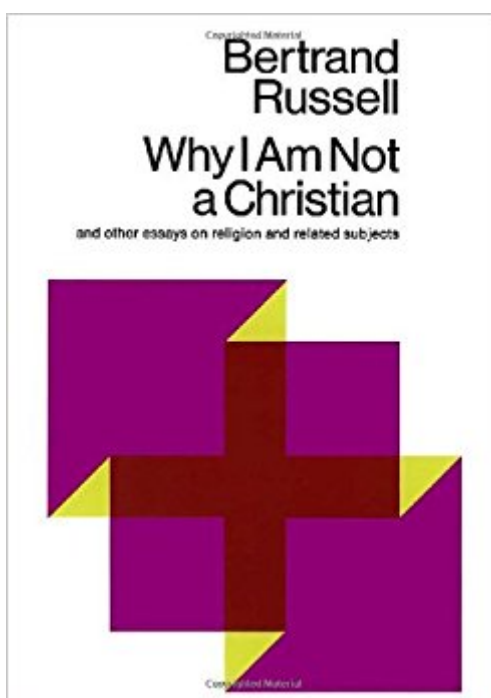


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Why I Am Not A Christian And Other Essays On Religion And Related Subjects



Synopsis

“Devastating in its use of cold logic,” (The Independent), the classic essay collection that expresses the freethinker’s views to religion and challenges set notions in today’s society from one of the most influential intellectual figures of the twentieth century. Dedicated as few men have been to the life of reason, Bertrand Russell has always been concerned with the basic questions to which religion also addresses itself—questions about man’s place in the universe and the nature of the good life, questions that involve life after death, morality, freedom, education, and sexual ethics. He brings to his treatment of these questions the same courage, scrupulous logic, and lofty wisdom for which his other work as philosopher, writer, and teacher has been famous. These qualities make the essays included in this book perhaps the most graceful and moving presentation of the freethinker’s position since the days of Hume and Voltaire. “I am as firmly convinced that religions do harm as I am that they are untrue,” Russell declares in his Preface, and his reasoned opposition to any system or dogma which he feels may shackle man’s mind runs through all the essays in this book, whether they were written as early as 1899 or as late as 1954. The book has been edited, with Lord Russell’s full approval and cooperation, by Professor Paul Edwards of the Philosophy Department of New York University. In an Appendix, Professor Edwards contributes a full account of the highly controversial “Bertrand Russell Case” of 1940, in which Russell was judicially declared “unfit” to teach philosophy at the College of the City of New York. Whether the reader shares or rejects Bertrand Russell’s views, he will find this book an invigorating challenge to set notions, a masterly statement of a philosophical position, and a pure joy to read.

Book Information

Paperback: 266 pages

Publisher: Touchstone (October 30, 1967)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0671203231

ISBN-13: 978-0671203238

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 300 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #58,339 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Religion &

Spirituality > Agnosticism #32 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Atheism #89 in Books >

Customer Reviews

'Devastating in its use of cold logic.' - The Independent 'The most robust as well as the most witty infidel since Voltaire and he can not fail to sharpen men's sense of what is entailed both in belief and unbelief.' - The Spectator 'What makes the book valuable is life-long uncompromising intellectual honesty.' - Times Literary Supplement --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bertrand Arthur William Russell, 3rd Earl Russell, Viscount Amberley, born in Wales, May 18, 1872. Educated at home and at Trinity College, Cambridge. During World War I, served four months in prison as a pacifist, where he wrote Introduction To Mathematical Philosophy. In 1910, published first volume of Principia Mathematica with Alfred Whitehead. Visited Russia and lectured on philosophy at the University of Peking in 1920. Returned to England and, with his wife, ran a progressive school for young children in Sussex from 1927-1932. Came to the United States, where he taught philosophy successively at the University of Chicago, University of California at Los Angeles, Harvard, and City College of New York. Awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1950. Has been active in disarmament and anti-nuclear-testing movements while continuing to add to his large number of published books which include Philosophical Essays (1910); The ABC of Relativity (1925); A History of Western Philosophy (1946); Human Knowledge: Its Scope and Limits (1948); and The Autobiography of Bertrand Russell (1967). For a chronological list of Russell's principal works see The Basic Writings of Bertrand Russell (Simon and Schuster).

Bertrand Russell was arguably one of the best skeptical writers of the 20th century and his description of why a person of reason, observation, science and history could not continue to pretend that religion held anything of value for him, his neighbors and colleagues or the public at large. Whether you're questioning the validity of religion, or just curious about how an atheist thinks and feels this is a great place to start. It's crystal clear, short and to the point.

Excellent purchase!! Would buy from seller again!

Good arguments. Christians should read it.

I read this book when I was 13 years old and the effect was profound. I highly recommend it. If I could give everyone on the planet a free copy of this book I would. Now I return to it decades later and Russell's logic is just as devastating as it was when I first read it. Warning believers: Cognitive Dissonance ahead. Fasten your seat belt.

This book, as so described by many reviews, is not all on one subject, but is a collection of essays on many different subjects relating to religion, morality, ethics, and just generally the way we relate to each other and carry ourselves as human beings. The prime value in the philosophy of Russell is that he is effective in showing us how to reevaluate what we think by taking a hard look at why we think it. Many of the things he discussed a century ago have taken shape in modern times exactly the way he predicted, not because he was a prophet, but because he had an uncanny ability to look into the thought processes of humanity, see where it came from, and extrapolate to where it must go. This was just an ability to observe the evolution of human thought and morality, almost as though looking from the outside. I highly recommend this book to anyone wishing to get a sampling of Bertrand Russell's thoughts, or just good secular philosophy. Even the last 50 or so pages from the editor describing the vilification of Russell in 1940 by the religious right of New York to prevent his being installed as professor at one of the colleges is a worthy read. There are perhaps as many lessons to be learned in that section as there are in the rest of the book, as it shows on what grounds Russell was attacked, then compares the accusations with what Russell actually wrote that was attacked, showing the treatment groundless. Well, he was not the first to be treated that way, and I am afraid he will not be the last.

I finally got around to reading Bertrand Russell, something I should have done in my twenties - not my seventies!! look forward to reading more of his works!

Originally published in 1957, this book is compilation of lectures, essays and pamphlets that Russell produced during his lifetime. Though the book certainly falls into the category of "philosophical," it is not bogged down by the specialized jargon that so epitomizes many people's experience with philosophy. Russell had a way of articulating his arguments without burying them beneath excessive wordplay; this has made and continues to make his work accessible to a broad audience of interested readers. The book's arguments, in turn, are not only articulated clearly, but are a fantastic exercise in the critical evaluation of the world around us. This honest and fearless look at the universe is one of Russell's hallmarks, and it has since inspired many people to question the

current order of our world and seek to make it better. In addition, as an uncompromising analysis of religion, this collection of Russell's arguments has become a popular touchstone for the atheist/skeptic/freethinker community, containing in it many morsels of godless wisdom. I highly recommend this book to any interested reader; I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Excellent book, full of knowledge, about religion, humanity, sociology, this is a book to keep as reference, not just to be read once

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