



Atheism Explained: From Folly to Philosophy (Ideas Explained)

By David Ramsay Steele



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Atheism Explained explores the claims made both for and against the existence of God. On the pro side: that the wonders of the world can only be explained by an intelligent creator; that the universe had to start somewhere; telepathy, out-of-body experiences, and other paranormal phenomena demonstrate the existence of a spirit world; and that those who experience God directly provide evidence as real as any physical finding. After disputing these arguments through calm, careful criticism, author David Ramsay Steele presents the reasons why God cannot exist: monstrous, appalling evils; the impossibility of omniscience; and the senseless concept that God is a thinking mind without a brain. He also explores controversial topics such as Intelligent Design, the power of prayer, religion without God, and whether a belief in God makes people happier and healthier. Steele's rational, easy-to-understand prose helps readers form their own conclusions about this eternally thorny topic.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

"A clear, concise, complete, and convincing presentation of the case for atheism. Covers essentially all the arguments for and against God, in science, philosophy, and theology, with sympathy for the believer's views even as they are shown to be untenable."

—Victor J. Stenger, author of *God: The Failed Hypothesis*

"*Atheism Explained* is a gem. It is clear, informative, well-argued, provocative, often witty, and unfailingly interesting. David Ramsay Steele ranges over so many issues that I should be surprised if he were right about everything, but it makes for a most stimulating read. The book is in a different league from Richard Dawkins's *The God Delusion*, and deserves much greater success."

—Jeremy Shearmur, author of *The Political Thought of Karl Popper*

"A refreshingly readable introduction to the arguments for and against believing in God, and the implications atheism has—and more importantly does not have—for politics, morality, and even religion itself."

—Susan Blackmore, author of *Conversations on Consciousness*

"Steele explains atheism with scholarship, cogency, wit, and clarity. He aims at the nonacademic reader, but no professional philosopher I know of could fail to be impressed."

—Jan Narveson, author of *This Is Ethical Theory*

"*Atheism Explained* is a much better defense of atheism than the recent works by Dawkins and Hitchens."

—James Sadowsky, S.J., Professor of Philosophy, Fordham University

"Steele defends atheism by a comprehensive analysis of attempts to prove and disprove the existence of God. If you want to refute atheism, then you need to reply to *Atheism Explained*. It may well become the classic work on the subject. It is as readable as it is rigorous."

—J.C. Lester, author of *Escape from Leviathan*

David Ramsay Steele is author of *From Marx to Mises* (1992), co-author (with Michael Edelstein) of *Three Minute Therapy* (1997), and editor of *Genius: In Their Own Words* (2002). His articles have appeared in *Critical Review*, *Liberty*, *National Review*, and *Ethics*. He contributed to *The Atkins Diet and Philosophy* (2005) and *The New Encyclopedia of Unbelief* (2007).

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