### Three views universe







- 1. If something were the cause of itself, it would be prior to itself.
- 2. Nothing is prior to itself.
- 3. Nothing is the cause of itself. (1,2)
- 4. There are no infinite causal chains.
- 5. At least one thing has a cause.
- Every causal chain must be
  (i) circular, (ii) infinite,
  or (iii) have a first cause.
- 7. There is a first cause. (3,4,5,6)
- 8. If there is a first cause, then God exists.
- C. God exists. (7,8)

# AQUINAS' FIRST CAUSE ARGUMENT

Suppose that someone objected to the argument by saying that, while it is valid, it has a single false premise — premise (7). Why would this be confused?

So to defend Aquinas' argument, we just need to defend its independent premises — (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), and (8).

# Which of these look the most questionable?



# everything





### aus

# beginning



### universe

## .

# including

# nothing

# including

## r :

### universe

### universe



## .



# assumption

# premise

¬ • · II



### universe



## follows

## Ш





universe.

universe

## outside

٦rp ↩ 









### obtion 1.7

## - 1

# second

eternai

\_

## certain

























. .











































































# Nothing



(3,4,5,6)

# Nothing

## infinite

### . I •

### *c* . - 70



## XlSub

# infinite

# circular

\_\_\_\_\_\_























































































# questions

## r

## number



### universe



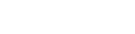
# assumption

# eternally



# existing











































### ould WC

.



### nr em -

## argument

# objected

## premise

someone

# Suppose

### confused



# Aquinas



### argument,

### etend

# independent

## premises

### etend

### Which

# questionable

## question

### whether





















































































































































































































































### would





## rem

## argument

# objected

## premise







# Aquinas



### confused?

# questionable?

## arguments

# thought

### amount

## Whether

### existence

quasi-theism.

### existence

# \_

# depends

atheism.

# against

## arguments

# seriously

## arguments



## which



### cause











### cause.





## cause

### · y 7 $\sim$ $\perp$ $\sim$ $\sim$ $\sim$ $\sim$

## cause.









## argument

# Aquinas

## existence

# reading



## homas





















































































argument



### argument

## Aquinas







# hypothesis

impossible,

# grounds

### .



## uncaused



## described?

# explosion

# particles





Instead

seems

## Aquinas



# nothing

# genuinely





## •

### CTI X J

course



# though

# uncaused

# properties,





















# hypothesis

# round

# Migh

## uncaused

impossible,

U  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$ 









# genuinely

· \_



### seems

# nothing

### defender

anne 

# description







belleve

appears



# entirely



atheism.



# rejecting

## consistent

reason



hypothesis.

though,

### The Big Bang

The first event in the history of the universe was an explosion of an extremely dense collection of particles, with every particle moving apart from every other particle. This event had no cause - in particular, no being set it into motion - and, further, every subsequent event has been an effect of this event.















































































































































































































argument





## defend





# Aquinas

### er $\frown$









# something



## cause



## infinite



## · y l XISTS



## caus



## infinite

## chain