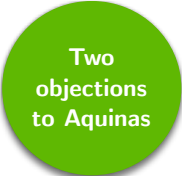




A large red circle with a slight drop shadow, containing the text "Three views about the universe" in white. The text is centered and arranged in three lines.

Three views  
about  
the universe

Aquinas'  
first cause  
argument



Two  
objections  
to Aquinas



the kalām  
argument

I suggest that we focus in on  
premises (4) and (8).

8. If there is a  
first cause,  
then God exists.

4. There  
are no  
infinite  
causal  
chains.



arguments against simple atheism. Whether they attempt to

Many arguments for God's existence are best thought of as

we win! return.

good arguments for the existence of God then depends in part on

how seriously you take quasi-theism. This is something to which

Let's turn then to our first argument for the existence of God: the

first argument we find in the reading from Thomas Aquinas.

premises (4) and (8).



I suggest that we focus in on



8. If there is a

theinGdexistis.

first class,



4.

There are

children's



Calculus

iiif iiif iiif

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100

**Aquinas'  
first cause  
argument**



# Two objections to Aquinas

On this view, everything which begins to exist at some time must have a

Bang — must have a cause. So the Big Bang can't be the first cause —

beginning in time, the universe as a whole — again, including the Big



and indeed nothing in the universe can be.

cause. Because the universe — including the Big Bang — has a

the universe can't exist at some time, then it follows that the universe

was caused to exist by something outside the universe.

If one accepts this extra premise, and one accepts the assumption that

And then there are just two options — that thing must be eternal, or it

must have come to exist at a certain time.

then *that* thing would have to be eternal, or have come to exist at a certain



If we go with the second option, then it must have had a cause. And

time.

There are a number of questions one could raise about this argument.

But let's focus in on one premise:

be God? How do we know that this eternally existing first cause of the

Aquinas' assumption that if there is a first cause, then that thing must

Universe is Good?

Could not object to this premise in much the way that we objected to




Our first topic is the question of whether God exists.







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ground that there can't be an uncaused cause, like the explosion of

Might defend (8) by saying that this hypothesis is impossible, on the



particles described?



Goodixists.

8. If there is a

first case, then

have a cause; but things like God don't.

Instead, it seems like Aquinas has to argue that nothing like the Big

Bang could genuinely be a first cause. Things like the Big Bang have to



he did not have the Big Bang in mind). He tried to argue that something

And that is, in a way, exactly what Aquinas tried to do (though of course

which was an uncaused cause would have to have other properties, which

God has, but the Big Bang does not.

Might defend (8) by saying that this hypothesis is impossible, on the

grounds that there can't be an uncaused cause?

Bang have to have a cause; but things like God don't. But why?

Instead, it seems like a defender of the first cause argument has to argue that



nothing like the Big Bang and quite a first class. Things like the Big

This would appear to be a description of a world in which there is a first

some reason for rejecting the above hypothesis.

simple atheism. So it looks as though, if we are to believe (8), we must have

cause, but God does not exist. And it appears to be entirely consistent with

# 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 into motion - and, further, every subsequent event has been an effect of this event.



# Two objections to Aquinas



the kalām  
argument



The first part of the paper discusses the importance of understanding the cultural context of the research. It highlights the need for researchers to be sensitive to the values and beliefs of the communities they are studying. This is particularly important in the field of education, where cultural differences can significantly impact learning outcomes. The paper then moves on to discuss the challenges of conducting research in diverse cultural settings. It notes that researchers often face difficulties in establishing rapport with participants and in interpreting their responses. To address these challenges, the paper suggests several strategies, including the use of local researchers and the development of culturally appropriate research instruments. The final part of the paper discusses the importance of ethical considerations in cross-cultural research. It emphasizes the need for researchers to obtain informed consent from participants and to ensure that the research is conducted in a way that respects the dignity and rights of all individuals.

of itself, it would be prior

or  $(iii)$  have a first cause.

Q. 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

6. Every causal chain must be

its self . (1,2)

1. If something were the cause

7. There is a first case:





cavaliers

chairs.

C. Good exists. (7, 8)

3. Nothing is the cause of

5. At least one thing has a

(i)  $\text{circilair;}$  (ii)  $\text{infinite;}$

4. There are no finite



2. Nothing is prior to itself.



to its side.

theinGdexistis.

8: If there is a first cause,

(3, 4, 5, 6)







8. If there is a  
first cause,  
then God exists.





4. There  
are no  
infinite  
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