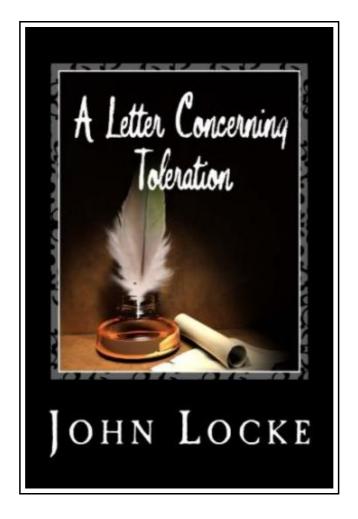
A Letter Concerning Toleration



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A LETTER CONCERNING TOLERATION



CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 64 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.1in.John Lockes Letter Concerning Toleration is one of the most under-appreciated texts in the liberal tradition of political philosophy. The subject of the Letter is specifically religious toleration, but Lockes general argument for toleration is also applicable to issues of more modern concern. This is not a state of license, in that the civil government does not actively promote a variety of (or for that matter, any) religious practices, but it is a state of negative liberty, in which the state remains neutral to the religious content of religious worship. Specific sects or acts of worship can be banned if they are prejudicial to other mens rights or they break the public peace of societies, but they cannot be banned on religious grounds. Some critics have argued that Lockes Letter is no longer very relevant: he deals only with religious toleration, and religious toleration is widely accepted and practiced in the modern Western world. However, the historical context of the Letter suggests it retains its relevance. In Lockes day, religion was not the dormant issue it is today; rather it was the most controversial issue of public debate. Before Locke, toleration was just something the underdog wished for in order to survive until he gained power over everyone else. Locke, however, goes beyond this pettiness and creates a theoretical defense of toleration as an extension of his political theory. While Locke probably did not imagine the controversial issues of political debate today, the broad basis for his defense of religious toleration implicitly justifies other sorts of social toleration in the modern world. If a state is created for the purposes and by the methods Locke suggests in his...



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