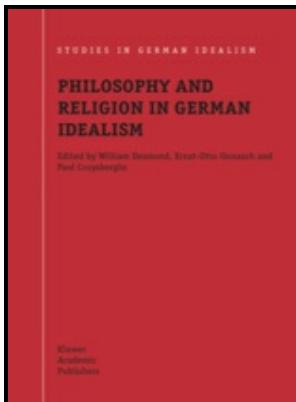


Lessings philosophy of religion and the German Enlightenment - Lessing on Christianity and reason

Oxford University Press - Lessing: Philosophical and Theological Writings



Description: -

- Germany -- Intellectual life -- 18th century
- Enlightenment -- Germany
- Lessing, Gotthold Ephraim, -- 1729-1781 -- Religion
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- Timelines (Franklin Watts, inc.)
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- Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. 187-200) and index
- This edition was published in 2002



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Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (1729)

Things change, but do not pass into nothingness. Gotthold Ephraim Lessing 1729—81 is held in high esteem as one who marks the cutting edge of the German Enlightenment.

Religious Thought of the Young Lessing

His life, however, was chiefly devoted to philosophical pursuits.

Lessing's "Ugly Broad Ditch"

All one needed to make real the Utopias of which others had dreamed was to apply, to the direction of human life, the scientific method that had so successfully dealt with the physical world.

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Socrates is conjured up as a citizen of Berlin of the eighteenth century, and is made the champion of religious enlightenment. La Mettrie took the final step in his L'Homme machine Leiden 1748 , which was a completely mechanistic analysis of man's psychic activities; thinking, feeling, willing were all proclaimed to be physical functions of a highly complex, completely material mechanism whose motive power was self-love see materialism. During this time, he wrote his first play, The Young Scholar.

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