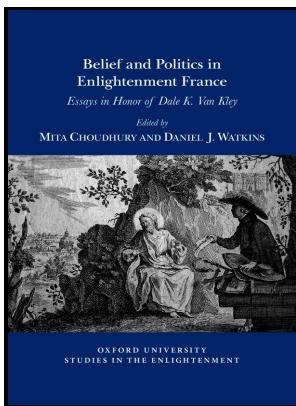


Studies on Voltaire and the eighteenth century.

Voltaire Foundation - 18th century



Description: -

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Covenant theology -- Biblical teaching.
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18th century

To describe what objects please our minds, Montesquieu lists six qualities: order, variety, symmetry, contrasts, the ability to provoke curiosity, and the ability to provoke surprise. His interlocutors evoke the possibility that a work of art could follow all the rules yet fail to please, if it lacks that special something. The Enlightenment Philosophes After Montesquieu, the other philosophers of the Enlightenment borrowed from the theories mentioned above to come up with their descriptions of taste as a combination of three elements: sentiment, reason, and a knowledge of rules.

Voltaire (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

His alternative offered in the same text of a life devoted to simple tasks with clear, tangible, and most importantly useful ends was also derived from the utilitarian discourse that Newtonians also used to justify their science.

Voltaire

For him, art is ultimately a means of communication from body to body. They further mocked those who insisted on dreaming up chimeras like the celestial vortices as explanations for phenomena when no empirical evidence existed to support of such theories. We know nothing of first principles.

Gulliver's Travels Part IV, "A Voyage to the Country of the Houyhnhnms," Chapters I

Though sometimes Batteux is criticized for his stubborn defense of excessively rigid standards as in his *Principles of Literature*, 1753 and for being an uncompromising advocate of the principle *ut pictura poesis*, at other times, he is recognized for grasping that the ideal is not to be found anywhere outside fiction.

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Jean-Jacques Rousseau wrote little about taste and beauty, only diatribes about the corrupting influence of the arts in general and a few pieces about musical composition. Rather than returning home to Paris and restoring his reputation, Voltaire instead settled in Geneva.

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