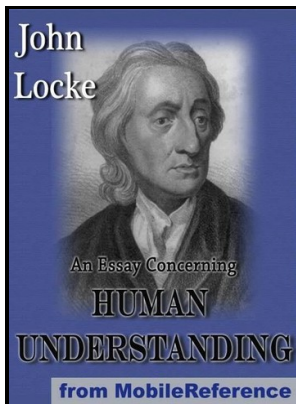


# Essay concerning human understanding

- - An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, by John Locke



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This edition was published in 1961



Filesize: 66.83 MB

Tags: #An #Essay #Concerning #Human #Understanding, #1690

## An Essay Concerning Human Understanding

Matters of fact are open to observation and experience, and so all of the tests noted above for determining rational assent to propositions about them are available to us. These they entertain and submit to, as many do to their parents with veneration; not because it is natural; nor do children do it where they are not so taught; but because, having been always so educated, and having no remembrance of the beginning of this respect, they think it is natural.

### Locke: Human Understanding Summary

It is easy to take notice how their thoughts enlarge themselves, only as they come to be acquainted with a greater variety of sensible objects; to retain the ideas of them in their memories; and to get the skill to compound and enlarge them, and several ways put them together. He also offers a theory of , offering a largely psychological criterion.

### An Essay Concerning Human Understanding/Book I

What was the reason for all of this? In Essay, provides a systematic philosophy that attempts to answer the question of how we think.

### Locke: Human Understanding Summary

Furthermore, Book II is also a systematic argument for the existence of an intelligent being: Thus, from the consideration of ourselves, and what we infallibly find in our own constitutions, our reason leads us to the knowledge of this certain and evident truth, that there is an eternal, most powerful, and most knowing being; which whether any one will please to call God, it matters not! These kinds of reflections led him to the relative and obscure idea of substance in general.

### An Essay Concerning Human Understanding/Book I

This doctrine says that man is born with ideas already formed in the mind, like God, as he argues in his Meditations. Which assertion of theirs, if true, quite takes away the argument of universal consent, by which this opinion of innate principles is endeavoured to be proved; unless those men will think it reasonable that their private persuasions, or that of their party, should pass for universal consent; — a thing not unfrequently done,

when men, presuming themselves to be the only masters of right reason, cast by the votes and opinions of the rest of mankind as not worthy the reckoning.

**An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, by John Locke**

And had the Virginia king Apochancana been educated in England, he had been perhaps as knowing a divine, and as good a mathematician as any in it; the difference between him and a more improved Englishman lying barely in this, that the exercise of his faculties was bounded within the ways, modes, and notions of his own country, and never directed to any other or further inquiries. Thus, one can clearly and sensibly ask reasons for why one should hold the Golden Rule true or obey it.

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