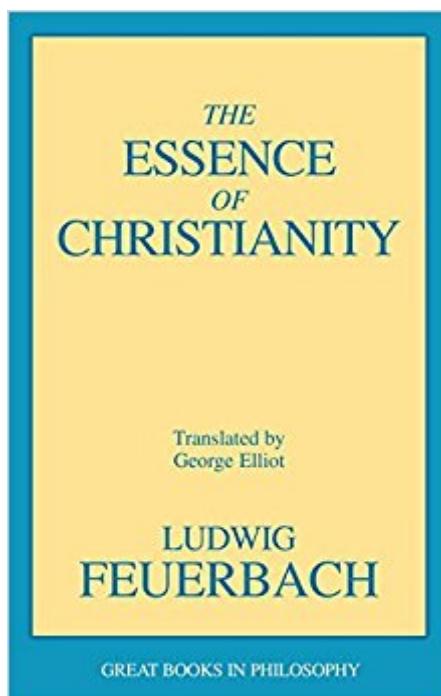


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# The Essence Of Christianity (Great Books In Philosophy)



## Synopsis

In this, one of the most influential works of the post-Hegelian era, Feuerbach captures the synthesis that emerges from the dialectical process of a transcending Godhead and the rational and material world. In understanding the true nature of what it means to be fully human, Feuerbach contends that we come face to face with the essence of Christian theology: human beings investing ordinary concepts with divine meaning and significance. The true danger to humanity occurs when theology is given the force of dogma and doctrine. Losing sight of its anthropological underpinnings and dependence upon or emergence from human nature, it then acquires an existence separate from that of humankind. Feuerbach leaves nothing untouched: miracles, the Trinity, Creation, prayer, resurrection, immortality, faith and much more. This classic humanist analysis of Christianity was translated into English by renowned novelist George Eliot.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ludwig Feuerbach (1804-1872) was a highly respected nineteenth-century philosopher who focused on the study of post-Hegelian philosophy, idealism, naturalism, materialism, and positivism. Feuerbach's book, *The Essence of Christianity*, is noted as an influential atheist text, and helped inspire the work of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Feuerbach was educated at the University of Berlin.

A classic which so lovingly deals with the very finest of human qualities that before the last pages

you know you might be an atheist and an admirer of The Christ, too. So clearly written in the German language that the translation job by "George Eliot" was an event which lost nothing. You remember George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) as the author of "The Mill on the Floss" and "Silas Marner". This book explains exactly what it means to be born into a culture altered by Christianity. It might be good to start the book about one third of the way in as the first third is thin gruel unless you have philosophical training. Once upon a time, this book was very hard to find. The book is so wonderful, you tend not to keep it in your library because one gives it away, but buy again it when you need an emotional lift. It is a rigorous empirical treatment of the anthropomorphic and at the same time incorporating the celebration of the accomplishment. The best minds of Christendom worked on this for about 1000 years, and it shows. Should be a part of a modern canon. Most graceful writing.

Most of the positive reviews of this title seem to be responding to the work itself: i.e. the text of the translation of the book by Ludwig Feuerbach. With that assessment, I would concur. He had an obvious and explicit impact on the thinking of Marx and other post-Hegelian thinkers and is an interesting thinker in his own right (more than he is given credit for). However, this is a TERRIBLE edition of the work. The text is not well-edited: there are clear typos, missing or erroneous punctuation, etc. There is none of the standard bibliographical information: place, publisher, date. They don't even give credit to the translator of the work. I think these various problems are related: it looks like a sloppy job of OCR scanning of an out-of-copyright work for which there is still a small, but ongoing demand by university students by some kind of on-demand publishing outfit. It's a shame they didn't do a decent job of preparing a proper book for publication. I recommend looking for a used copy of one of the older editions, such as that with the essays by Barth and Niebuhr.

This copy of Feuerbach's The Essence of Christianity is extremely suspicious. Not only is there no publisher information, but the text is also replete with orthographic errors. For instance, rather than "I," one finds "1

exellent

This is an important book in the history of religious thought. Thinkers will love it. I'm very glad I finally read it for myself.

Absolutely phenomenal. Completely dispels the belief that a turn from traditional Christianity to atheism is due to a desire for moral disorder or leniency. Within the first section he blew my mind when he explained the conception of God and universal morality from an anthropological point of view. Feuerbach does an amazing job of creating a structural base of arguments and nails it in the last two sections, both of which turn the concept of Christian morality on its head. A must read for anyone raised in the church and having second thoughts about his/her faith. Also check out "Hating God: The Untold Story of Misotheism" by Bernard Schweizer. The first section of the book summarizes other philosophers that challenge the Christian faith and helps one discover other thinkers worthy of more in-depth exploration.

Product was sold as described.

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