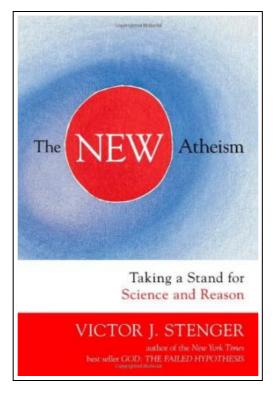
The New Atheism: Taking a Stand for Science and Reason



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Reviews

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(Vena Sauer DDS)

THE NEW ATHEISM: TAKING A STAND FOR SCIENCE AND REASON



Prometheus Books. Paperback. Condition: New. 282 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 5.9in. x 0.8in.ln recent years a number of bestselling books have forcefully argued that belief in God can no longer be defended on rational or empirical grounds, and that the scientific worldview has rendered obsolete the traditional beliefs held by Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. The authors of these booksRichard Dawkins, Daniel Dennett, Sam Harris, Christopher Hitchens, and Victor J. Stengerhave come to be known as the New Atheists. Predictably, their works have been controversial and attracted a good deal of critical reaction. In this new book, Victor J. Stenger, whose God: The Failed Hypothesis was on the New York Times bestseller list in 2007, reviews and expands upon the principles of New Atheism and answers many of its critics. He demonstrates in detail that naturalismthe view that all of reality is reducible to matter and nothing elseis sufficient to explain everything we observe in the universe, from the most distant galaxies to the inner workings of the brain that result in the phenomenon of mind. Stenger disputes the claim of many critics that the question of whether God exists is beyond the ken of science. On the contrary, he argues that absence of evidence for God is, indeed, evidence of absence when the evidence should be there and is not. Turning from scientific to historical evidence, Stenger then points out the many examples of evil perpetrated in the name of religion. He also notes that the Bible, which is still taken to be divine revelation by millions, fails as a basis for morality and is unable to account for the problem of unnecessary suffering throughout the world. Finally, he discusses the teachings of ancient nontheist sages such as Buddha, Lao Tzu, and Confucius, whose guidelines for coping with the problems...



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