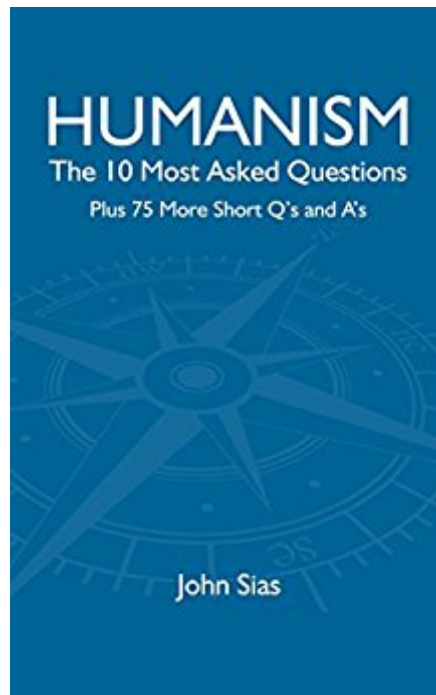


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Humanism: The 10 Most Asked Questions: Plus 75 More Short Q's And A's



Synopsis

The number of humanists in America is high and growing rapidly. One in five of us fits the humanist definition. Many of the world's most accomplished people are humanists. Thousands of people have questions about humanism but are unwilling to wade through an extensive volume. However, they might want to quickly scan 75 short questions to see if the subject really holds any interest for them. Among the points this little book emphasizes is that humanism is not a religion, just a way of thinking. And that a person does not have to believe in a supernatural being to be a good person and lead a good life. For busy inquisitive people, this is a quick introduction to humanism.

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Customer Reviews

I think this is a useful and helpful book for anyone trying to understand what humanism is. I do believe that a reader should realize before he or she starts out that this book tends to state things absolutely: "Humanists believe xxx". I think many humanists find that their beliefs get more nuanced as time goes on. For example: Do humanists pray? My answer would be "Sure, but not to a personal god. Some humanists consider meditation to be prayer." John Sias does say as the final

question that not all humanists will agree with everything in this book. That said, this is a great way to introduce a reader to the concept of humanism and for a reader to see if the ideas "make sense" to her or him.

John's book on humanism is an informative read that should clarify what humanists believe and dispel many of the misperceptions people may hold. I found the most salient points to be that 1) humanists don't believe in a supernatural God and 2) such a belief in God is not necessary to live a good, moral life. The book is structured as 85 short questions and answers and is easily digested in a sitting or two. If all you know about humanism is what you've heard from religious conservatives or politicians running for office, I recommend you read this to gain a humanist's perspective.

What does it mean to be a humanist? It means letting your life be guided by your rationality and moral convictions. But humanism is often misunderstood. Mr. Sias has given us a fine reference work that allows us to quickly check the facts about humanism. Well done!

This is a good positive summary of Humanist thinking and the questions people often ask. The Q and A approach simplifies what may be a confusing subject to many. By contrasting humanist thinking versus traditional religion in short simple terms, readers are given an overview of the principles that underlie both and the differences between Humanist beliefs of self determination versus deity based religion.

As a lifelong Roman Catholic who spent three years in the seminary years ago I was familiar with humanism. John's answers to his questions confirmed what I had always thought about humanism. A humanist is someone who strives to be a good person and citizen, who cares about others and acts to put that care to work in their surroundings. This is the same for someone who strives to be a good Catholic or member of another faith. I did feel that his answers were meant to stress the differences between believers and humanists, while I feel the similarities are much more common than the differences. This pertains to members of both groups who are seriously trying to live up to their ideals. There was no mention of people who choose to practice evil and selfishness. One look at the headlines shows, unfortunately, that there are countless numbers of such individuals. Like humanists, I do not believe they were born evil, but knowingly choose to be so. Do these individuals exploit others for a lifetime and then simply pass away? Is there any recompense for their victims? Although these questions are not addressed I respect the type of person described here

and in fact know some personally. I wish that all of us who profess to be believers could live up to this book.

This book will bring many, many people to the realization that they are already Humanists but simply haven't realized it. This concise book will help people in the realization that it is not necessary to remain mired in a medieval way of thinking in order to lead a highly moral, ethical life defined by superstition and supernaturalism. At life's foundation after all, all we really have is our humanity. Jack G.

One of the first things that struck me when I read "Humanism: the 10 Most Asked Questions: Plus 75 More Short Q's and A's" by John Sias was that you can be a humanist while you are already being something else. I had thought if you were a humanist, you couldn't be a naturalist or deist for example, but this book quickly explains that humanism is a way of thinking that can overlap other beliefs. I think I've been a humanist all along! The second idea that struck me was that if you want to be a good person, you don't need to have a religious reason or belief in God behind it. Humanists do good because it makes sense, not because an ancient book tells them to do good. This sure makes sense to me. The author's explanations helped me believe that Humanism is a rational, cooperative, productive way to think and act. I also liked his list of famous non-believers, many of whom I know and admire, and others that I plan to look up!

Brought up suppressed, oppressed, sometimes treated as property praying to GOD in a Baptist church as a way to pay for my sins. An IMMACULATE CONCEPTION Catholic High School training, then further education at a Presbyterian College where religion was required sent my belief in a FAIR AND EQUAL SUPERNATURAL ANYTHING into a kaleidoscope tailspin. John's little book plus my almost 40-years as a UU has given me a new direction and strength to address the multitude of historical social problems still facing us. John's book points to the strength and uniqueness of the human mind to unravel, unlock, and analyze our physical and biological world, then explore invisible laws above and beneath our earth's surface. After reading some of the reviews, I am convinced that IF we as a society should stop for a minute and remember the unique facilities of MANKIND, we can go far beyond the mystical, and so far the UNKNOWN!

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