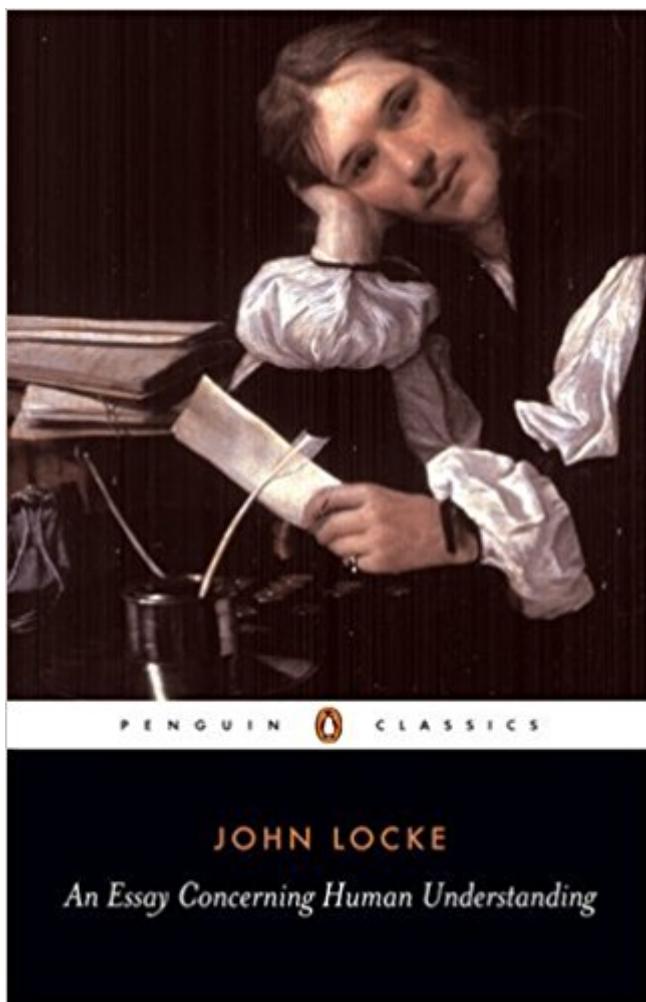


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# An Essay Concerning Human Understanding (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

In *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, first published in 1690, John Locke (1632-1704) provides a complete account of how we acquire everyday, mathematical, natural scientific, religious and ethical knowledge. Rejecting the theory that some knowledge is innate in us, Locke argues that it derives from sense perceptions and experience, as analysed and developed by reason. While defending these central claims with vigorous common sense, Locke offers many incidental - and highly influential - reflections on space and time, meaning, free will and personal identity. The result is a powerful, pioneering work, which, together with Descartes's works, largely set the agenda for modern philosophy. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Oxford World Classics offers yet another abridgment of Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. Do we really need another? Yes, when it's as well done as Phemister's." -Philosophy in Review --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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I read Locke's Two Treatises of Government in the late 1970s or even earlier. I wanted to know how our government became so unwieldy and I needed something to contrast it with. Locke came well recommended. I didn't know about his book on understanding or I would have read it then, too. In those days, the lines drawn between liberty and progressivism or socialism were not drawn as clearly. I needed to be able to check the thinking and logic of others around me and in fact, more precisely, my own. To this end I read books on logic, like Jevons and Bacon. I bought this book to round out my library and further my understanding of my fellow Americans. To understand how we come to understand can be an important factor in our relations with other people.

This book is where John Locke laid down his "Tabula Rasa" and this ideology has carried on through centuries (and even up to today for those who aren't educated enough to know he's actually been proven wrong. In fact most modern philosophers have been proven wrong on most of the things they wrote). Nonetheless, this is a great book and an interesting read. There are four "books" within this book and each chapter has a lot of rich information. It's a very dense text with Locke covering a lot throughout. This is (arguably) one of the top influential philosophical texts that has been written and it's studied in modern philosophy courses at my university. I would recommend this book to anyone that's a novice to philosophy.

Locke has a very materialistic view of the world stating that we do not possess innate ideas at birth. Personally, I think it we are born with some innate ideas and those ideas can only be expressed

once we accumulate some experience.

Large margins for notes, however highlighted ink bleeds right through. The cover tears very easily, as do the pages. However, this was a perfect copy for a highschool history class.

I had already read it, Just wanted my own copy.

This book is a required read for most philosophy programs across the country for both undergraduate and graduate studies. If you're not in a college class where you can find other minds to chew this with I would recommend reading journal articles or other writings from philosophers that responded in some way to the premise this author is putting forth.

It is a direct reprint of the original text, which is rare. The old English is sometimes difficult to work through, but definitely worth the effort to get the true meaning Locke intended. Great reference material for all who are interested in the ideas that our country was founded on

The book is great, it's exactly what I need for a class I'm taking on Modern Philosophy. It appears to be an unabridged edition of Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. It's clear and understandable as printed. The only complaint I have is that simply opening this book to read it split the cover away from the pages. The book is effectively coming unravelled. I have other books from the Prometheus lineup which have no such problem, however, they are all relatively short books of less than 150 pages. This one is over 600 pages and from what I can tell it appears that the binding just isn't up to task for the amount of pages in the book. I'm not sure if this is just a fluke or not. But to its credit they refunded me the price of the book. I'm very glad I ordered an .com product due to the excellent customer service I received and feel very safe in future purchases from .

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