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Humanism: Which Will You Choose? Understanding Humanism International Humanist and Ethical Union International Humanist and Ethical Union. Congress International Humanist and Ethical Union International Humanist and Ethical Union. European Conference Paul Kurtz Youzheng Li International Humanist and Ethical Union Edward L Ericson International Humanist and Ethical Union. Congress International Humanist and Ethical Union H. Tristram Engelhardt James R. Flynn Morris B. Storer C. Dierksmeier International Humanist and Ethical Union Robert L. Waggoner, D.Min. Andrew Copson

the contributors to this volume were asked the following questions the term humanism is widely used as are the terms ethical humanism scientific humanism and religious humanism what is humanism can you define it if there is in your judgment no clear definition in the literature you may wish to propose one you may also wish to focus on the relationship of humanism to atheism science its ethical position or some other theme those who have contributed represent a wide spectrum of humanist opinion in the world today they are primarily philosophers psychologists social scientists ethical and religious leaders among the themes they discuss are historic roots of humanism the general problem of definition the relationship of humanism to ethics and morality humanism and religion humanism and atheism and humanism on the world scene most of the varieties of humanism are represented including naturalistic humanism liberal humanism atheistic humanism humanistic psychology behaviourism marxism and zen if there is a common thread running throughout this volume it is the conviction that humanism is committed to the method of reason as the chief means of solving problems and the belief that mankind can survive and humans can enjoy a significant life this conviction and this belief however can be realized only if men continue to have confidence in their own natural powers and abilities and the courage to use them

this book explores how the human scientific mode of spiritual resources may be reorganized to balance the extremely materialist civilization of today it discusses the dominance of the high tech commercialization of the earth and the serious weakening of rational spiritual stamina as well as institutional rigidity in the humanities the book also considers traditional chinese intellectual history inspired by the classical chinese humanist ethical spirit as revealing the cross historical universality of humanist lined ethics rooted in human nature although the natural sciences and social sciences have led to the unprecedented progress of material human civilization the fundamental factor that determines the rational orientation of spiritual civilization should be the modern human sciences that are reorganized in terms of semiotic strategy and humanistic ethics leading hopefully to a new era of enlightenment for mankind the book asserts that humanistic ethics as the central spirit of the humanities includes both epistemology and action dynamics the pertinent activation of both depends definitively on the subject s free willpower

humanism is a view of the world of each person s relation to other people of the unity of humanity of its place in the whole fabric of life against the

background of our planet and our universe of but read ed ericson s book and see isaac asimov the great use of life is to spend it for something that outlasts it wrote bertrand russell wise and thoughtful men and women in all ages have agreed that the greatest lives are those given to the well being of others many who belong to no church or sect along with many who do when asked to identify their creed will reply simply my religion is the golden rule or they will answer formal church doctrines and theologies are not important to me the way i relate to others and to myself is all that finally matters without perhaps having a label for their faith such people to the degree that they live by these convictions are practicing the essence of humanist religion edward l ericson from the humanist way

bioethics is vitally important in our day because it represents the critical expression of interest in the proper use of medical science to provide health care secular humanism is important because it is a central factor in constructing a common morality that does not make special appeal to such things as religious assumptions the argument of this book therefore will be of profound interest to all who are concerned for the well being of humanity in today s world imagine the author says roman catholics and committed atheists disputing over proper abortion policies imagine individuals who wish to organize a for profit surrogate mother service confronting individuals who view such endeavors as exploitation of women to what moral premise do they appeal are power and influence the deciding factors or is it possible to establish certain principles to which all may appeal in answer professor engelhardt examines the various meanings of secularity and humanism clearly showing how complex they are alongside this he demonstrates the diversity of bioethics and the problems of laying a foundation for it based on these considerations he identifies which ways forward are the most promising the urgency of the task is clear new biomedical possibilities are surfacing at the very time that demands to contain health care costs pose difficult ethical problems

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cultures and moral expectations differ around the globe and so the management of corporate responsibilities has become increasingly complex is there however a humanistic consensus that can bridge cultural and ethnic divides and reconcile the diverse and contrary interests of stakeholders world wide this book seeks to answer that question

most christians are blissfully uninformed about the worldview of humanism and therefore do not realize that secular humanism has now largely displaced our society s christian foundations robert waggoner precise information secular humanism is the major belief system that currently challenges christian faith in the western world arguments and evidence the christian worldview is indeed superior to humanism warning humanism is a threat to christian institutions and beliefs motivation greater activity is necessary not only in service to god and humanity but also in resisting

and overthrowing humanism

understanding humanism is an easy to read and informative overview of the beliefs practices and values of humanism as a non religious worldview this short and lively book explores humanism both as a broad historical tradition of thought and as a stance embodied in organised institutions it sets out clearly and systematically the beliefs and values of humanism as well as the reality and personal experience of living as a humanist today questions discussed in this book include how do humanists see the relation between science and religious belief is humanism wedded to science as the only valid form of knowledge what value do humanists place on the arts and can they value religious art does the emphasis on human responsibility depend on an untenable belief in free will and is this undermined by psychology and neuroscience do humanists think that life is sacred what account would humanists give of the basis of human rights and why they are important does humanism entail that human life is meaningless and pointless can humanists meet the challenge of nihilism understanding humanism provides a reliable and easily digestible introduction to the field by exploring these questions and inviting readers to engage with the arguments it serves as the ideal textbook for those approaching the topic of humanism for the first time

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