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The Great Infidel: A Life of David Hume

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Birlinn (2004)



Abstract

This complete life story of David Hume, one of Scotland's greatest thinkers, follows the Enlightenment from its early roots to its full blossoming in 18th-century Edinburgh. Using original sources, many for the first time, this biography details every aspect of the philosopher's life—from the lukewarm reception of his now pivotal work, *Treatise of Human Nature*, to the fame and near excommunication brought about by his famous *Essays and History*. Also detailed are the stories behind his nickname, "The Great Infidel," the numerous guests seeking an invitation to dine at his table, and his lengthy intellectual involvement with a married aristocrat. This work is a well-rounded picture of the man, the century in which he lived, his famous ideas, and above all, his humanity

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