

arguably essays by christopher hitchens english

****Arguably Essays by Christopher Hitchens English: Exploring the Wit and Wisdom of a Master Essayist****

arguably essays by christopher hitchens english represent a remarkable collection of writings that showcase the sharp intellect, fearless critique, and eloquent style of one of the most influential essayists of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Christopher Hitchens, a British-American author, journalist, and polemicist, had a unique ability to dissect complex topics with wit, clarity, and a relentless commitment to truth. His essays cover a vast array of subjects, including politics, religion, culture, history, and literature, making his work deeply engaging and thought-provoking for readers who appreciate rigorous intellectual discourse.

If you are diving into the world of Hitchens for the first time, or revisiting his essays with fresh eyes, understanding the essence of his writing and the themes he often explored is essential. This article will guide you through the significance of arguably essays by Christopher Hitchens English, uncovering what makes his essays timeless, and how his style continues to influence contemporary English essay writing.

Why Christopher Hitchens' Essays Stand Out in English Literature

Christopher Hitchens was not just an essayist; he was a formidable thinker whose prose combined elegance with an unapologetic edge. His essays are often described as intellectually rigorous yet accessible, a feat that many writers aspire to but few achieve. What sets arguably essays by Christopher Hitchens English apart is their blend of erudition and conversational tone, making complex ideas digestible without diluting their substance.

The Art of Argumentation and Persuasion

Hitchens was a master of rhetoric and debate. His essays often read like verbal duels, where he dismantled opposing views with precision and humor. This skill is particularly evident in his critiques of religion and political ideologies. For readers interested in learning how to craft compelling arguments in English, studying Hitchens' essay style is invaluable.

His use of irony and sarcasm serves not just to entertain but to underscore his points powerfully. This method of engagement keeps readers hooked while encouraging critical thinking, a hallmark of effective essay writing.

Diverse Themes and Universal Relevance

One of the reasons arguably essays by Christopher Hitchens English remain relevant is the diversity of topics he tackled. From the morality of war and the pitfalls of political correctness to literary criticism and personal memoir, Hitchens' broad range of interests ensured that his work resonated with a wide audience.

For example, essays like those found in the collection **Arguably** explore everything from the legacy of Orwell and Kafka to reflections on freedom of speech and the nature of evil. This versatility enriches the English essay tradition by demonstrating how essays can serve as vehicles for both intellectual exploration and cultural commentary.

Key Essays and Their Impact

To appreciate arguably essays by Christopher Hitchens English fully, it helps to look at some standout pieces that have left a lasting impact on readers and critics alike.

“Why Orwell Matters”

In this essay, Hitchens delves into the enduring significance of George Orwell's work, particularly his insights into totalitarianism and the misuse of language. Hitchens' analysis offers a blueprint for how to write about literature in a way that connects it to contemporary political and social issues. This essay is a perfect example of his ability to blend literary criticism with broader cultural debates.

“The Trial of Henry Kissinger”

Here, Hitchens takes a bold stance on a controversial figure, combining meticulous research with moral urgency. The essay exemplifies his fearless approach to confronting power and injustice, traits that make his English essays not just informative but deeply provocative.

“Religion Kills”

Perhaps one of his most famous essays, “Religion Kills” showcases Hitchens' atheistic views and his critique of organized religion. The clarity and forcefulness of his prose make this essay a touchstone for debates on faith and secularism in English-speaking intellectual circles.

Writing Style and Techniques in Arguably Essays by Christopher Hitchens English

Understanding Hitchens' writing techniques can provide valuable lessons for anyone looking to improve their English essay writing skills.

1. Command of Language

Hitchens' vocabulary is rich yet precise. He avoids verbosity but never sacrifices nuance. His essays demonstrate how a well-chosen word can elevate an argument, making it more persuasive and memorable.

2. Balanced Tone

Though often polemical, Hitchens' essays maintain a tone that combines seriousness with a touch of humor. This balance helps keep readers engaged, even when discussing heavy or controversial topics.

3. Structural Clarity

Each essay is carefully structured to guide the reader logically from introduction to conclusion, with clear signposts along the way. This clarity is essential for effective communication in English essay writing.

4. Use of Personal Anecdotes and Cultural References

Hitchens often weaves personal experience and cultural references into his essays. This technique adds depth and relatability, making abstract ideas more tangible and engaging.

How to Approach Reading and Analyzing Arguably Essays by Christopher Hitchens English

If you want to get the most out of Hitchens' essays, consider these tips:

- **Read actively:** Take notes on key arguments and unfamiliar references.
- **Contextualize:** Understand the historical and political backdrop of the

essay.

- **Reflect on style:** Pay attention to how Hitchens constructs his arguments and uses language.
- **Discuss with others:** Engaging in debates or discussions can deepen your understanding of the material.

These strategies will not only enhance your appreciation of Hitchens' work but also sharpen your own analytical and writing skills in English.

The Legacy of Christopher Hitchens in English Essay Writing

Christopher Hitchens' contribution to English essay writing is immense. His essays continue to be studied for their intellectual rigor, stylistic brilliance, and fearless engagement with controversial issues. For students, writers, and readers alike, arguably essays by Christopher Hitchens English offer a masterclass in how to approach essay writing with courage, clarity, and a commitment to truth.

His legacy is a testament to the power of the essay as a form—not merely to inform but to challenge, provoke, and inspire. Whether you are interested in politics, literature, philosophy, or cultural criticism, exploring Hitchens' essays is a rewarding journey into the art of English prose at its finest.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of Christopher Hitchens' essay collection 'Arguably'?

The main theme of 'Arguably' is a wide-ranging exploration of culture, politics, literature, and philosophy, showcasing Hitchens' critical and provocative style.

How does Christopher Hitchens approach English literature in 'Arguably'?

Hitchens approaches English literature with incisive critique and admiration, offering deep insights into the works of major authors and their impact on society.

Are the essays in 'Arguably' written in accessible English for general readers?

Yes, while intellectually rigorous, the essays are written in clear and engaging English, making them accessible to a broad audience interested in cultural and political topics.

What writing style does Christopher Hitchens use in 'Arguably'?

Hitchens uses a persuasive, eloquent, and often witty writing style, combining sharp analysis with a conversational tone.

Does 'Arguably' include essays on contemporary English politics?

Yes, 'Arguably' includes essays that discuss contemporary English and international politics, reflecting Hitchens' viewpoints on current affairs.

How does Christopher Hitchens incorporate his personal views in the essays?

Hitchens incorporates his personal views boldly and unapologetically, often challenging orthodox opinions and encouraging readers to think critically.

Can 'Arguably' be used as a resource for studying English argumentative writing?

Absolutely, 'Arguably' serves as an excellent example of argumentative writing in English, showcasing effective rhetoric, persuasion, and critical thinking.

What makes Christopher Hitchens' essays in 'Arguably' relevant to English literature and culture today?

Hitchens' essays remain relevant due to their enduring analysis of cultural and political issues, their eloquent use of English, and their challenge to contemporary thought and values.

Additional Resources

Arguably Essays by Christopher Hitchens English: A Critical Exploration of Wit, Provocation, and Intellectual Rigor

arguably essays by christopher hitchens english represent a significant corpus of work that captures the essence of one of the late 20th and early 21st century's most provocative public intellectuals. Known for his sharp wit, uncompromising skepticism, and eloquent prose, Christopher Hitchens' essays offer a blend of literary criticism, political commentary, and philosophical inquiry. This article delves into the thematic breadth, stylistic characteristics, and enduring relevance of Hitchens' essays, particularly those penned in English, examining how they contribute to contemporary discourse and why they remain a staple in both academic and popular reading circles.

The Intellectual Landscape of Christopher Hitchens' Essays

Christopher Hitchens, a British-American author and journalist, built his reputation on fearless critique and eloquent argumentation. The collection often referred to simply as **Arguably**, is a testament to his versatility and breadth. His essays cover a wide spectrum—from religion and politics to literature and popular culture—each written with a clarity and passion that invites readers to challenge their own beliefs.

The phrase "arguably essays by Christopher Hitchens English" underscores not only the language of composition but also the argumentative nature intrinsic to his style. Hitchens' English prose is characterized by rigorous logic intertwined with rhetorical flair, making his essays both accessible and intellectually stimulating. His ability to blend highbrow literary references with accessible language sets him apart from many contemporaries, appealing to a diverse readership.

Stylistic Features and Language Mastery

One cannot discuss Hitchens' essays without acknowledging his command of the English language. His style is marked by:

- **Precision and Clarity:** Despite dealing with complex ideas, Hitchens avoids jargon, favoring clear and punchy sentences that enhance reader comprehension.
- **Wit and Irony:** His essays often contain biting humor and ironic observations, which soften the intensity of his critiques without diluting their impact.
- **Allusions and References:** Drawing from classical literature, history, and philosophy, Hitchens enriches his arguments with contextual depth.

These stylistic elements contribute to why "arguably essays by Christopher Hitchens English" have been widely studied for their linguistic and rhetorical excellence.

Thematic Diversity in Hitchens' Essays

Hitchens' essays are notable for their thematic diversity. While some writers specialize narrowly, Hitchens' intellectual curiosity led him to engage with a range of subjects that reflected his own evolving worldview.

Religion and Atheism

Perhaps most famously, Hitchens was a vocal critic of organized religion. His essays on faith, most notably collected in **Arguably**, dissect religious belief systems with surgical precision. He challenges dogma and highlights the dangers of religious fundamentalism while championing secular humanism. His essay "God Is Not Great" epitomizes this stance and has become a cornerstone text in atheist literature.

Politics and Power

Hitchens' political essays reveal his complex and often controversial positions. Initially aligned with leftist ideology, his later work reflects a nuanced support for certain military interventions, such as the Iraq War, which sparked considerable debate. His writing interrogates power structures, authoritarianism, and the global impact of political decisions, always emphasizing individual liberty and moral responsibility.

Literature and Culture

Beyond politics and religion, Hitchens was a literary critic of remarkable insight. His essays on writers like George Orwell, Salman Rushdie, and Philip Roth reveal his deep engagement with narrative, style, and the socio-political contexts of literature. These pieces often blend personal reflection with scholarly critique, showcasing his ability to navigate complex cultural landscapes.

Comparative Analysis: Hitchens vs. Contemporary Essayists

To better understand the significance of "arguably essays by Christopher Hitchens English," it is useful to compare his work with that of contemporaries such as Gore Vidal, Joan Didion, and Martin Amis. While all share a commitment to rigorous argumentation, Hitchens' essays tend to be more polemical and confrontational.

- **Gore Vidal:** Vidal's essays often emphasize historical narrative and political analysis with a sardonic tone, whereas Hitchens blends personal conviction with sharper critique.
- **Joan Didion:** Didion's essays are introspective and stylistically restrained; Hitchens' work is more outward-facing and argumentative.
- **Martin Amis:** Amis' essays focus heavily on literary style and cultural critique, but lack the overt political activism present in Hitchens' writings.

This comparison highlights Hitchens' distinctive role as an essayist unafraid to blend polemic with erudition, making his English essays particularly compelling for those interested in intellectual debate.

Pros and Cons of Hitchens' Essay Style

While many celebrate Hitchens' essays for their intellectual rigor and stylistic brilliance, critical perspectives also emerge:

1. Pros:

- Engaging and persuasive prose that challenges readers' assumptions.
- Wide-ranging topics that appeal to diverse interests.
- Uncompromising commitment to truth and moral clarity.

2. Cons:

- His confrontational style can alienate some readers.
- Occasional bias, especially in political essays, may limit perceived objectivity.
- Dense allusions sometimes require prior knowledge to fully appreciate.

These factors contribute to the ongoing debate about Hitchens' place in the pantheon of English essayists.

Enduring Impact and Relevance of "Arguably"

The continued interest in "arguably essays by Christopher Hitchens English" reflects the lasting impact of his work on both literature and public discourse. His essays serve as educational tools in university courses on rhetoric, journalism, and modern history. Furthermore, his fearless engagement with controversial topics encourages open dialogue in an era often marked by polarization.

Digital platforms and print anthologies alike ensure that new generations encounter Hitchens' ideas, prompting reflection on issues such as freedom of speech, secularism, and the responsibilities of intellectuals in society. In this way, his essays transcend their immediate context to become part of a broader cultural conversation.

As readers navigate the complexities of modern life, the incisive clarity and moral urgency found in Christopher Hitchens' essays remain as relevant as ever—inviting continuous debate, critique, and appreciation within the realm of English literary and journalistic traditions.

[Arguably Essays By Christopher Hitchens English](#)

arguably essays by christopher hitchens english: Arguably Christopher Hitchens, 2011-09-01 All first-rate criticism first defines what we are confronting, the late, great jazz critic Whitney Balliett once wrote. By that measure, the essays of Christopher Hitchens are in the first tier. For nearly four decades, Hitchens has been telling us, in pitch-perfect prose, what we confront when we grapple with first principles—the principles of reason and tolerance and skepticism that define and inform the foundations of our civilization—principles that, to endure, must be defended anew by every generation. A short list of the greatest living conversationalists in English, said *The Economist*, would probably have to include Christopher Hitchens, Sir Patrick Leigh-Fermor, and Sir Tom Stoppard. Great brilliance, fantastic powers of recall, and quick wit are clearly valuable in sustaining conversation at these cosmic levels. Charm may be helpful, too. Hitchens—who staunchly declines all offers of knighthood—hereby invites you to take a seat at a democratic conversation, to be engaged, and to be reasoned with. His knowledge is formidable, an encyclopedic treasure, and yet one has the feeling, reading him, of hearing a person thinking out loud, following the inexorable logic of his thought, wherever it might lead, unafraid to expose fraudulence, denounce injustice, and excoriate hypocrisy. Legions of readers, admirers and detractors alike, have learned to read Hitchens with something approaching awe at his felicity of language, the oxygen in every sentence, the enviable wit and his readiness, even eagerness, to fight a foe or mount the ramparts. Here, he

supplies fresh perceptions of such figures as varied as Charles Dickens, Karl Marx, Rebecca West, George Orwell, J.G. Ballard, and Philip Larkin are matched in brilliance by his pungent discussions and intrepid observations, gathered from a lifetime of traveling and reporting from such destinations as Iran, China, and Pakistan. Hitchens's directness, elegance, lightly carried erudition, critical and psychological insight, humor, and sympathy-applied as they are here to a dazzling variety of subjects-all set a standard for the essayist that has rarely been matched in our time. What emerges from this indispensable volume is an intellectual self-portrait of a writer with an exemplary steadiness of purpose and a love affair with the delights and seductions of the English language, a man anchored in a profound and humane vision of the human longing for reason and justice.

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arguably essays by christopher hitchens english: Charles Darwin In Cambridge: The Most Joyful Years John Van Wyhe, 2014-05-27 Charles Darwin's years as a student at the University of Cambridge were some of the most important and formative of his life. Thereafter he always felt a

particular affection for Cambridge. For a time he even considered a Cambridge professorship as a career and sent three of his sons there to be educated. Unfortunately the remaining traces of what Darwin actually did and experienced in Cambridge have long remained undiscovered. Consequently his day-to-day life there has remained unknown and misunderstood. This book is based on new research, including newly discovered manuscripts and Darwin publications, and gathers together recollections of those who knew Darwin as a student. This book therefore reveals Darwin's time in Cambridge in unprecedented detail.

arguably essays by christopher hitchens english: *On Essays* Thomas Karshan, Kathryn Murphy, 2020-09-04 Montaigne called it a ramble; Chesterton the joke of literature; and Hume an ambassador between the worlds of learning and of conversation. But what is an essay, and how did it emerge as a literary form? What are the continuities and contradictions across its history, from Montaigne's 1580 *Essais* through the familiar intimacies of the Romantic essay, and up to more recent essayists such as Virginia Woolf, James Baldwin, and Claudia Rankine? Sometimes called the fourth genre, the essay has been over-shadowed in literary history by fiction, poetry, and drama, and has proved notoriously resistant to definition. *On Essays* reveals in the essay a pattern of paradox: at once a pedagogical tool and a refusal of the methodical languages of universities and professions; politically engaged but retired and independent; erudite and anti-pedantic; occasional and enduring; intimate and oratorical; allusive and idiosyncratic. Perhaps because it is a form of writing against which literary scholarship has defined itself, there has been surprisingly little work on the tradition of the essay. Neither a comprehensive history nor a student companion, *On Essays* is a series of seventeen elegantly written essays on authors and aspects in the history of the genre - essays which, taken together, form the most substantial book yet published on the essay in Britain and America.

arguably essays by christopher hitchens english: *New Readings of The Merchant of Venice* Horacio Sierra, 2013-01-14 The last decade has witnessed a spate of high-profile presentations of *The Merchant of Venice*: the 2004 Michael Radford film, 2010's New York City "Shakespeare in the Park" production, as well as the play's Tony Award-nominated 2010-11 Broadway run. Likewise, new scholarly works such as Kenneth Gross's *Shylock is Shakespeare* (2006) and Janet Adelman's *Blood Relations* (2008) have offered poignant insights into this play. Why has this drama garnered so much attention of late? What else can we learn from this contentious comedy? How else can we read the drama's characters? Where do studies of *The Merchant of Venice* go from here? This collection offers readers sundry answers to these questions by showcasing a sampling of ways this culturally arresting play can be read and interpreted. The strength of this monograph lies in the disparate approaches its contributors offer - from a feminist view of Portia and Nerissa's friendship to psychoanalytic readings of allegories between the play and Shakespeare's *Pericles* to a reading of a Manga comic book version of *The Merchant of Venice*. Each essay is supported by a strong basis in traditional close reading practices. Our collection of scholars then buttresses such work with the theoretical or pedagogical frameworks that reflect their area of expertise. This collection offers readers different critical lenses through which to approach the primary text. Although Shakespeare scholars and graduate students will no doubt appreciate and employ the work of this collection, the primary audience of this anthology is undergraduate students and the professors who work with them. Many budding scholars have had the experience of checking out a monograph from the library and then finding it was a waste of time because the author spends three hundred pages discussing a perspective of which they have no interest. With this collection, students will not only see how multi-faceted interpretations of the play can be but they also are more likely to find essays that appeal to their own research interests.

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construct critiques of the present or visions of the political future. *Nostalgia and Political Theory* surveys key contributions to nostalgic and antinostalgic thinking from across the political spectrum. Assessing the influence of photography, radio, television, and personal computing on changing conceptions of the past, Quill also considers the relation between populism, nationalism, and nostalgia. By challenging those who would dismiss nostalgia as irrational or a symptom of cultural malaise, Quill concludes by advancing the case for a liberal theory of nostalgia. *Nostalgia and Political Theory* will be of interest to scholars and students in the fields of political theory, social theory, sociology, philosophy, political science, memory studies, and nostalgia studies.

arguably essays by christopher hitchens english: *Comedy on Stage and Screen* Wieland Schwanebeck, 2022-09-26 This book introduces readers to the genre of comedy, both on the stage and on the screen. It chronicles the history of comedy, starting with Ancient Greece, before summarising key chapters in Anglophone literary history, such as Shakespearean comedy, Restoration comedy, and Theatre of the Absurd. The book features an overview of key comic techniques (including slapstick, puns, and wit), as well as concise summaries of major theoretical debates (including the superiority theory and the Freudian account of laughter). The book works with many examples from the history of Anglophone comedy, including Oscar Wilde, Monty Python, and classic sitcoms. It addresses current research into cringe humour and the controversial topic of diversity in the field of comedy, and it connects classical tropes of comedy (like the fool or the marriage plot) to present-day examples. The book thus serves as an up-to-date study guide for everyone interested in comedy and its various subgenres.

arguably essays by christopher hitchens english: *Themelios, Volume 41, Issue 3* D. A. Carson, 2017-01-05 Themelios is an international, evangelical, peer-reviewed theological journal that expounds and defends the historic Christian faith. Themelios is published three times a year online at The Gospel Coalition (<http://thegospelcoalition.org/themelios/>) and in print by Wipf and Stock. Its primary audience is theological students and pastors, though scholars read it as well. Themelios began in 1975 and was operated by RTSF/UCCF in the UK, and it became a digital journal operated by The Gospel Coalition in 2008. The editorial team draws participants from across the globe as editors, essayists, and reviewers. General Editor: D. A. Carson, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School Managing Editor: Brian Tabb, Bethlehem College and Seminary Consulting Editor: Michael J. Ovey, Oak Hill Theological College Administrator: Andrew David Naselli, Bethlehem College and Seminary Book Review Editors: Jerry Hwang, Singapore Bible College; Alan Thompson, Sydney Missionary & Bible College; Nathan A. Finn, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary; Hans Madueme, Covenant College; Dane Ortlund, Crossway; Jason Sexton, Golden Gate Baptist Seminary Editorial Board: Gerald Bray, Beeson Divinity School Lee Gatiss, Wales Evangelical School of Theology Paul Helseth, University of Northwestern, St. Paul Paul House, Beeson Divinity School Ken Magnuson, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Jonathan Pennington, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary James Robson, Wycliffe Hall Mark D. Thompson, Moore Theological College Paul Williamson, Moore Theological College Stephen Witmer, Pepperell Christian Fellowship Robert Yarbrough, Covenant Seminary

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arguably essays by christopher hitchens english: *Performing Authorship in Eighteenth-Century English Periodicals* Manushag N. Powell, 2012-06-29 *Performing Authorship in Eighteenth-Century Periodicals* discusses the English periodical and how it shapes and expresses

early conceptions of authorship in the eighteenth century. Unique to the British eighteenth century, the periodical is of great value to scholars of English cultural studies because it offers a venue where authors hash out, often in extremely dramatic terms, what they think it should take to be a writer, what their relationship with their new mass-media audience ought to be, and what qualifications should act as gatekeepers to the profession. Exploring these questions in *The Female Spectator*, *The Drury-Lane Journal*, *The Midwife*, *The World*, *The Covent-Garden Journal*, and other periodicals of the early and mid-eighteenth century, Manushag Powell examines several “paper wars” waged between authors. At the height of their popularity, essay periodicals allowed professional writers to fashion and make saleable a new kind of narrative and performative literary personality, the eidolon, and arguably birthed a new cult of authorial personality. In *Performing Authorship in Eighteenth-Century Periodicals*, Powell argues that the coupling of persona and genre imposes a lifespan on the periodical text; the periodicals don’t only rise and fall, but are born, and in good time, they die.

arguably essays by christopher hitchens english: Who Reads Poetry Fred Sasaki, Don Share, 2017-10-20 In 2012, to celebrate the centennial of Poetry, the Press published *The Open Door: 100 Poems, 100 Years of Poetry Magazine*, edited by Share and Wiman; that is the model for this new anthology of fifty essays about reading poetry. All were commissioned by Poetry for a column called *The View From Here*, in which people from outside the world of poetry are invited to describe when and why they read poetry. The editors sought contributions from philosophers and journalists, musicians and artists, doctors and soldiers, an iron-worker, a lawyer, anthropologist, economist, and politician. Contributors include Neko Case, Roger Ebert, Richard Rorty, Rhymefest, Lynda Barry, Daniel Handler, and Alex Ross. They have arranged the essays in groups and pulled out quotes to open each of the eight sections as a way to suggest themes without trying to prescribe how the pieces should be read. Each essay retains its own voice, and many are surprising, provocative, touching, or funny.

arguably essays by christopher hitchens english: Clio's Bastards Curtis R. McManus, 2016-06-22 *Clio's Bastards* uses an examination of the discipline of history in Canadian universities as the point of entry for a much larger exploration of the intellectual, spiritual, and moral crisis confronting Western civilization today. Over the past four decades, academic history was slowly perverted as historians adopted new sociological approaches to the study of the past. Historians altered the content, purpose, and goals of the discipline as they sought not Truth but Justice as part of a larger ideological program of radical social change. And today, the pervasive sociological way of seeing, understanding, and explaining our world has become the new common sense right across the Western world, both inside and outside the academy. Sociological thought, however, is neither new nor advanced nor is it progressive as its adherents claim: it is simply recrudescient Sophistry and Cynicism, destructive philosophies which ruined and fouled ancient Athens, the source and inspiration for Western civilization.

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admired of contemporary writers. For more than forty years, Hitchens delivered to numerous publications on both sides of the Atlantic essays that were astonishingly wide-ranging and provocative. The judges for the PEN/Diamonstein-Spielvogel Award for the Art of the Essay, posthumously bestowed on Hitchens, praised him for the way he wrote with fervor about the books and writers he loved and with unbridled venom about ideas and political figures he loathed. He could write, the judges went on to say, with undisguised brio, mining the resources of the language as if alert to every possibility of color and inflection. He was, as Benjamin Schwarz, his editor at *The Atlantic* magazine, recalled, slashing and lively, biting and funny--and with a nuanced sensibility and a refined ear that he kept in tune with his encyclopedic knowledge and near photographic memory of English poetry. And as Michael Dirda, writing in the *Times Literary Supplement*, observed, Hitchens was a flail and a scourge, but also a gift to readers everywhere. The author of five previous volumes of selected writings, including the international bestseller *Arguably*, Hitchens left at his death nearly 250,000 words of essays not yet published in book form. And Yet... assembles a selection that usefully adds to Hitchens's oeuvre. It ranges from the literary to the political and is, by turns, a banquet of entertaining and instructive delights, including essays on Orwell, Lermontov, Chesterton, Fleming, Naipaul, Rushdie, Pamuk, and Dickens, among others, as well as his laugh-out-loud self-mocking makeover. The range and quality of Hitchens's essays transcend the particular occasions for which they were originally written. Often prescient, always pugnacious, and formidably learned, Hitchens was a polemicist for the ages. With this posthumous volume, his reputation and his readers will continue to grow. Christopher Hitchens was the cartographer of his own literary and political explorations. He sought assiduously to affirm--and to reaffirm--the ideas of secularism, reason, libertarianism, internationalism, and solidarity, values always under siege and ever in need of defending. Henry James once remarked, Nothing is my last word on anything. For Hitchens, as for James, there was always more to be said.

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