

**Review: Richard Wurmbrand, *The Answer to the Atheist's Handbook*,
VOM Books, Bartlesville, OK, 1975 (2022 edn.)**

Pages: 239

Timeless Apologetic

Written for a Soviet-Atheistic audience, sufferer Richard Wurmbrand advances a number of arguments against their beliefs, as codified in the *Atheist Handbook*.

This was first issued 1961 by Moscow's Academy of Science, showing that the battle is really between Christianity and Materialism *dressed up as science*. The latter always ends up contradicting itself in some way, e.g., "truth is a hallucination agreed upon by a majority," yet Atheists believes *their* beliefs are the truth!

Stalin was also a believer in Materialism's sister, Scientism: "science is the saviour of humanity," and the *Handbook* claims, "religion justifies ignorance".

Atheism hasn't found any new arguments in fifty years.

I) The Atheist Handbook (pp. 1-5)

One comrade was sent to prison for daring to ask, "how there could be sheep?" given the high predation rate of wolves and no defences (man must always have been there to shepherd them).

The *Handbook* is boring, Wurmbrand notes since it is entirely about *negation*.

II) The Reasonableness of Atheism (pp. 6-12)

It was often said religion was a pain reliever like drugs, yet drugs destroy minds, but Christianity renews them [Rm 12.2].

In September 1932, *Molodaia Guardia* (“The Young Vanguard”) announced a five-year plan after which all religion would be destroyed forever.

III) The Unreasonableness of Atheism (pp. 13-17)

Feuerbach: “It is clear as the sun ... there is no God; and still more, that there can be no God.” [p16]

Anarchist Max Stirner proposed omnicide as a solution to the problem of evil. Schopenhauer recommended suicide.

IV) The Wrong Perspective of the Atheist’s Handbook (pp. 18-22)

Soviet theoretician Nicolai Bukharin wrote *Dialectic Materialism*.

V) Who Are Our Opponents (pp. 23-33)

Skeptics say, “truth is a suspicion that has endured,” or, “a hallucination agreed upon by a majority”.

There must be a light beyond reality to tell us authoritatively what is truth and what is error.

Atheism holds it is worthwhile spending one’s life denying the nonexistent!

Are atheists justified in relying on their minds?

VI) The Difficulty of Being an Atheist (pp. 34-38)

Baron Holbach claimed Nature was uncreated.

VII) The Definition of Religion (pp. 39-45)

Religare is to tie.

VIII) The Origin of Religion (pp. 46-49)

Archaeology is limited in that it can't discover things which weren't preserved.

No cuneiform tablet, inscription or oral tradition makes any mention of man originating from ape.

IX) The Origin of Christianity (pp. 50-51)

X) Roman Authors About Christianity (pp. 52-59)

XI) The Witness of the Gospels (pp. 60-66)

Extravasation is blood escape into the pericardium which prevents the heart from beating causing infarction, after which the blood separates into clear, watery serum, and dark clots.

XII) Arguments Against the Early Origin of the Gospels (pp. 67-68)

XIII) The Message of the New Testament (pp. 69-78)

“The Party is our father, and the Red Army is our mother.”

XIV) Irreverent Attacks Against the Bible (pp. 79-87)

Communists point to the Acts 4.32-35 as support for their ideology.

Communists don't have faith in their own doctrine of men to reason “correctly” and conclude the truth of Socialism, since they have to resort to banning the Bible.

XV) Did the Characters in the Bible Really Exist? (pp. 88-98)

Wurmbrand confusingly claims, “the story of Adam and Eve is more than history. It is history and myth at the same time”. [p89]

XVI) Delivery of the Jews From Egyptian Slavery (pp. 99-103)

XVII) Contradictions in the Bible (pp. 104-111)

Stalin's corpse was removed from its tomb, and at the next Communist Party congress, Krushchev claimed he was a mass murderer and torture.

The state of mind of the people changed quickly regarding to the dead dictator.

XVIII) Does Christianity Teach Servility Toward Tyrannical Authorities? (pp. 112-119)

A Christian owes nothing to a godless ruler.

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XIX) A Heavenly or an Earthly Paradise? (pp. 120-123)

According to Friedrich Engels, Christianity didn't have the will to carry out a social transformation in this world, given its preoccupation with the next.

Christian workers under a priest Gapon were the first to strike in Russia, in 1905, not Communists.

Marx's "permanent revolution" ends as revolution for revolution's sake.

XX) Is There a God? (pp. 124-131)

XXI) Who Is God? (pp. 132-147)

Heraclitus: "Πάντα ρυεῖ" ["everything flows"], or, "one cannot step in the same stream twice".

Sir James Jeans: "Matter is something which happens."

The heart circulates blood 600 times a day throughout the body.

"The mind in which the universe always existed is called God."

XXII) Look to Jesus of Nazareth (pp. 148-151)

XXIII) The Creation? (pp. 152-154)

XXIV) God Is (pp. 155-164)

Philosopher John Locke believed nothing exists in the intellect except our sense.

XXV) Prophecy (pp. 165-167)

XXVI) Prophecies About the Jewish People (pp. 168-174)

Lenin was half-Jewish.

Hebrew is the only 'dead' language which has been resurrected.

XXVII) Prophecies About the Latter Days (pp. 175-179)

XXVIII) Who Made God? (pp. 180-186)

God belongs to the category of the "self-existent" [of which He is the only member].

XXIX) Life After Death (pp. 187-199)

The *Handbook* denounces belief in life beyond the grave as, "the basis of the religious theory," and, "extremely dangerous".

On 1/9/1968, the Soviet Union passed a law children could be taken away and put in atheistic boarding schools if taught Christianity.

XXX) Science and Religion (pp. 200-224)

Stalin: "science is the saviour of humanity".

The *Handbook*: "religion justifies ignorance".

"We have the capacity for belief because there is a God to believe in".

Professor Edwyn Conklin:

“The probability of life originating from an accident is comparable to the probability of the unabridged dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing shop.”

XXXI) Atonement (pp. 225-231)