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978-1-108-00064-2 - A General View of Positivism

Auguste Comte

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A General View of Positivism

In *A General View of Positivism* French philosopher Auguste Comte (1798-1857) gives an overview of his social philosophy known as Positivism. Comte, credited with coining the term 'sociology' and one of the first to argue for it as a science, is concerned with reform, progress and the problem of social order in society. In this English edition of the work, published in 1865, he addresses the practical problems of implementing his philosophy or doctrine, as he also refers to Positivism, into society. He believes that society evolves through a series of stages that are ruled by social laws and culminate in a superior form of social life. During this reorganisation of society, which will find its greatest supporters among women and the working class, a new moral power will emerge. Under the motto Love, Order and Progress Comte wishes humanism to replace organised religion as the object of spiritual worship.

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A

GENERAL VIEW OF POSITIVISM.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF

AUGUSTE COMTE,

BY

J. H. BRIDGES,

Physician to the Bradford Infirmary; late Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford.



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REPUBLIC OF THE WEST—ORDER AND PROGRESS.

A
GENERAL VIEW OF POSITIVISM ;
OR,
SUMMARY EXPOSITION
OF THE
SYSTEM OF THOUGHT AND LIFE,
ADAPTED TO THE
GREAT WESTERN REPUBLIC,
FORMED OF THE
FIVE ADVANCED NATIONS,
THE FRENCH, ITALIAN, SPANISH, BRITISH, AND GERMAN,
WHICH, SINCE THE TIME OF CHARLEMAGNE, HAVE ALWAYS CONSTITUTED
A POLITICAL WHOLE.

Réorganiser, sans dieu ni roi, par le culte systématique de l'Humanité.

Nul n'a droit qu'à faire son devoir.

L'esprit doit toujours être le ministre du cœur, et jamais son esclave.

Reorganization, irrespectively of God or king, by the worship of Humanity, systematically adopted.

Man's only right is to do his duty.

The Intellect should always be the servant of the Heart, and should never be its slave.

BY
AUGUSTE COMTE,
AUTHOR OF "SYSTEM OF POSITIVE PHILOSOPHY."

P A R I S :
1848.

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NOTICE.

THIS work was first published separately in 1848. The Second Edition, of which this is the Translation, was published in 1851, as part of the first volume of the Treatise on Positive Polity, to which it is the Introduction. The Table of Contents and Marginal Notes have been added by the Translator.

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