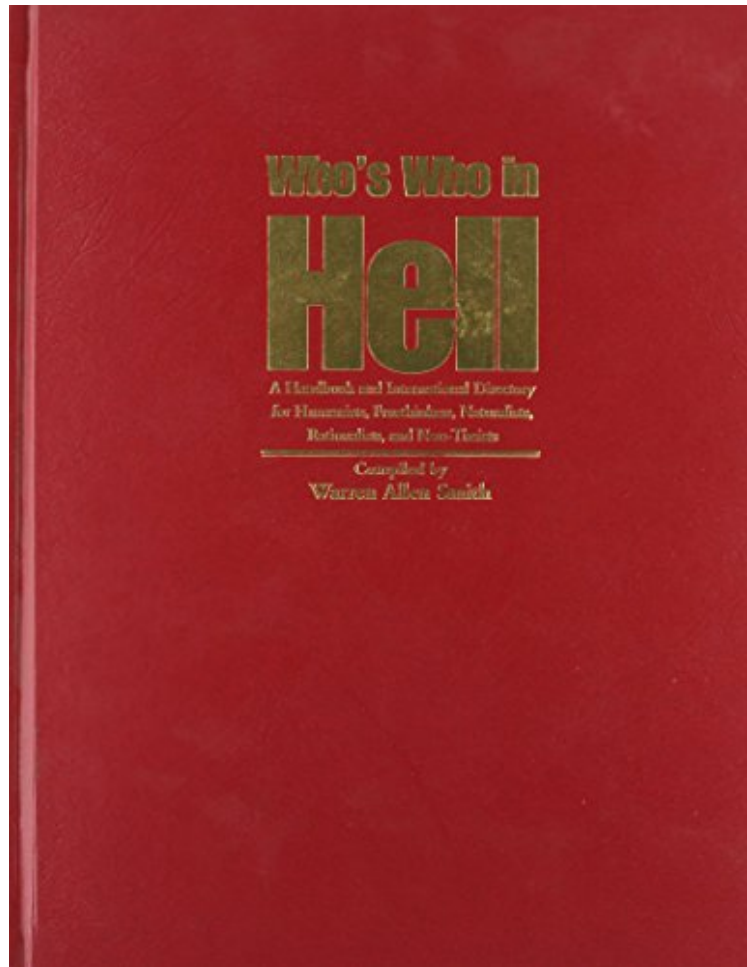


[FREE] Who's Who in Hell: A Handbook and International Directory for Humanists, Freethinkers, Naturalist, Rationalists and Non-Theists

Who's Who in Hell: A Handbook and International Directory for Humanists, Freethinkers, Naturalist, Rationalists and Non-Theists

Warren Allen Smith

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Warren Allen Smith : Who's Who in Hell: A Handbook and International Directory for Humanists, Freethinkers, Naturalist, Rationalists and Non-Theists before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Who's Who in Hell: A Handbook and International Directory for Humanists, Freethinkers, Naturalist, Rationalists and Non-Theists:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Who's Who in Hell will make you laugh out loud. By Anthony Boff Who's Who in Hell will make you laugh out loud, make you think, make you amazed at who is a non believer in our big old world of faith. 15 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Required reading for atheists, freethinkers and skeptics! By EE Professor Warren Allen Smith's "Who's Who in Hell" is an incredible work that is sure to please the most jaded agnostic or "get God off the currency" atheist. An astonishing compendium of many years of

research and personal experience, Smith has produced a classic that should be placed in every reference section of every library. You can't help but be fascinated by the exhaustive list of entries and the poignant writing style. Many priests, pastors, ministers, shaman and popes will be hiding in the closet with this book. 41 of 44 people found the following review helpful. Indispensable Reference By Wolf Roder This is an enormously important reference work for anyone who would like to check if a historical or contemporary figure was or is a religious believer. Most standard encyclopedias will provide whole biographies of important persons, but obscure the fact they had grave doubts about God. Many of the fathers of the American Revolution were not Christians, but deists who accepted only the existence of a prime mover not Jesus. This does not prevent foolish, uninformed believers from claiming this country was founded as a "Christian" nation. Smith will be criticized for many of his difficult choices and assertions. The book distinguishes between major entries, real unbelievers; minor entries of persons who only wrote something related to unbelief, and peripheral entries. To assess a person's belief is always difficult. Our concepts of religion and faith are arbitrary. Different convictions may be expressed in various writings, and belief may change over time. In addition, many persons had reason to obscure their doubts or pretend to a faith they did not share. For this reason, very few modern American politicians will be found in Hell. Readers will find some good humor, many Nobel laureates in science, literature, and peace, as well as most important philosophers and a few statesmen in Hell. Mark Twain had it truly right when he suggested we go to "Heaven for the climate, Hell for the company." No religious or secular library should be without this book.

This listing of several thousand nonbelievers include ancients such as Euripides; French revolutionaries; and statements by or about countless individuals including Sir Arthur C. Clarke, Hugh Hefner, Jack Nicholson, Sally Jesse Raphael. This book makes a case not only for the respectability of nonbelievers but also for their positive outlooks and creativity.

From Publishers Weekly Smith's enormous reference work aims for the libraries and living rooms of people who don't believe in a personal God, and who care a lot about their disbelief. Despite the raunchy title, Smith, a freelance writer, takes no interest (except coincidentally) in debauchery or evil-doing. Instead, he's compiled a biographical dictionary (with subject entries interspersed) of tens of thousands of freethinkers, secular humanists, Unitarian Universalists, Ethical Culture activists and famous folks who hewed to no religious creed. There are the great dead, like George Eliot and David Hume. There are present-day blasphemers and secularist writers, from Woody Allen and Salman Rushdie to philosopher Richard Rorty and novelist Will Self. There are newsmakers who happened to be "non-theists," like New Wave singer Gary Numan, Chinese democracy activist Xiao Xuehui, physicist Leo Szilard, runner Jesse Owens (a Unitarian. For Smith, this counts). There are figures from the history of "free thought," ethical culture and secular humanism, like Scottish editor William Ross ("Saladin") and Supreme Court plaintiff Vashti McCollum. And there are people who seem to be there just for the heck of it, like atheist, elephant-hunter and WWI casualty Sir Frederick Courteney Selous. Entries range from one sentence to several dense columns; subject entries include "Torture," "Semantics," "Nepalese humanists," "Homosexuality," "Cocaine" and, of course, "Hell." When Sartre wrote that "Hell is other people," he may not have had so many in mind, but if unbelievers get to spend eternity in this varied, illustrious company, a season in Hell might be a treat. (Oct.) Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist What kind of reference book would have entries for individuals as disparate as Marie Curie, A. A. Milne, the Marquis de Sade, and Joseph Stalin? This peculiar but entertaining and well-researched and documented tome describes itself as "a kaleidoscope of contentious individuals: poets and philosophers, royalty and revolutionaries, secular saints and reprobates, all sharing one thing in common--a desire to think for themselves rather than to follow time-honored strictures or divine commandments." RBB Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved