# Some Turns of Thought in Modern Philosophy

FIVE ESSAYS

George Santayana

# **Some Turns Of Thought In Modern Philosophy**

**George Santayana** 

#### **Some Turns Of Thought In Modern Philosophy:**

Some Turns of Thought in Modern Philosophy: Five Essays George Santayana, 1933-01-01 A good portrait of Locke would require an elaborate background His is not a figure to stand statuesquely in a void the pose might not seem grand enough for bronze or marble Rather he should be painted in the manner of the Dutch masters in a sunny interior scrupulously furnished with all the implements of domestic comfort and philosophic enquiry the Holy Bible open majestically before him and beside it that other revelation the terrestrial globe His hand might be pointing to a microscope set for examining the internal constitution of a beetle but for the moment his eye should be seen wandering through the open window to admire the blessings of thrift and liberty manifest in the people so worthily busy in the market place wrong as many a monkish notion might be that still troubled their poor heads From them his enlarged thoughts would easily pass to the stout carved ships in the river beyond intrepidly setting sail for the Indies or for savage America Yes he too had travelled and not only in thought He knew how many strange nations and false religions lodged in this round earth itself but a speck in the universe There were few ingenious authors that he had not perused or philosophical instruments that he had not as far as possible examined and tested and no man better than he could understand and prize the recent discoveries of the incomparable Mr Newton Nevertheless a certain uneasiness in that spare frame a certain knitting of the brows in that aquiline countenance would suggest that in the midst of their earnest eloquence the philosopher's thoughts might sometimes come to a stand Indeed the visible scene did not exhaust the complexity of his problem for there was also what he called the scene of ideas immaterial and private but often more crowded and pressing than the public scene Locke was the father of modern psychology and the birth of this airy monster this half natural changeling was not altogether easy or fortunate I wish my erudition allowed me to fill in this picture as the subject deserves and to trace home the sources of Locke's opinions and their immense influence Unfortunately I can consider him what is hardly fair only as a pure philosopher for had Locke s mind been more profound it might have been less influential He was in sympathy with the coming age and was able to guide it an age that confided in easy eloquent reasoning and proposed to be saved in this world and the next with as little philosophy and as little religion as possible Locke played in the eighteenth century very much the part that fell to Kant in the nineteenth When quarrelled with no less than when embraced his opinions became a point of departure for universal developments The more we look into the matter the more we are impressed by the patriarchal dignity of Locke's mind Father of psychology father of the criticism of knowledge father of theoretical liberalism god father at least of the American political system of Voltaire and the Encyclopaedia at home he was the ancestor of that whole school of polite moderate opinion which can unite liberal Christianity with mechanical science and with psychological idealism He was invincibly rooted in a prudential morality in a rationalised Protestantism in respect for liberty and law above all he was deeply convinced as he puts it that the handsome conveniences of life are better than nasty penury Locke still speaks or spoke until lately through many a modern mind when

this mind was most sincere and two hundred years before Queen Victoria he was a Victorian in essence A chief element in this modernness of Locke was something that had hardly appeared before in pure philosophy although common in religion I mean the tendency to deny one s own presuppositions not by accident or inadvertently but proudly and with an air of triumph Presuppositions are imposed on all of us by life itself for instance the presupposition that life is to continue and that it is worth living Belief is born on the wing and awakes to many tacit commitments Afterwards in reflection we may wonder at finding these presuppositions on our hands and being ignorant of the natural causes which have imposed them on the animal mind we may be offended at them Their arbitrary and dogmatic character will tempt us to condemn them and to take for granted that the analysis which undermines them is justified and will prove fruitful But this critical assurance in its turn seems to rely on a dubious presupposition namely that human opinion must always evolve in a single line dialectically providentially and irresistibly It is at least conceivable that the opposite should sometimes be the case Some of the primitive presuppositions of human reason might have been correct and inevitable whilst the tendency to deny them might have sprung from a plausible misunderstanding or the exaggeration of a half truth so that the critical opinion itself after destroying the spontaneous assumptions on which it rested might be incapable of subsisting Some Turns of Thought in **Modern Philosophy** George Santayana, 2013-10 This is a new release of the original 1933 edition Some Turns of Thought in Modern Philosophy, Five Essays, by George Santayana... George Santayana, 1933 Some Turns of Thought in Modern Philosophy George Santayana, 2019-11-20 In Some Turns of Thought in Modern Philosophy George Santayana offers a profound exploration of the philosophical currents that shaped the modern era With a distinctive blend of clarity and lyrical prose Santayana examines key concepts such as materialism idealism and the nature of human consciousness Rooted in both historical analysis and personal reflection the work serves as a critical engagement with the works of major philosophers including Descartes Hume and Kant situating them within the broader intellectual tapestry of the late 19th and early 20th centuries This book unravels the intricate relationship between philosophy and culture cementing its place in the canon of modern philosophical literature George Santayana 1863 1952 was a philosopher essayist poet and novelist whose dual upbringing in Spain and the United States profoundly influenced his worldview Having studied at Harvard and absorbed diverse intellectual traditions Santayana sought to bridge the gap between scientific inquiry and philosophical discourse His experiences and commitments to a pluralistic approach to knowledge reflect his enduring belief in the significance of human experience as the foundation for philosophical inquiry Some Turns of Thought in Modern Philosophy is an essential read for anyone eager to deepen their understanding of modern philosophy Santayana's insights invite readers to reflect on the interplay between thought and the human condition making it a compelling text for students scholars and philosophy enthusiasts alike Some turns of thought in modern philosophy George Santayana, 1970 **Some Turns of Thought in** Modern Philosophy George Santayana, 2021-08-09 Book Excerpt es sleep because it has a dormitive virtue The virtues or

moral uses of things according to Socrates were the reason why the things had been created and were what they were the admirable virtues of opium defined its perfection and the perfection of a thing was the full manifestation of its deepest nature Doubtless this moral interpretation of the universe had been overdone and it had been a capital error in Socrates to make that interpretation exclusive and to substitute it for natural philosophy Locke who was himself a medical man knew what a black cloak for ignorance and villainy Scholastic verbiage might be in that profession He also knew being an enthusiast for experimental science that in order to control the movement of matter which is to realise those virtues and perfections it is better to trace the movement of matter materialistically for it is in the act of manifesting its own powers and not as Socrates and the Scholastics fancied by obeying a foreign magic that matter sometimes Read More Some Turns of Thought in **Modern Philosophy** Harry Kraus, 1967 Some Turns of Thought in Modern Philosophy George Santayana, 2013-08-15 A good portrait of Locke would require an elaborate background His is not a figure to stand statuesquely in a void the pose might not seem grand enough for bronze or marble Rather he should be painted in the manner of the Dutch masters in a sunny interior scrupulously furnished with all the implements of domestic comfort and philosophic enquiry the Holy Bible open majestically before him and beside it that other revelation the terrestrial globe His hand might be pointing to a microscope set for examining the internal constitution of a beetle but for the moment his eye should be seen wandering through the open window to admire the blessings of thrift and liberty manifest in the people so worthily busy in the market place wrong as many a monkish notion might be that still troubled their poor heads From them his enlarged thoughts would easily pass to the stout carved ships in the river beyond intrepidly setting sail for the Indies or for savage America Some Turns of Thought in Modern Philosophy, Five Essays George Santayana, 1933 *Some turns of thought in modern* philosophy, by q. santayana George Santayana, 1933

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