

Thomas Aquinas's Summa Contra Gentiles: A Guide and Commentary

By Brian Davies



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The *Summa Contra Gentiles*, one of Aquinas's best known works after the *Summa Theologiae*, is a philosophical and theological synthesis that examines what can be known of God both by reason and by divine revelation. A detailed expository account of and commentary on this famous work, Davies's book aims to help readers think about the value of the *Summa Contra Gentiles* (SCG) for themselves, relating the contents and teachings found in the SCG to those of other works and other thinkers both theological and philosophical. Following a scholarly account of Aquinas's life and his likely intentions in writing the SCG, the volume works systematically through all four books of the text.



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Editorial Review

Review

"This book gives one the feeling of being in the presence of a talented and experienced teacher, who brings Thomas Aquinas's *Summa Contra Gentiles* (*SCG*) to life for his students. For students and especially for teachers of Aquinas's philosophy and theology, Brian Davies' guide and commentary is a gift I highly recommend this book to those who want an accessible, reliable, and (relatively) quick introduction to Aquinas's SCG, or to Aquinas's work in philosophy of religion and philosophical theology more generally. I think that students of Aquinas and especially teachers of Aquinas stand to benefit greatly from this volume."-*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*

"That Davies's book on Aquinas's *Summa contra Gentiles* is daring, erudite, and beautifully written should come as no surprise Beginners will find no better introduction to the Summa contra Gentiles. Experts will find a thoughtful, enriching dialogue partner. There is no comparable one-volume work in English, so the book is singular. Davies is to be praised Essential"--*CHOICE*

"Davies's commentary on *Summa Contra Gentiles* is a tight, mature work Davies's guide is exceptionally erudite "--*Reading Religion*

"I highly recommend this book to those who want an accessible, reliable, and (relatively) quick introduction to Aquinas's *Summa Contra Gentiles*, or to Aquinas's work in philosophy of religion and philosophical theology more generally. I think that students of Aquinas and especially teachers of Aquinas stand to benefit greatly from this volume. As much as a book can, with its colorful examples, clear explanations, and evident passion for the topics covered, it gives one the sense of attending a master teacher's course on Aquinas's *SCG*." --*Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews*

About the Author

Brian Davies is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University, New York, and Honorary Professor at Australian Catholic University. He is the author of numerous books on Aquinas, including *Thomas Aquinas's Summa Theologiae: A Guide and Commentary* (OUP 2014), *Thomas Aquinas on God and Evil* (OUP 2011), and *Thomas Aquinas: Contemporary Philosophical Perspectives* (OUP 2002).

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