Contents

1.	Introduction: Problems, Concepts, and Background Theories 1		
	1.1	The aims and structure of this book	1
	1.2	Moral criticisms of the project	4
	1.3	'God'	6
	1.4	Theological Determinism	9
	1.5	Molinism	19
	1.6	Open Theism	26
	1.7	Creation and creatability	27
	1.8	Omnipotence	29
	1.9	Omniscience	37
	1.10	Possible worlds and moral necessity	40
	1.11	The concept of evil	42
2.	God and Worlds than which there are None Better		48
	2.1	Are there worlds having infinite value?	48
	2.2	Infinite value and maximal worlds	56
	2.3	Maximal worlds in the absence of quantitative value	57
	2.4	What God can do: compatibilist analysis	60
	2.5	What God can do: libertarian analyses	64
3.		ne Choice from Infinite Hierarchies of Creatable	69
	Worlds		
	3.1	Context and aims	69
	3.2	Rowe's positive arguments for the Entailment Thesis	71
	3.3	An argument in favour of satisficing	7 4
	3.4	Worlds that are good enough	78
	3.5	Finite and infinite creatable hierarchies: implications	•
		for Rowe	83
	3.6	Other recent supporters of the Entailment Thesis	85

viii Contents

4.	Wor	d Creation when there are Prime Worlds	90
	4.1	Prime Actually and Better Outcome/Action	90
	4.2	Risk of serious loss	93
	4.3	Overriding moral duties	93
	4.4	The less good is good enough	95
	4.5	Contingent desires and underlying personality traits	97
	4.6	Divine grace and beneficence	103
	4.7	Loyalties and commitments	106
	4.8	Self-sacrifice	106
	4.9	Divine choice given creatable hierarchies of both kinds	107
	4.10	Divine choice given several creatable hierarchies, all	
		containing prime members	109
	4.11	Corollaries of foregoing conclusions	109
5.	Emp	irical Objections to Theism, not based on Evil	111
	5.1	A dilemma for theological determinists and Molinists	111
	5.2	The argument from there being prime worlds	113
	5.3	The argument from there being no prime worlds	122
	5.4	An objection to open theism	125
6.	Logi	cal Arguments from Evil, against the Existence of God	130
	6.1	Mackie's 1955 argument	131
	6.2	McCloskey's 1974 arguments	135
	6.3	Absolute moral duties	137
	6.4	Schellenberg's 1993 argument	144
7.	The	odicy for Two General Truths about Evil	148
	7.1	Aims and opening considerations	148
	7.2	The core argument concerning suffering and	
		dysfunction: first part	149
	7.3	The inference from (3) and (4) to (5):	
		theological-compatibilist analysis	152
	7.4	The inference from (3) and (4) to (5): Open Theist	
		and Molinist analyses	159
	7.5	A short remark about Premiss (6)	161
	7.6	The core argument concerning suffering	
		and dysfunction: second part	161

Contents	ix
----------	----

	7.7	The inference from (3*) and (4*) to (5*)	166		
	7.8	A case for Premiss (6*)	168		
	7.9	Suffering, dysfunction, and heaven	172		
	7.10	Distribution, moral desert, and equality	176		
	7.11	Objections from alternative goods	179		
	7.12	The core argument concerning wrong	184		
	7.13	The inference from (c)&(d) to (e); Premiss (f)	186		
	7.14	More specific kinds of wrong	188		
8.	Evidential Arguments from Evil, against the Existence of				
	${\bf God}$	C	191		
	8.1	Tooley's 1991 argument	191		
	8.2	Rowe's 1996 argument	200		
	8.3	The argument from horrifically bad lives	216		
	8.4	Schellenberg's 2000 argument	220		
Glossary			228		
Bi	Bibliography				
In	Index				