

Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	vii
<i>Introduction: "This Damnable Paradoxe"</i>	1
The Parameters of the Inquiry	13
The Event and Its Inquiry	25
<i>Chapter 1: Religion as Bankrupt: Catholic Theologians and the Origins of Modern Atheism</i>	37
Leonard Lessius and the Retrieval of the Stoic Topics	42
Marin Mersenne and the Platonizing of Epicurus	56
The Issue Becomes Philosophic	65
<i>Chapter 2: The Existence of God and the New Philosophic Consciousness</i>	68
SECTION 1. God as the Pledge of a Universal Mathematics:	
René Descartes	68
God as a Problem for Philosophic Wisdom	73
Certitude and the Method of Universal Mathematics	77
The Demonstrated Existence of God	85
"The Fable of My World"	94
SECTION 2. God in the Discourse of a Universal Mechanics:	
Isaac Newton	99
A Visit from Edmond Halley	99
The Derivation of the Real: Absolute Space and Absolute Time	110
Toward the Universal: The Importance of System	118
"Thus Far of God . . ."	129

<i>Chapter 3: The Assimilation of Theology into the New Philosophic Consciousness</i>	145
SECTION 1. The Mystical Theology of Controversy: Nicolas Malebranche	145
To Correct the Chinese	149
From Idea to Existence	153
The All-Encompassing God	160
SECTION 2. The Logistic Theology from Mechanics: Samuel Clarke	166
“Propero ad Class. Newtoni Theoriam”	167
To Establish the Necessary Being of the One God	176
The First Foundation of Religion	185
<i>Chapter 4: The Atheistic Transformation of Denis Diderot</i>	194
Setting the Stage	197
“La matière se mouvoir et le chaos se débrouiller”	211
The Dream of d’Alembert	225
What Hath Diderot Wrought?	248
<i>Chapter 5: Atheism as the System of Nature: Baron Paul Henri d’Holbach</i>	251
“Ce livre effraie tout le monde, et tout le monde veut le lire”	274
Weakness, Ignorance, and Superstition	291
“Nouveaux champions de la divinité”	299
<i>Chapter 6: The Dialectical Origins of Atheism</i>	322
The End of the Beginning	322
The Demonstration of History: A Methodological Retrieval	333
The Self-Alienation of Religion	341
<i>Abbreviations</i>	364
<i>Notes</i>	367
<i>Name Index</i>	429
<i>Subject Index</i>	433