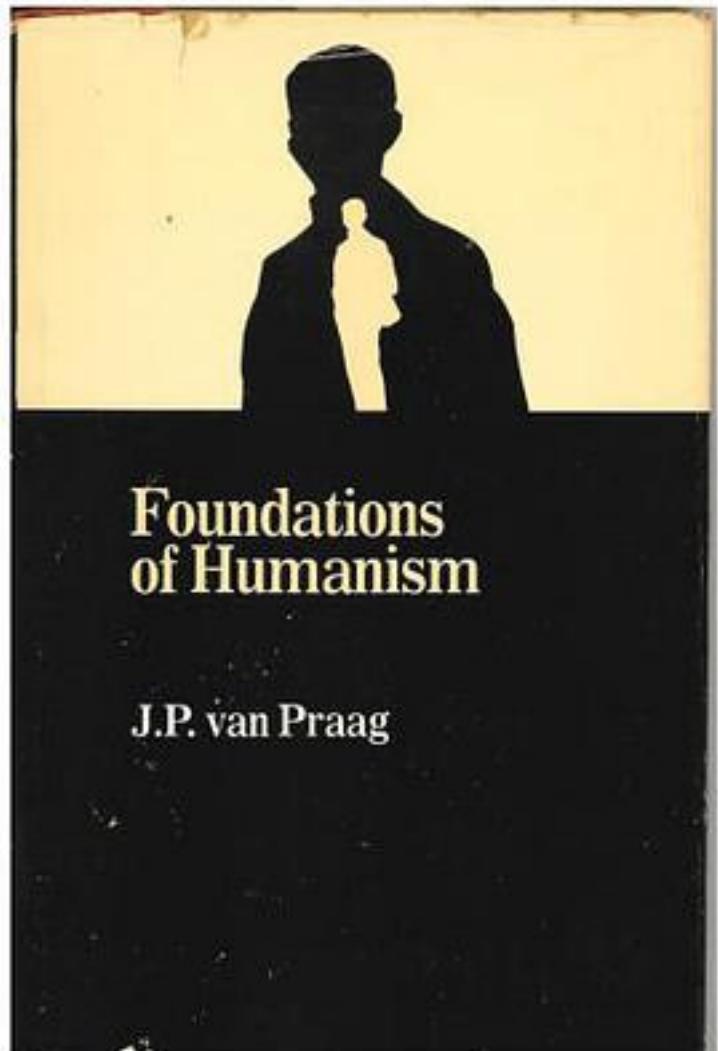


The Foundations of Humanism



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著者:Van Praag, J.P.

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"Foundations of Humanism" is a primer on secular humanism written by one of the leading figures in the movement. J. P. van Praag writes that the modern world is shaped by a central paradox: the technology that provides us with unprecedented possibilities at the same time imposes an oppressive organisation on society. This organisation, with its trappings of overspecialisation and overcentralisation, promotes feelings of impotence and alienation and a spirit of rebellion, especially in the young. In this book, van Praag examines the ways in which the philosophy of humanism can be applied to this paradox of modern life. Humanism holds that the purpose of life is life itself. Van Praag demonstrates how, through the application of this principle, the paradox can be transcended and how personal fulfilment and social creativity can be achieved. "Foundations of Humanism" is designed to give the reader a comprehensive view of secular humanism, including its historical roots in classical Greece and the Renaissance, its elaboration as a formal philosophy, and its practical aspects as a social philosophy. Finally, it explores the application of humanist principles in counselling and education.

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