

After Enlightenment

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AFTER ENLIGHTENMENT

HAMANN AS POST-
SECULAR VISIONARY

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After Enlightenment: The Post-Secular Vision of J. G. Hamann is a comprehensive introduction to the life and works of 18th-century German philosopher, J. G. Hamann, the founding father of what has come to be known as Radical Orthodoxy. Provides a long-overdue, comprehensive introduction to Hamann's fascinating life and controversial works, including his role as a friend and critic of Kant and some of the most renowned German intellectuals of the age. Features substantial new translations of the most important passages from across Hamann's writings, some of which have never been translated into English. Examines Hamann's highly original views on a range of topics, including faith, reason, revelation, Christianity, biblical exegesis, Socrates, theological aesthetics, language, sexuality, religion, politics, and the relationship between Judaism and Christianity. Presents Hamann as the 'founding father' of a distinctly post-modern, post-secular theology and, as such, as an alternative to the 'postmodern triumvirate' of Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Derrida. Considers Hamann's work as a touchstone of modern Jewish-Christian dialogue, in view of debates with his friend Moses Mendelssohn. Explores Hamann's role as the visionary founder of a 'metacritical' movement that radically calls into question the basic principles of modern secular reason, and thus reprises the debate between those defending Hamann's views and those labeling him the *bête noir* of the Enlightenment.

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