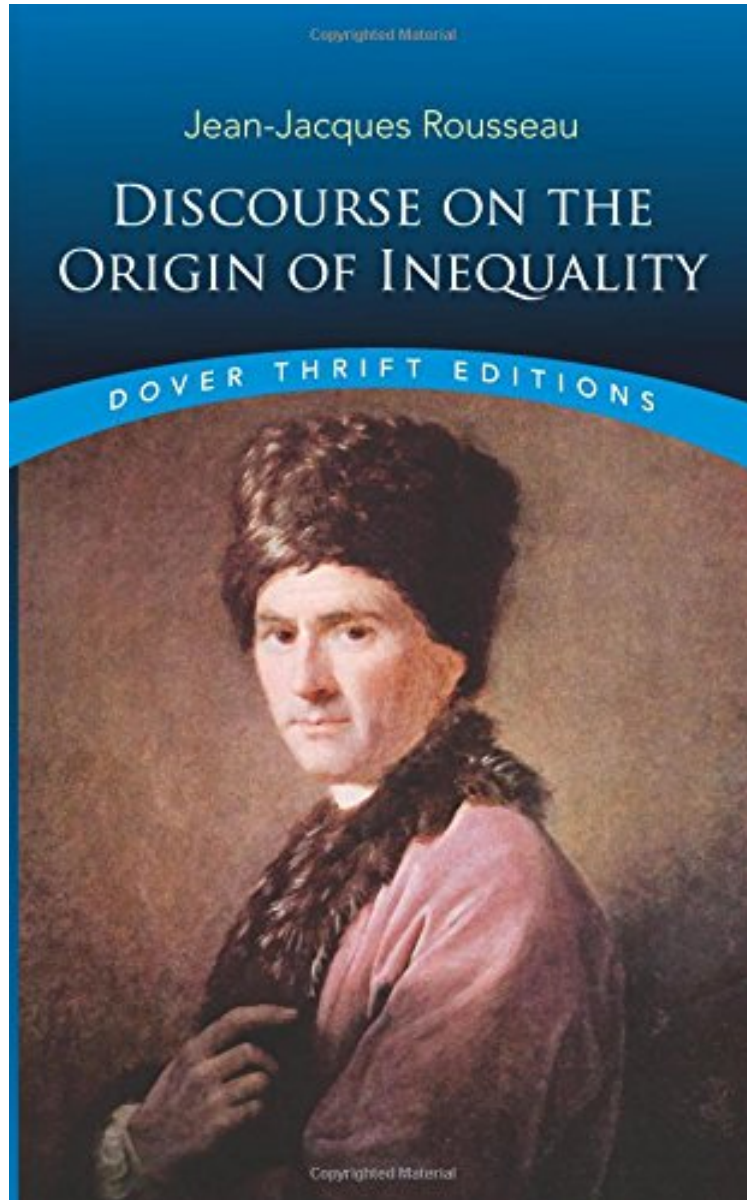


(Free read ebook) Discourse on the Origin of Inequality (Dover Thrift Editions)

## Discourse on the Origin of Inequality (Dover Thrift Editions)

*Jean-Jacques Rousseau*  
audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC



 Download

 Read Online

#459337 in Books Dover Publications 2004-06-04 2004-06-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.20 x .21 x 5.321, .13 #File Name: 048643414164 pagesDover Publications | File size: 23.Mb

**Jean-Jacques Rousseau : Discourse on the Origin of Inequality (Dover Thrift Editions)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Discourse on the Origin of Inequality (Dover Thrift Editions):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The quality of the book is good, author is questionableBy Chris

Evans First off, the actual book is fine, especially for a class or something educational. However, on a deeper level, I myself am not such a huge fan of Rousseau, with his ideas of "humans being naturally innocent and then being corrupted by society"; I myself much prefer Voltaire's view of the world during the period of the Enlightenment. This "book" is actually an essay that Rousseau wrote for a contest sometime in the 18th century, and the judges were so disgusted that they didn't even finish it. I'm inclined to agree with them. A must if needed for educational purposes (college-level would probably be best-I needed it for a cultural-philosophy course) but if you want to read philosophy, or an author's viewpoint during Enlightenment, find something better, like Kant or Voltaire.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. This product does not include any of the pages my ...By Customer This product does not include any of the pages my instructor had us read. Do not buy if you are using it for college.

14 of 18 people found the following review helpful. Man, Animal -- Manimal! By book lover This essay was Rousseau's submission to the Academy of Dijon contest, entitled, "Has the progress of the arts and sciences contributed more to the corruption or purification of morals?". This text is his story about Nature, and Society, and the scandal that happens when people come together, build, divide, dance, sing, and compare themselves with one another. In many ways, it is his answer to the problem of evil. Natural man is, in many ways, good, because his needs are immediately felt and immediately fulfilled. Social man begins to compete, to hoard, and to use cunning to enslave his fellows, to gain their esteem, take their property, and sometimes their lives. His picture of the natural man is half what we think of an "animal" and half the "human" that we recognize in ourselves. He shifts his description as the flow of argument dictates. The habitual provocateur, Rousseau - watch him! In a way, he is rewriting the Christian "Creation Myth". In his version, evil does not originate at that moment when man eats the fruit of the "Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil" --to "be like God"; it happens when Adam wants a better apple than Eve's got for herself. Before society develops as we know it, Adam would have been fine with just a pear.

If humans are benevolent by nature, how do societies become corrupt? And how do governments founded upon the defense of individual rights degenerate into tyranny? These are the questions addressed by Jean-Jacques Rousseau's *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, a strikingly original inquiry into much-explored issues of 18th-century (and subsequent) philosophy: human nature and the best form of government. Rousseau takes an innovative approach by introducing a "hypothetical history" that presents a theoretical view of people in a pre-social condition and the ensuing effects of civilization. In his sweeping account of humanity's social and political development, the author develops a theory of human evolution that prefigures Darwinian thought and encompasses aspects of ethics, sociology, and epistemology. He concludes that people are inevitably corrupt as a result of both natural (or physical) inequalities and moral (or political) inequalities. One of the most influential works of the Enlightenment, the *Discourse on the Origin of Inequality* offers a thought-provoking account of society's origins and a keen criticism of unequal modern political institutions.

Language Notes Text: English (translation) Original Language: French About the Author Donald A. Cress is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of Wisconsin, Parkside. His translations of Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy* and *Discourse on Method* are also published by Hackett.