

The Summa Theologica of Saint Thomas Aquinas, Vol. 2 (Great Books of the Western World, Vol. 20)

St. Thomas Aquinas

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Encyclopedia Britannica hard cover, no dust jacket as issued, Vol. 20, 1952 edition, 1085 pages. 8vo (9.5" x 6.5") The Summa Theologica of Saint Thomas Aquinas, translated by Fathers of the English Dominican Province; revised by Daniel J. Sullivan, Volume 2: Part I of the Second Part (Continued): Book 3 (Treatise on Habits); Book 4 (Treatise on Law); Book 5 (Treatise on Grace). Part II of the Second Part: Treatise on Faith, Hope, and Charity (Questions 1 - 46); Treatise on Active and Contemplative Life (Questions 179 -182); Treatise on the States of Life (Questions 183 - 189). The Third Part: Treatise on the Incarnation (Questions 1 - 26); Treatise on the Sacraments (Questions 60 - 65); Treatise on the Resurrection (Questions 69 - 86); Treatise on the Last Things (Questions 87 - 99). Includes detailed table of contents and extensive bibliography. The Summa Theologica (Latin: "Summary of Theology" or "Highest Theology") or the Summa Theologiæ or simply the Summa, written 1265 - 1274) is the most famous work of Thomas Aquinas (c. 1225 - 1274), although it was never finished. It was intended as a manual for beginners as a compilation of all of the main theological teachings of the time. It summarizes the reasoning for almost all points of Christian theology in the West, which, before the Protestant Reformation, subsisted solely in the Roman Catholic Church. The Summa's topics follow a cycle: the existence of God, God's creation, Man, Man's purpose, Christ, the Sacraments, and back to God. It is famous for its five arguments for the existence of God, the Quinquae viae (Latin: five ways). Throughout his work, Aquinas cites Augustine of Hippo, Aristotle, and other Christian, Jewish and even Muslim and ancient pagan scholars. The Summa Theologica is a more mature and structured version of Aquinas's earlier Summa contra Gentiles. This earlier work was more apologetic, each article refuting a belief of a heresy.

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