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As If: Idealization and Ideals (Hardback)

By Kwame Anthony Appiah

HARVARD UNIVERSITY PRESS, United States, 2017. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Idealization is a fundamental feature of human thought. We build simplified models in our scientific research and utopias in our political imaginations. Concepts like belief, desire, reason, and justice are bound up with idealizations and ideals. Life is a constant adjustment between the models we make and the realities we encounter. In idealizing, we proceed as if our representations were true, while knowing they are not. This is not a dangerous or distracting occupation, Kwame Anthony Appiah shows. Our best chance of understanding nature, society, and ourselves is to open our minds to a plurality of imperfect depictions that together allow us to manage and interpret our world. The philosopher Hans Vaihinger first delineated the as if impulse at the turn of the twentieth century, drawing on Kant, who argued that rational agency required us to act as if we were free. Appiah extends this strategy to examples across philosophy and the human and natural sciences. In a broad range of activities, we have some notion of the truth yet continue with theories that we recognize are, strictly speaking, false. From this vantage point, Appiah...

Reviews

A very awesome publication with perfect and lucid information. It is probably the most awesome book i have read. You may like how the author publish this pdf.

-- **Dr. Celia Howell DVM**

The publication is simple in go through preferable to fully grasp. I am quite late in start reading this one, but better then never. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.

-- **Mrs. Josiane Collins**