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# Assholes: A Theory

*New York Times Bestseller*

Ass-  
holes\*  
*\*A Theory*

Aaron James



## Synopsis

In the spirit of the mega-selling *On Bullshit*, philosopher Aaron James presents a theory of the asshole that is both intellectually provocative and existentially necessary. What does it mean for someone to be an asshole? The answer is not obvious, despite the fact that we are often personally stuck dealing with people for whom there is no better name. Try as we might to avoid them, assholes are found everywhere – at work, at home, on the road, and in the public sphere. Encountering one causes great difficulty and personal strain, especially because we often cannot understand why exactly someone should be acting like that. Asshole management begins with asshole understanding. Much as Machiavelli illuminated political strategy for princes, this book finally gives us the concepts to think or say why assholes disturb us so, and explains why such people seem part of the human social condition, especially in an age of raging narcissism and unbridled capitalism. These concepts are also practically useful, as understanding the asshole we are stuck with helps us think constructively about how to handle problems he (and they are mostly all men) presents. We get a better sense of when the asshole is best resisted, and when he is best ignored – a better sense of what is, and what is not, worth fighting for.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Don't be fooled by the title! This book is a serious piece of moral, social and political philosophy that requires appropriate training and background to understand and critique fully. Nonetheless, as an attempt to draw persons into the discussion, the book's title constitutes a valiant attempt to lure people into serious reflection on the state of our current culture. I want to encourage readers at all levels of preparation to have a go at James's valuable contribution to our comprehension of our nation's current state of affairs.

In some ways it reads like a college textbook but the content makes it well worth the effort when the going gets a little tough. Aaron James for better or worse has produced a handbook for our times and hits the mark when it comes to diagnosing what in the hell is wrong with us, how we have lost the capacity to treat each other in a civilized manner. The book is a wake-up call and how with very little effort we have the power to change society for the better.

A so-so book without much ner to say, so far as I could see. Amusing and easy reading, but nothing more.

Good but not great.

good book quick read

Funny imaginative easy read!! Not for the faint of heart.

a real sleeper but ll makes sense in the end best book i've read this year

A good description of our current President.

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