

“Brian Davies takes the reader on a guided tour of the vast demesne of the *Summa Theologiae* with a lucid and patient commentary. He writes for the intelligent reader without any formal training in either philosophy or theology—the kind of audience, he believes, that St. Thomas himself had in mind. Nonetheless, his book contains a number of surprises even for those who are familiar with the landscape.”

ANTHONY KENNY, author of the four-volume series *New History of Western Philosophy*

“Most of us engaged in studying Christian theology would of course say that Thomas Aquinas’s *Summa Theologiae* is a classic, an essential text, which we should all read and re-read. The truth is, however, that while the clarity of the arguments and the systematic presentation are very attractive, most newcomers and even old hands need a good deal of help to keep going: no one is better qualified than Brian Davies, after years of teaching and writing about it, to guide us. The study of the *Summa* will be greatly facilitated and enriched by this excellent commentary.”

FERGUS KERR, OP, Honorary Fellow, School of Divinity, University of Edinburgh

**F**OLLOWING A SCHOLARLY ACCOUNT of Thomas Aquinas’s life, Davies explores his purposes in writing the *Summa Theologiae* and works systematically through each of its three Parts. He also relates their contents and Aquinas’s teachings to those of other works and other thinkers both theological and philosophical. The concluding chapter considers the impact Aquinas’s best-known work has exerted since its first appearance, and why it is still studied today. Intended for students and general readers interested in medieval philosophy and theology, Davies’s study is a solid and reflective introduction both to the *Summa Theologiae* and to Aquinas in general.

BRIAN DAVIES is Professor of Philosophy at Fordham University and Honorary Professor at Australian Catholic University. He has published numerous books on Aquinas, including *Thomas Aquinas on God and Evil* (OUP 2011).