

philosophers & physicists

your research

on the cosmological argument

RICHARD SWINBURNE ON THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

- ✦ He does not think the cosmological argument is substantial enough to prove God.
- ✦ As it is deductive (eg. leaps to conclusions)
- ✦ Yet he comes to the decision that amalgamated with other arguments for theism the overall evidence for God is substantial and seems true by way of reason.



Bertrand Russell

- Does there have to be a reason for everything??
- Everyone has a mother but the human race can't have a mother
- The universe is just there, it doesn't need an explanation

David Hume

1711 - 1776



Hume believes that the massive jump from "everything we observe has a cause" to "the universe has a cause" is too big and is illogical

Hume also states that this poor analytical argument does not hint at the nature of God either

Stephen Hawking

- Recently changed his view...
- Hawking used to think God was necessary in the creation of the universe.
- He now believes the law of gravity created the universe and all its inhabitants through spontaneous creation. i.e. the big bang theory.



Paul Davies believes physics shows there was a first cause.
Says physics gives an insight into philosophical/religious questions.

"Davies carries this to a cosmological conclusion, that perhaps the universe is not exactly timeless, but a beginning after all: it causes itself, in the sense that earliest events can retroactively exert physical effects on the remote past."

This basically means Davies believes the universe has a cause, and this cause must be God.



Niels Bohr

- He was a pioneer in Quantum Physics.
- Quantum Physics suggests that random particles appear and disappear out of nowhere.
- Therefore they do not have a cause and go against the Cosmological Argument as it contradicts P2.

