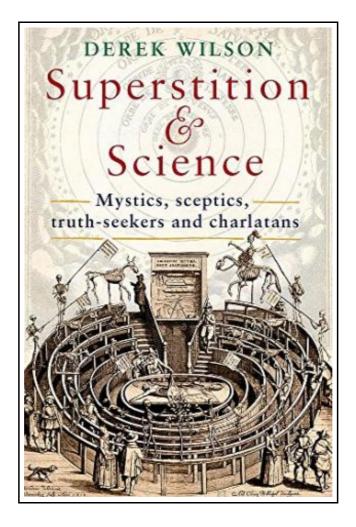
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SUPERSTITION AND SCIENCE, 1450-1750: MYSTICS, SCEPTICS, TRUTH-SEEKERS AND CHARLATANS (PAPERBACK)



Little, Brown Book Group, United Kingdom, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. A dazzling chronicle, a bracing challenge to modernity s smug assumptions - Bryce Christensen, Booklist O what a world of profit and delightOf power, of honour and omnipotencels promised to the studious artisan. Christopher Marlowe, Dr FaustusBetween the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, Europe changed out of all recognition and particularly transformative were the ardent quest for knowledge and the astounding discoveries and inventions which resulted from it. The movement of blood round the body; the movement of the earth round the sun; the velocity of falling objects (and, indeed, why objects fall) - these and numerous other mysteries had been solved by scholars in earnest pursuit of scientia. Several keys were on offer to thinkers seeking to unlock the portal of the unknown: Folk religion had roots deep in the pagan past. Its devotees sought the aid of spirits. They had stores of ancient wisdom, particularly relating to herbal remedies. Theirs was the world of wise women, witches, necromancers, potions and incantations. Catholicism had its own magic and its own wisdom. Dogma was enshrined in the collective wisdom of the doctors of the church and the rigid scholastic system of teaching. Magic resided in the ranks of departed saints and the priestly miracle of the mass. Alchemy was at root a desire to understand and to exploit the material world. Practitioners studied the properties of natural substances. A whole system of knowledge was built on the theory of the four humours. Astrology was based on the belief that human affairs were controlled by the movement of heavenly bodies. Belief in the casting of horoscopes was almost universal. Natural Philosophy really began with Francis Bacon and his empirical method. It was the beginning of science proper because it was based...

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