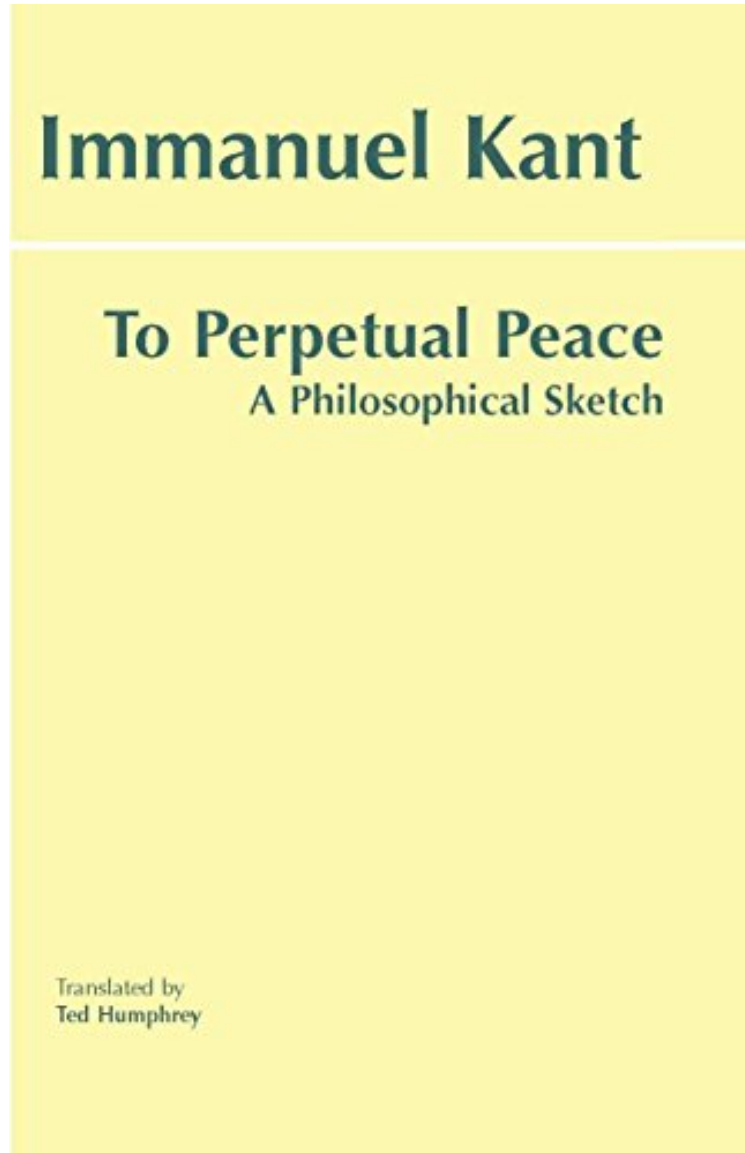


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To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch (Hackett Classics)

Immanuel Kant

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Immanuel Kant : To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch (Hackett Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch (Hackett Classics):

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you'll find this an interesting look into his political theory. Kant lays out what is needed to achieve everlasting peace in the world. In fact, he takes an historical view which he says makes perpetual inevitable: men are by nature violent. We are constantly in strife with one another. However, we don't really want to fight one another, as this is inconvenient and dangerous. So, he says, the only way for us to alleviate our natural state of war is by forming a social contract. This is like forming an alliance among men. It is this social contract, i.e. a republican government, which, if properly arranged will ensure perpetual peace. If the laws are made correctly this will allow the various selfish tendencies of individuals to balance each other out, allowing for a sort of peaceful equilibrium. I won't try to summarize the whole thing here (I couldn't possibly do it justice), but I hope that gives at least a basic sense of the text. Kant also ties all of this in with interesting reflections on justice, freedom, and the moral person. It's a short read at about 50 pages, and it's pretty easy to read too. Go read it, it's good!

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About the Author Ted Humphrey is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Arizona, Tempe.