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## Einstein and Culture

By G. Sonnert

Prometheus Books. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Einstein and Culture, G. Sonnert, Popular images of Albert Einstein often depict him as either an almost superhuman solitary genius or as a counter-cultural rebel. In this unique perspective on Einstein the man, sociologist of science Gerhard Sonnert argues that both popular images are simplistic and misleading because they fail to account for the impact of culture. In this scholarly yet accessible book, Sonnert examines major features of German Kultur, showing how powerful cultural influences helped to shape Einstein's life and science. Starting with a review of the evidence supporting Einstein's rebel image, Sonnert confronts it with counter-evidence that suggests his traditionalist side. The apparent contradiction is resolved through an extensive study of the cultural landscape of nineteenth-century Germany. Sonnert takes a close look at the German concept of Kultur, laying special emphasis on the related ideas of Weltanschauung and Weltbild, two German terms representing particular types of worldviews. "Einstein and Culture" demonstrates how strongly Einstein's physical research program was driven by a pivotal cultural goal: the quest for the synthesis of a scientific worldview (Weltbild). His was the rebellion of the idealistic radical in the name of Kultur against its perceived failings and...



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