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Sommario/riassunto	Long description: The message of these essays is that the Enlightenment should not be regarded as a revolutionary programme for the future. The philosophers of the Enlightenment hoped to educate individuals in the light of modern science according to Kant's adage: Aude sapere and did not want to change the structure of society. F.L. van Holthoon is emeritus professor of social history in the University of Groningen.