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Createspace Independent Publishing Platform, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Large Print. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand ******. Includes pictures. *Includes Voltaire s quotes. *Includes footnotes and a bibliography for further reading. To hold a pen is to be at war. - Voltaire All men are equal; it is not their birth, but virtue itself that makes the difference. - Voltaire The grand narrative of the Enlightenment, usually recounted and understood in terms of progress and modernity, generally appears as a simplified evolution from the trappings of superstition, feudalism, and everything irrational to a world more similar to today s world. Alongside the Renaissance, the Enlightenment is credited for the transition to an adherence to reason, secularism, and promotion of values such as individual and collective freedom and liberty. At the heart of the movement in France was Francois-Marie Arouet, better known by the pen name Voltaire, whose voluminous writings advocated for greater liberalism, including the freedom of religion and the separation of church and state. In addition to the classic Candide, Voltaire was a biting polemic whose satirical attacks on the Catholic Church were among the fiercest of his day. He also understood the risks he was taking with these writings, at one point explaining, It is dangerous to be right in matters where established men are wrong. The Enlightenment is looked upon fondly, and it serves to reinforce the notion that the present is superior to the past, but things did not change as rapidly or as completely as many believe. In fact, some recent historians have challenged the belief that the Enlightenment was responsible for the French Revolution, which is a vital issue when it comes to Voltaire. After all, Voltaire, as his contemporaries and as most of his modern readers know him, is widely...

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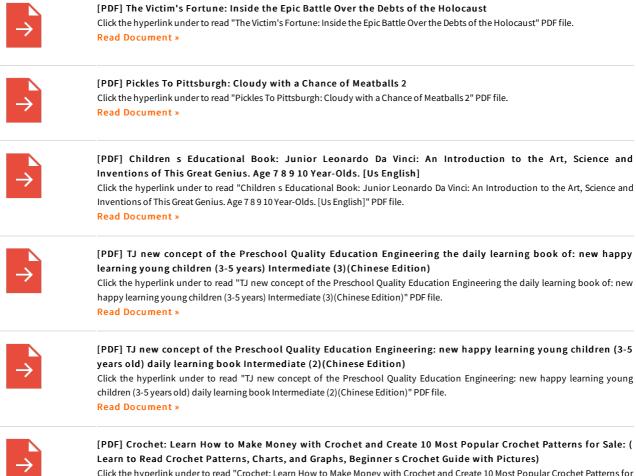
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