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Definitions of humanism have evolved throughout the centuries as the term has been adopted for a variety of purposes - literary, cultural and political - and reactions against humanism have contributed to movements such as postmodernism and anti-humanism. Tony Davies offers a clear introduction to the many uses of this influential yet complex concept and this second edition extends his discussion to include:

a comprehensive history of the development of the term and its influences

theories of post-humanism, cybernetics and artificial intelligence

implications of concepts of humanism and post-humanism on political and religious activism

discussion of the key figures in humanist debate from Erasmus and Milton to Chomsky, Heidegger and Foucault

a new glossary and further reading section.