

Leibniz's Argument from Sufficient Reason

Some Definitions

D1: x is *contingent* =df. x exists and it's possible for x to fail to exist.

D2: x is *non-contingent* =df. x exists and it's not possible for x to fail to exist.

D3: x is the *world* =df. x is the aggregate consisting of every contingent thing that does exist, did exist, or will exist.

D4: x is *independent* of y =df. x and y have no part in common.

D5: x is a *sufficient reason* for y =df. facts about x fully explain why y is as it is rather than otherwise.

The Principle of Sufficient Reason

PSR: For every contingent thing that exists, there is some independent sufficient reason why it is as it is rather than otherwise.

An Interpretation of Leibniz's Argument

1. The world exists and is contingent.
2. If (1), then there is some independent sufficient reason why the world is as it is rather than otherwise.
3. If there is some independent sufficient reason why the world is as it is rather than otherwise, then God exists.
4. Therefore, God exists. 1,2,3 MMP