

The Dual Legacy of Leibniz's Theory of Appetition

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Leibniz ascribed two distinct powers, perception and appetition, to all monads, the entities which he viewed as the ultimate, indivisible and indestructible constituents of the world. Likely impressed by Hobbes's doctrine of *conatus*—the 'striving' of inanimate and animate entities alike—Leibniz seemed thereby to reject the occasionalism of Descartes, Malebranche, and Johann Christian Sturm and to restore force to physics and experience and intentionality to animals. However, his pre-established harmony and preformation theory were seen in the 18th century, as reducing humans as well as animals to machines without free-will and their development to a mechanically pre-determined succession of states. H.S. Reimarus and far more ambiguously, Kant, challenged Leibniz explicitly and insisted that goal-directed or end-oriented forces were genuinely present in nature, or were legitimately assumed.