

# Oxford Reference



Subject ▾

Reference Type ▾

My Content (1)

My Searches (0)



## Sign in

Username

Password

**Sign in**

[Forgot password?](#)  
[Don't have an account?](#)

Sign in via your Institution

Sign in with your library card

**Sign in**

## Related Content

### RELATED OVERVIEWS

Giulio Cesare Vanini (1585—1619)

Montaigne (1533—1592) French essayist

atheism

Marin Mersenne (1588—1648)

**See all related overviews in Oxford Reference »**

### MORE LIKE THIS

Show all results sharing this subject:

Literature

**GO**

## OVERVIEW

# libertins

### QUICK REFERENCE

Term used to describe groups of thinkers of atheist tendencies, from the late 16th to the 17th century in France. Influences included Cardano, Bruno, Campanella, and in France itself Montaigne. The term could cover the dissipated and hedonistic way of life supposedly indulged in by those who throw off the shackles of religion, or the scholarly and dispassionate interest in the new science shown by philosophers such as Gassendi and Mersenne (so-called *libertinage érudite*).

**From:** [libertins](#) in [The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy](#) »

**Subjects:** [Literature](#)

## Related content in Oxford Reference

### Reference entries

[libertins](#)

in [The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy](#) (2 rev)

Length: 75 words

[Libertins](#)

in [The New Oxford Companion to Literature in French](#)

Length: 976 words

[Libertines](#)

in [The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Reformation](#)

Length: 699 words

[Libertines and Libertinism](#)

in [The Oxford Companion to Italian Literature](#)

Length: 538 words

[View all reference entries »](#)

[View all related items in Oxford Reference »](#)

[Search for: 'libertins' in Oxford Reference »](#)