



## Fontenelle's *Histoire des Ajaoïens*, a radical, subversive, and secret fable

Publication type: Journal article

Journal: [La Lettre clandestine](#)  
2020, n° 28. [Pensées secrètes des académiciens. Fontenelle et ses confrères](#)

Author: Poulouin (Claudine)

Abstract: Borrowing its narrative models from utopian literature, the *Histoire des Ajaoïens* is generally read as an example of this genre from the 1680s. However, a study of its sources suggests a later date of composition and a different intention. The problem then becomes one of cultural reform and a form of state administration based on reason alone, and referring to Nature alone, led by a non-hereditary moral and intellectual elite capable of exercising control beyond any logic of domination.

Pages: 285 to 297

Journal: [The Clandestine Letter](#)

CLIL theme: 3129 -- SCIENCES HUMAINES ET SOCIALES, LETTRES -- Philosophie -- Philosophie moderne

EAN: 9782406106517

ISBN: 978-2-406-10651-7

ISSN: 2271-720X

DOI: 10.15122/isbn.978-2-406-10651-7.p.0285

Publisher: Classiques Garnier

Online publication: 05-27-2020

Periodicity: Annual

Language: French

Keyword: Fontenelle, Histoire des Ajaoiens, utopia, politics, Academies

[Display online](#)