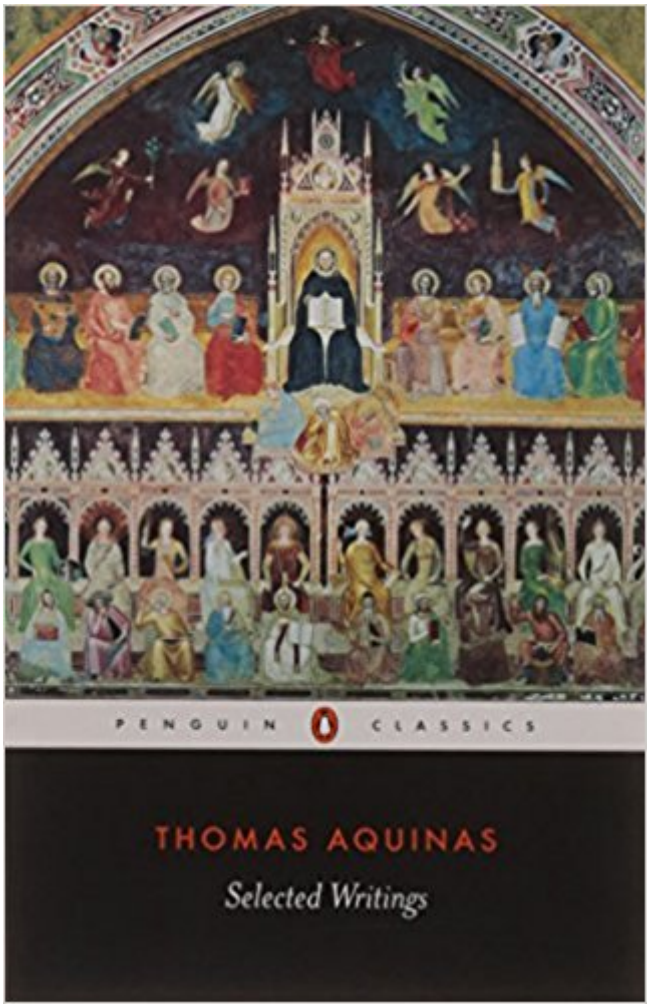
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Thomas Aquinas: Selected Writings (Penguin Classics)



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Synopsis

In his reflections on Christianity, Saint Thomas Aquinas forged a unique synthesis of ancient philosophy and medieval theology. Preoccupied with the relationship between faith and reason, he was influenced both by Aristotle's rational world view and by the powerful belief that wisdom and truth can ultimately only be reached through divine revelation. Thomas's writings, which contain highly influential statements of fundamental Christian doctrine, as well as observations on topics as diverse as political science, anti-Semitism and heresy, demonstrate the great range of his intellect and place him firmly among the greatest medieval philosophers.For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700Ã Â titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust theÃ Â series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-dateÃ Â translations by award-winning translators.

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Customer Reviews

"There are readers of Aquinas's works, but Penguin's surpasses all by its sheer size, the very representative choice of texts, the excellent translations, and scholarly, informative introductions." —Albert E. Gunn

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Latin

I bought this book as a gift for my son. He is a scholar and enjoys reading about theological matters. He highly recommends the book to others.

Excellent!

If you like Saint Thomas and you want to see Scholasticism at work in a great mind, read this book.

This anthology is the epitome of what such a book should be, ie. a complete presentation of Aquinas' ideas through the progression of his life. For example, these works are selected chronologically from St Thomas Aquinas' days as a student (1245 AD) on through his becoming Master at Paris until his passing into eternal beatitude (1274 AD). So, essentially, the reader is learning Aquinas phase-by-phase virtually in the manor he himself was instructed and also instructed. That is why, all introductions to St Thomas Aquinas begin and end here: inside this book the entire scope of his intellectual and spiritual developement are vested. True, there are complete editions of many of Aquinas' major works, such as the Dominican edition of the Summae Theologica (5 vols) and the Summa Contra Gentes (5 vols, UND press); and these are absolutely necessary to own. But if someone inquires where to begin, the answer is right here. In addition to these selections, the intros to the texts and the biographical glossary add a further curve to the learning experience.

Ralph McInerny's edition of St. Thomas Aquinas' thought is a good introduction for anyone who is interesting in one of the great Catholic and Christian thinkers. Mr. McInerny has good comments on Aquinas'life and intellectual foundations. These selections provide good coverage of Aquinas' views on several important issues such as the nature of God and the nature of Man.Some of McInerny's selections of Aguinas' work includes selections from Aquinas' SUMMA THEOLOGICA and his SUMMA CONTRA GENTILES. These selections give the reader a good introduction before one tackles the entire corpus of these works.Another useful feature of McInerny's edition are the selections of Aquinas' views on "ultimate values and questions." For example, Aquinas' view on Man as God's creation is representative of Aquinas' concern for the dignity men. This selection is a good antidote to the arguement of predestination. In fact, based on McInerny's selection, Aquinas thought more of men and gave men more dignity than any 19th or 20th pllitical leader ever has. The mass destruction of people during the 20th century may reminder that Aquinas ideas are

important.One question that Aquinas dealt with was the Nature of God. Aquinas handled this issue with precision and care. McInerny's inclusion of this section is good in that it shows Aquinas as a serious thinker who was not arrogant. In other words, Aquinas never claimed more than he could prove,and he was honest enough to admit this.For those who are devout Catholics, McIreney included a sermon Aquinas delivered a thoughtful sermon on the Ava Maria and the status of the Virgin Mary. Aquinas justifies the Catholic belief and devotion to St. Mary based on his careful knowledge of the Bible. Aquinas informs the reader the saluation given to St. Mary is the most dignified in the Bible. For those who are not Catholic, this reviewer's comments to convince interested readers, but those who are not Catholic can learn why the status of St. Mary (Notre Dame or Our Lady) is so important to Catholicism.McInerney has other selections of Free Will or choice, the nature of good vs. evil, the Sacraments, etc. McIrenery's use of these materials and Aquinas' work on these topics well defines Catholic beliefs and gives a rational bassis for them.Bascially, McInerny edited a good introducion to Aquinas' thinking which is a welcome relief in "an age of cheap religion and thin philosophy." Readers would also do well to read Mr. Hunter's review which is very good. A good companion volume is G.K. Chesterton's book re St. Thomas Aquinas. Catholics and non-Catholics can benefit from McInerny's anthology to have a better understanding of Catholicism and Christianity. This book gives good reasons which may replace blind faith.

Some translations are a bit wonky, but a good text to use when teaching an overview Medieval Philosophy class.

Aquinas can be a hard read for some people but just take your time if that's the case because Aquinas deserves his rightful place in your library.

Every time I read Thomas' works, I am amazed by the wisdom. It seems that nothing is too complex for him to explain succinctly.

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