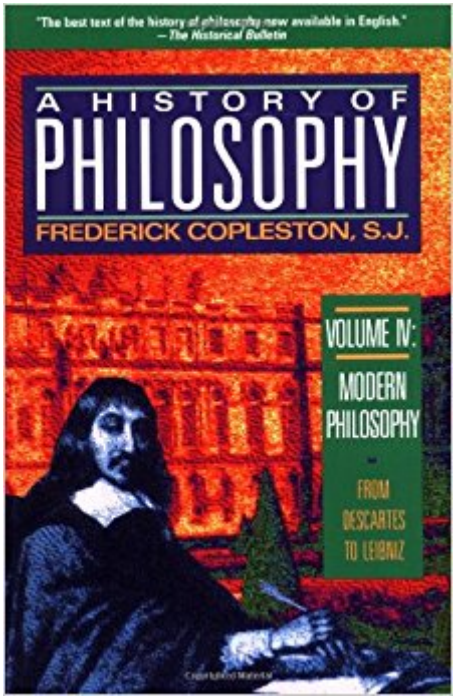
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Modern Philosophy: From Descartes To Leibnitz (A History Of Philosophy, Vol. 4)



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Synopsis

Conceived originally as a serious presentation of the development of philosophy for Catholic seminary students, Frederick Copleston’s nine-volume A History Of Philosophy has journeyed far beyond the modest purpose ofÃ Â Ã Â its author to universal acclaimas the best history of philosophy in English.Copleston, an Oxford Jesuit of immense erudition who once tangled with A.J. Ayer in a fabled debate about the existence of God and the possibility of metaphysics, knew that seminary students were fed a woefully inadequate diet of theses and proofs, and that their familiarity with most of history’s great thinkers was reduced to simplistic caricatures.Ã Â Ã Â Copleston set out to redress the wrong by writing a complete history of Western philosophy, one crackling with incident and intellectual excitement - and one that gives full place to each thinker, presenting his thought in a beautifully rounded manner and showing his links to those who came after him.

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Customer Reviews

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Volume I of this series covers the pre-Christian philosophies of Greece and Rome, while Volumes II and III are devoted to Medieval and Scholastic philosophers. (I have, for the moment, jumped over those last two).Volumes IV, V, and VI cover "modern" philosophy from Descartes through Kant, and this volume (Volume IV) has a special treat at the beginning. There is a fascinating, well-written introduction which is actually an introduction to Volumes IV, V, and VI --- and is therefore a brilliant 62-page essay on everything from Descartes to Kant. Naturally, it’s a bird’s-eye overview, but it is the first thing I have ever read which actually made me feel I understood Kant! (When in college, I made a serious blunder and just went and bought "The Critique of Pure Reason" and sat down and tried to read it! :-) 30 pages later, I abandoned my foolish task with a bad headache!)Volume IV covers Descartes, Pascal, Spinoza, and Leibniz. As usual, the discussion and illustrations are excellent.

The printing of the book itself ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • the actual ink/toner onto paper ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â • seemed unprofessional. And not that easy to read. As if it was a sub-par run through the presses.

The work done with Spinoza and Leibniz in this book is so unique and powerful. The Descartes chapters might seem daunting but the Spinoza and Leibniz chapters are told in a very insightful way. Copleston was a very interesting human being.

Copleston is linear and concise in his evaluation of history’s great minds. The insights Copleston offers clarify ideas, positions, and their implications in a relatively simple manner. A great read by an intellectual juggernaut.

love it

Received the book in good condition

This book is a fantastic compilation of philosophical writings covering many areas of specialty within philosophy as a whole. A must have for any student of philosophy and all lovers of wisdom.

Complete and very interesting, as always

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