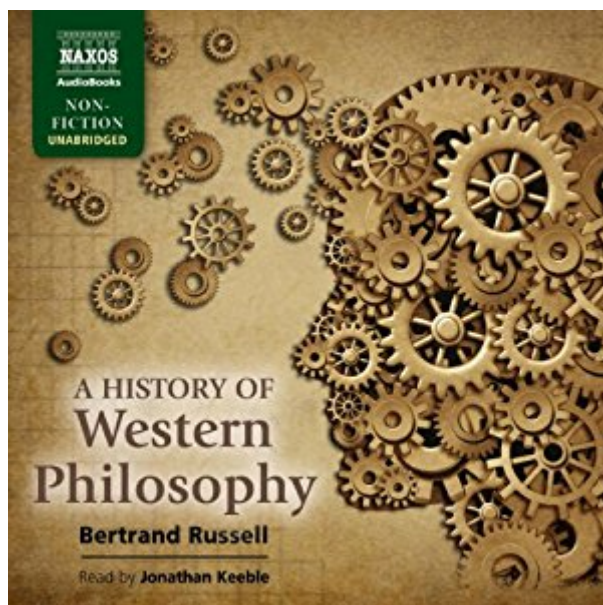


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A History Of Western Philosophy



Synopsis

Bertrand Russell's *A History of Western Philosophy* serves as the perfect introduction to its subject; it remains unchallenged as the greatest account of the history of Western thought. Charting philosophy's course from the pre-Socratics up to the early twentieth century, Russell relates each philosopher and school to their respective historical and cultural contexts, providing erudite commentary throughout his invaluable survey. This engaging and comprehensive work has done much to educate and inform generations of general readers; it is written in accessible and elegantly crafted prose and allows for an easy grasp of complex ideas.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bertrand Russell has been a hero of mine for as long as I can remember. My father and my best friend refused to believe his history with T. S. Elliot and his wife, but I feel this has no place in judging a man of Russell's quality. Unfortunately he only mentions A. N. Whitehead but as he states not everyone can be covered. Russell does a good job keeping his personal prejudices from his history. My review is of the audio rendition but I have read the text before eyesight made that impossible. I should say here how much I appreciate this and other works being presented in an audio form. There is a problem with this in our not having access to index. This book is well worth buying either in text or audio. It is good to remember this was written when Britain was under attack by Hitler.

This book is about philosophers (some of them) and philosophies. Russell, in a clear and concise

style, exposes the ideas and the social context of the most important philosophers in the Western world until Dewey. The philosophers' main arguments are examined and criticized. Russell gives his thoughts about the main questions and presents the alternatives one may have when studying the distinct systems of thought conceived by different men in diverse epochs. An amazing work about philosophy.

Feel like I'm unworthy to review the great Bertrand Russell. I will say this everything I study or read from his great works opens a door in my search for more knowledge. He makes me explore. Great book my third time through it and refreshing everytime.

An excellent book. It goes through history giving a clear and entertaining presentation of the main philosophers. It has a bias towards the English approach, quite far from the continental, so it proves the advice that the best way to approach the history of philosophy is to read two books in parallel. This is a perfect complement to the history by Julian Marias, the Spanish philosopher. He is more oriented towards metaphysics, while Russell is more prone to a scientific attitude and to analyze things from a perspective of a theory of knowledge.

Philosophy and a bit of history provide a stimulating experience for me that I will remember. The depth of the topics is mostly appropriate. The reward for me was learning the history of why the philosophies were developed.

This brief summary of Western philosophy from the pre-Socratic philosophers to the early 20th century was cited as one of the books that won Russell the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1950. A dazzlingly ambitious project, it remains unchallenged to this day as the ultimate introduction to Western philosophy. Providing a sophisticated overview of the ideas that have perplexed people from time immemorial, it is 'long on wit, intelligence and curmudgeonly scepticism', as the New York Times noted, and it is this, coupled with the sheer brilliance of its scholarship, that has made Russell's History of Western Philosophy one of the most important philosophical works of all time.

A classic. Clearly written. Unsurpassed.

It's more than a history. It's Russell's take on the philosophers and their influence on subsequent philosophy and science. The fact that he was an atheist colors his views of what is good and what is

bad in this history. The book may be moderately challenging for the general reader. I found his writing on form vs. substance rewarding (in his "Aristotle"). I long thought my understanding of it lacked something. It is important to understand the view from the standpoint of anything previous to the late 19th or early 20th centuries. A statue (substance + form) is said to have form conferred upon it by the artist. I knew that I couldn't quite visualize this in the soul to man connection. In "Aristotle" I found that in man and animals the soul is what creates form (sort of like DNA). This was before the notion of organic form. Aristotle invoked a god-creator, involving the human soul (not eternal) as the formative principle of the body and its life. A part of the soul, reason, was eternal--but Russell sees this as a non-personal continuation, a sort of merging with god.

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