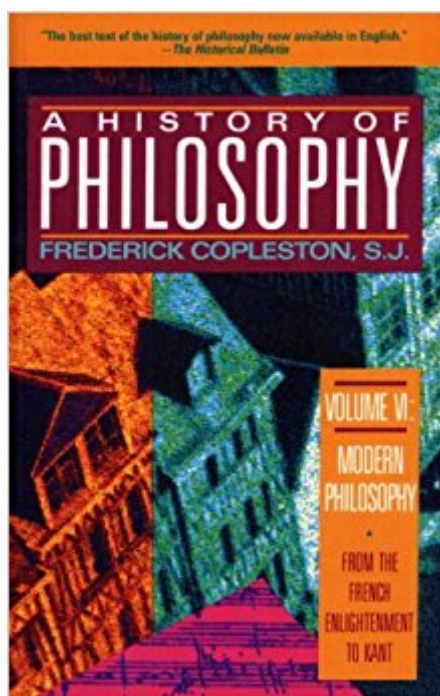


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History Of Philosophy, Vol. 6: From The French Enlightenment To Kant (Modern Philosophy)



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 of its author to universal acclaim as 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. Copleston sets 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 went before and to those who came after them.

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Customer Reviews

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I would echo the thoughts of "meadowreader:" this volume is mostly about Kant, who is considered one of the most difficult of all philosophers. The contents of Volume VI include an overview of the French Enlightenment, two chapters on the madman Rousseau, an overview of the German Enlightenment, and then on to pp. 182-392, which are devoted to Immanuel Kant. With each new volume, my admiration for the stunning achievement of Father Copleston increases. He makes it possible to at least somewhat enjoy and understand the individual philosophers as individuals, but it also becomes clearer and clearer that the serious student needs to go back to page 1 of volume 1 and begin reading with full attention, probably taking notes along the way! However, this volume by itself is a real treat for unfortunates like myself who have never understood what Kant was up to. At the very least, in simplistic terms, Kant was trying to reconcile the obvious facts about the universe uncovered by Newton with the dogmatic "we-can-know-nothing-about-the-world" attitude of David Hume. Clearly, Kant thought, Hume had missed the trail somewhere: the burning question was "Where?" So the intellectual detective story continues!

Fr. Frederick Copleston's multivolume work, A History of Philosophy, is required reading for anyone wanting to hear a full description of a philosopher's system of thought. Though written for

seminarians the opus is highly regarded by many for its comprehensive synthesis. The fact that his work is in print, still, offers its own validation. Sometimes the work seems too wordy as Fr. Copleston describes in great detail what may be considered by some a less important topic in a system of thought; however, this is what gives Copleston's work its great value - nothing is left out of the discussion.

love it

This book was recommended by a professor of mine. It is a great overview of philosophy during the French Enlightenment through Kant. Very happy I purchased it!

Great insight on the period. Found this to be a very helpful companion to Western Civilization coursework

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.

great

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