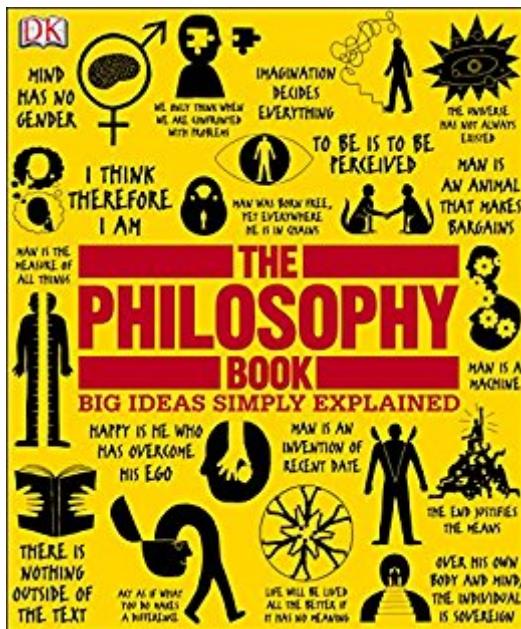


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The Philosophy Book (Big Ideas Simply Explained)



Synopsis

The Philosophy Book explains more than one hundred of the greatest ideas in philosophy through clear, succinct text and easy-to-follow graphics. Using straightforward graphics and artworks, as well as thoroughly accessible text that elucidates more than two thousand years of philosophical thought, The Philosophy Book makes abstract concepts concrete. From moral ethics to the philosophies of religions, The Philosophy Book sheds a light on the famous ideas and thinkers from the ancient world through the present day. Including theories from Pythagoras to Voltaire and Mary Wollstonecraft to Noam Chomsky, The Philosophy Book offers anyone with an interest in philosophy an essential resource to the great philosophers and the views that have shaped our society.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is an outstanding book, and one the likes of which I have not previous encountered. I would described the function of the book as: a superficial introduction to the whole history of philosophy, chronologically looking at philosophers and their most important idea, and noting their most influential works. (note: I don't mean "superficial," of course, in a derogatory sense, but in the sense of "survey.") As far as this function is concerned, I have found no better book. The book is well

written, very beautifully laid out and formatted, and the presentation cannot be beat. I enjoy Eyewitness books, but this is something a little different, and quite special. Let me explain why. What I like about the presentation is that there is a biographical text on the more influential philosophers (the more important philosophers get two pages to themselves, very important getting 4 pages, and the most important getting 6; the lesser philosophers receive one page to themselves), and the biography is separate from the presentation of their ideas. The ideas are explained in plain English, and the key technical terms are given appropriate treatment in the discussion; there is no confusion about what Derrida's "difference" means, for example. I also think that the philosophers are appropriately afforded the correct number of pages. For example, Kant's influence being virtually unparalleled, he received 6 pages in the book, while Richard Wollheim received one. The entries that allocate two pages receive additional modes of presentation, such as flow diagrams describing the reasoning of a major idea, making everything explicitly clear.

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