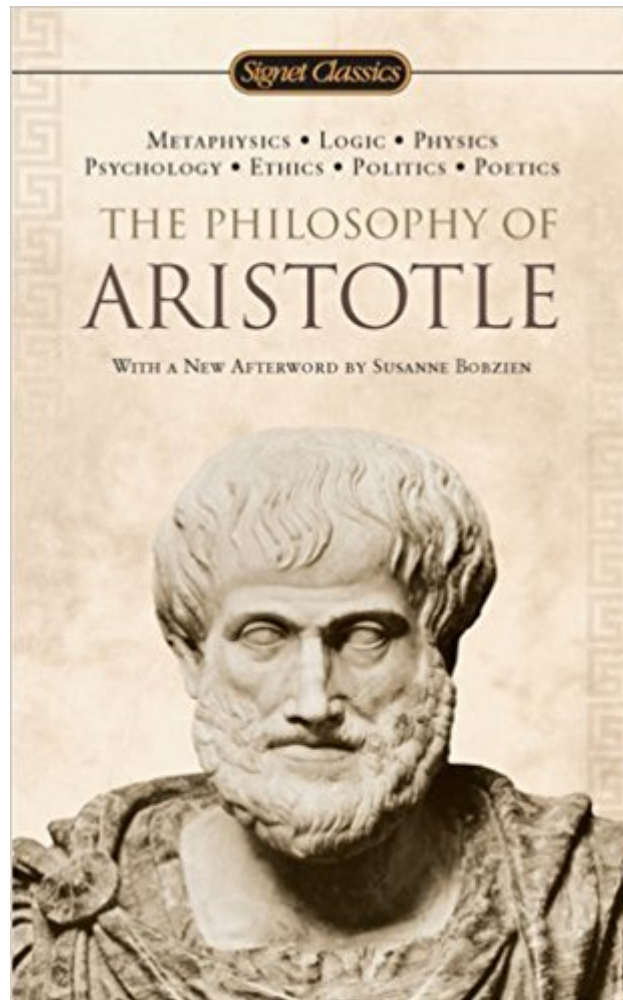




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The Philosophy Of Aristotle (Signet Classics)



Synopsis

More than two thousand years ago, Aristotle established unique standards of philosophic inquiry, observation, and judgment. This book offers a contemporary reevaluation of the philosophy of the master of Western thought, and shows his vital, continuing influence in our modern world.

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Customer Reviews

Aristotle was born at Stageira, in the dominion of the kings of Macedonia, in 384 BC. For twenty years he studied at Athens in the Academy of Plato, on whose death in 347 he left, and, some time later, became tutor of the young Alexander the Great. When Alexander succeeded to the throne of Macedonia in 335, Aristotle returned to Athens and established his school and research institute, the Lyceum, to which his great erudition attracted a large number of scholars. After Alexander's death in 323, anti-Macedonian feeling drove Aristotle out of Athens, and he fled to Chalcis in Euboea, where he died in 322. His writings, which were of extraordinary range, profoundly affected the whole course of ancient and medieval philosophy, and they are still eagerly studied and debated by philosophers today. Very many of them have survived and among the most famous are the Ethics and the Politics.

I have four translations now, of some of Aristotle's work. Two of those are Nicomachean Ethics only (which is included in this translation, but importantly not Books V, VIII, and IX). The two

Nicomachean Ethics translations have translational definitions and footnotes(1) galore. Those notes on how words were translated(2), and footnotes with historical information(3), are helpful(4), but also liable(5), imo, to contain "translator's philosophy", although perhaps unintentionally so. I really can't read past the notes and footnotes without some feeling of guilt that I might be missing something, but when I get into reading them, I find so much "interpretation and opinion and added information" that it seems to dilute and even reduce Aristotle(6). I like Creed and Wardman's translation because I can READ it, without getting distracted by a lot of extraneous "thoughts". I've never translated anything, and I'm not an authority by any means, but I find I can read this book and get Aristotle's meaning and also enjoy the experience. There is one particular sentence which I feel these guys picked up and translated correctly, while other translations (all three of them) seem to have completely missed the meaning. The sentence is: "Good, then, would be used in two senses: good as an end in itself, and good as a means." Given that Aristotle spent considerable time discussing artisanship as well as distinguishing between activities which are steps towards a specific final product and not the end product in itself, that immediately clarified for me that the saying "the ends justify the means" is an extremely shallow little piece of driftwood philosophy which has very probably been used to justify a lot of bad work. I'm paying the big bucks to read Aristotle, not the translator. This translation is very good (as a means to achieving that end). When I want more detail, THEN I'll look at the books with the notes and footnotes and glossaries (and the translator's thoughts)._____ (1) Generally used to denote small print and commentary on the text. It is found at the bottom of the page, as feet are found at the lower extremities of a standing or sitting body, and thus the term "footnote". (2) Aristotle wrote in Greek, so the original text must be translated into English and various other languages worldwide, to facilitate understanding by those who do not read Ancient Greek. Many find this very useful. (3) E.g. Aristotle, it is accepted, was Plato's student. Plato was, in turn, Socrates' student. Other historical data have been debated to some extent, particularly in modern times, in which one also finds debate concerning an alleged relationship between Jesus and Mary Magdalene. (4) There are books written as study guides to Aristotle, and this is an example of the usage of the word "helpful", in this context. Other uses of the word "helpful" may apply variously, and the word did exist in basic Ancient Greek vocabulary. (5) not in a modern legal sense. (6) Aristotle is the guy who wrote Nicomachean Ethics, originally.

Nice book.

Good service. Nice little introductory anthology of Aristotle's theses.

Outstanding Resource as to the influence of Greek Thinking in the Development of Western Civilization

Great! Fast delivery! Good Quality!

Don't order this book unless you are a philosophy major it is very deep and can be confusing at times. Aristotle can be very hard to understand he is the father of philosophy and his musings tend to be complex. If you want to read a great book read man's meaning in life by Victor Frankl. I am not sure that the translation for this book is the best I've seen.

There are many reasons why this little book is worth more than its weight in gold. The editor has done the most admirable job in selecting the best translations and in including appropriate excerpts from Aristotle's voluminous work. The brief editorial introductions to each of the great philosopher's "books" are gems of historical and interpretive insight and in themselves well worth the purchase. The flowing and flawless English of these brilliant translations make reading it irresistible while remaining sensitive to material where, as Aristotle himself said, language and reality are inseparable. The material itself is, of course, unsurpassed. Aristotle is simply the most admired mind to have ever appeared on this Earth. If you have not experienced Aristotle and if you are willing to make the effort to understand some difficult concepts, you will be rewarded with the most important and fundamental knowledge through this book. Then your life will never be the same again.

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