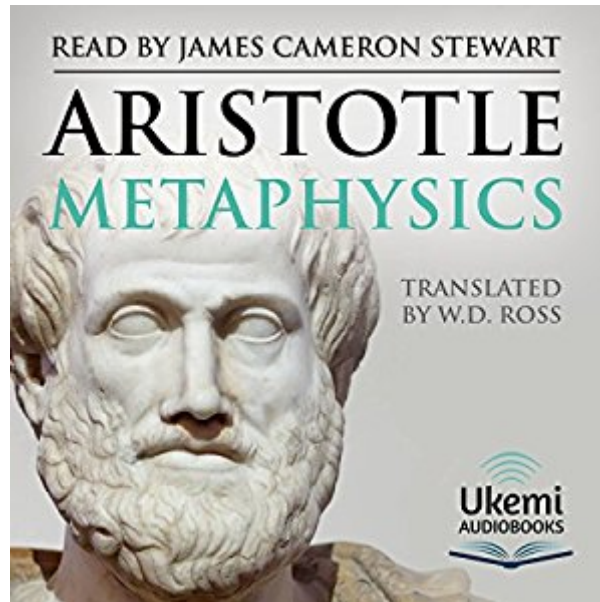




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# Metaphysics



## Synopsis

Aristotle's *Metaphysics* was the first major study of the subject of metaphysics - in other words, an inquiry into 'first philosophy', or 'wisdom'. It differs from *Physics*, which is concerned with the natural world: things which are subject to the laws of nature, things that move and change, are measurable. In *Metaphysics*, the study falls on 'being qua being' - being insofar as it is being; the causes and principles of being, the causes and principles of substances. Aristotle asks, what is existence? How can things continue to exist yet change, and how can we best understand the world we live in? The work as it has come down to us is a compilation of Aristotle's writing on the subject made in Alexandria in the first century CE, and it proved enormously influential from the Greeks onward, through the medieval and Renaissance periods. In *Metaphysics*, Aristotle absorbed Plato's view that nature is eternal and unchangeable while accepting that we live in a world that appears full of change. A challenging work, *Metaphysics* is divided into 14 books. It begins with the causes of things and questions the existence of God, the understanding of 'being' and the concept of 'substance'. It proceeds to consider 'actuality', 'potentiality' and 'unity'. This first recording, using the clear translation by W. D. Ross, is presented in a measured and comprehensible manner by James Cameron Stewart.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Well, here's how the KINDLE version, not necessarily the paper or other versions, reads at one point: "It was, of course, flagrantly at odds with any kind of Platonism, and so far as we can tell most philosophers tended to orientate themselves very clearly towards one or other of these..." See the

"one or other of these" at the end? What does it mean, along with the other similar errors, some pointed out by other reviewers? That whoever is in charge of these books just couldn't care less, let the quality of the thing (on Kindle) just wander without control, not the slightest editorial review will be exercised, not the lightest spell check is allowed, presumably because somehow that gets in the way of, I guess, making money.

A great work which is well worth reading. In college I thought Aristotle spent too much time in correcting or discrediting other teachers; I now appreciate his detailed process of building his point of view in every angle of review.

I preface my remarks with two disclaimers. (1) I would not presume to "review" Aristotle, but I can superficially review this edition. (2) I do not know Greek. I recommend buying this book, but not as your main text of the "Metaphysics". For your main text of the "Metaphysics", I recommend the 1924 translation by W.D. Ross, which is not in print, but you can find it used. The "Metaphysics" is famously difficult. I found the Ross translation clearer and more comprehensible than that of Tancred-Lawson (T-L). I was about one-third of the way through the T-L translation when I had to give up. But it was through the T-L bibliography that I found the Ross translation, so if that was all the T-L did for me, it would have been enough. I also did not quite like the tone and style of this translation. I found it too informal and colloquial for my tastes. It is quite interesting in that respect, but in the end it feels stylistically wrong. But the T-L is still well worth buying. The various introductory and textual essays are excellent and very well worth reading. T-L's alternative translation is good to have as a backup. Sometimes when it is Ross that is obscure, T-L can clarify the matter. One warning is that you had better read the "Physics" before you read this, or it will not make any sense to you at all. Summary: At this price, the book is highly recommended as your backup translation of, and general companion to, the "Metaphysics."

bear bones but, with subject matter such as this, it's all I need.

Great translation: no introduction (because it doesn't need one); incredible "Analytic" glossary with the Greek, Latin, and multiple English uses of the word, marked in-text; and an overall nice vintage book that is all about the text of the Metaphysics w/ no gimmicks or nonsense fluff.

I bought this, but will toss it in the trash as soon as I find a better translation. Billed as a "new"

translation, here is a sample: "But science and art result unto men by means of experience; for experience, indeed, as Polus saith, has produced art, but inexperience chance." "unto" "saith"??? does that sound like a new translation to you? If it really is new, the translator can't write worth beans. Aristotle is transcendently clear, not muddy. The Modern Library Introduction to Aristotle has a much better translation, but only reprints excerpts. I'm still looking for an good edition that is both affordable and complete.

world of knowledge

Aristotle's examination of the world around him, for his day, was impressive to say the least. This book gave me a fuller grasp of the ideas put forward by Aristotle which were hailed as the true nature of reality for more than a millennium. I won't say this book is easy, it can be tedious at times trying to get the full argument being put forward. Overall i'd have to say this book is a must read for anyone remotely interested in philosophy.

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