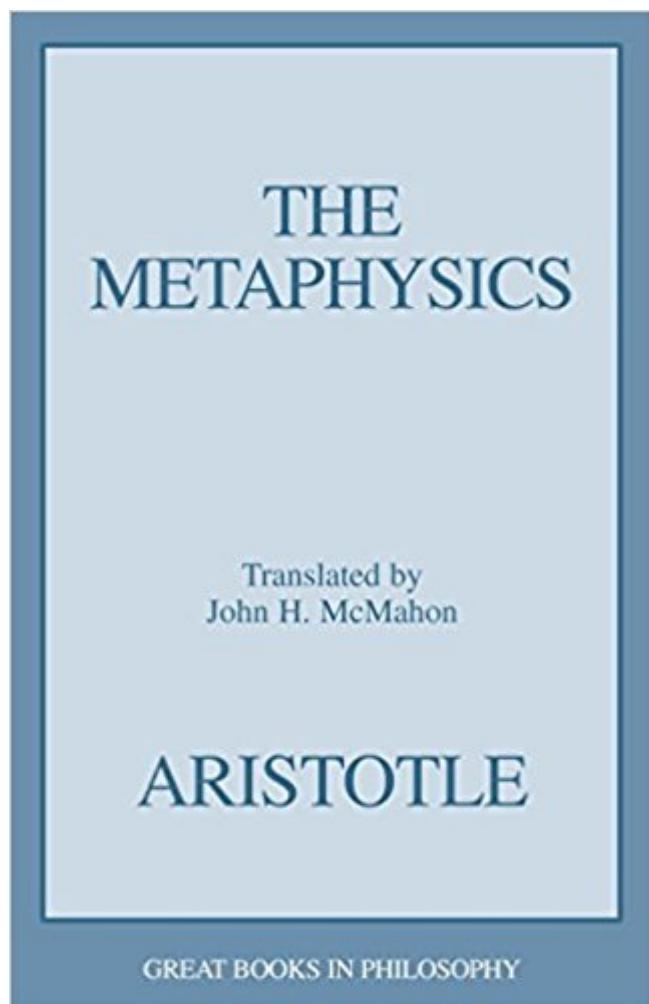


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The Metaphysics (Great Books In Philosophy)



Synopsis

Metaphysics is the study of existence at the highest level of generality. It is traditionally characterised as the study of "being qua being" - of being in general rather than specifically of this or that sort. Accordingly, the salient task of the field is to achieve a clearer understanding of the concepts and principles of being, existence, and reality. As such, metaphysics has been an established sector of philosophy since the time of Aristotle's initial systematisation of the subject in the fourth century B.C.E. In line with tradition, distinguished philosopher Nicholas Rescher presents key topics that have always figured on the agenda of metaphysics: the nature and rationale of existence, the differentiation of what is actual from the unreal and mere possibility, and the prospects and limits of our knowledge of the real. Though a work of philosophical sophistication and logical rigour, "Metaphysics" displays a clarity of exposition that makes it suitable for use as a text or supplementary reader in upper-class undergraduate and graduate philosophy courses.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Greek

ARISTOTLE was born in the northern Greek town of Stagira in 384 B.C.E., where his father was the personal physician to the great-grandfather of Alexander the Great. At the age of eighteen Aristotle entered Plato's Academy and soon became recognized as its most important student.

He remained under Plato's tutelage for nearly twenty years. After his teacher's death in 347 B.C.E., Aristotle cultivated associations with other Academy students throughout Greece and Asia Minor. Then in 342 B.C.E., Aristotle was asked by King Philip II of Macedonia to become the tutor for his young son Alexander, who was later to become the conqueror of much of the known world at that time. The young prince remained under Aristotle's supervision until 336 B.C.E., when he acceded to the throne after his father's death. Two years later Aristotle returned to Athens and founded his own school, which he called the Lyceum. This intellectual center flourished during the years when Alexander the Great ruled Greece as part of his large empire. But upon Alexander's death in 323 B.C.E., Aristotle was charged with impiety by Athenians who resented his associations with the Macedonian conqueror. Rather than risk the same fate as Plato's mentor, Socrates, Aristotle fled to the city of Chalcis, where he died in 322 B.C.E. Aristotle's interests, like those of Plato, were diverse and his writing cast its shadow on many fields, including logic, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, politics, and the sciences. Among his most well-known works are: *The Categories*, *The Prior and Posterior Analytics*, *The Physics*, *The Metaphysics*, *De Anima*, *The Nicomachean Ethics*, and *The Politics*.

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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