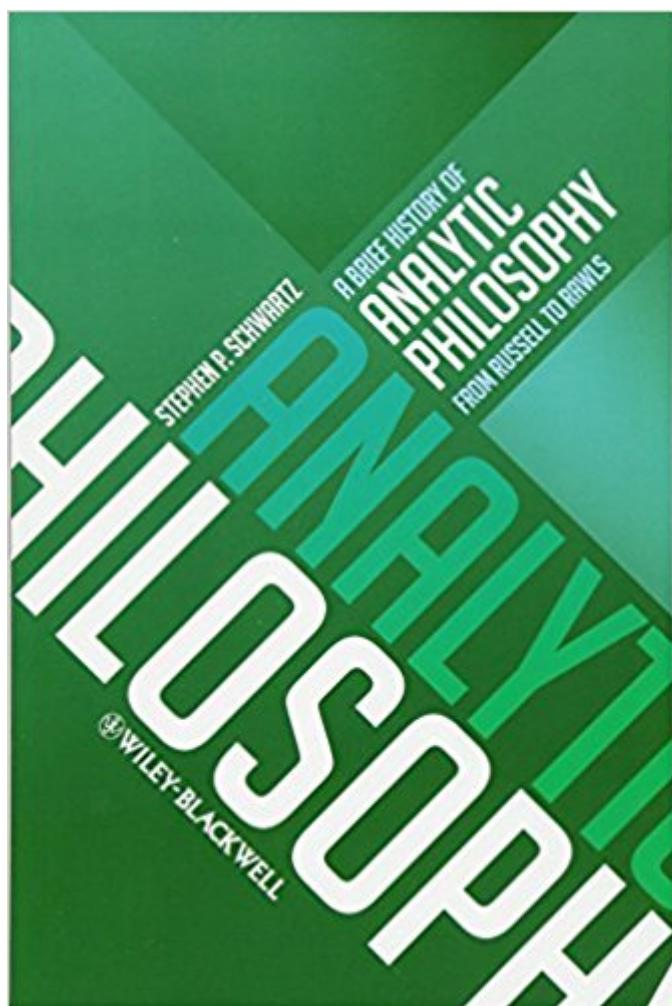


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A Brief History Of Analytic Philosophy: From Russell To Rawls



Synopsis

A Brief History of Analytic Philosophy: From Russell to Rawls presents a comprehensive overview of the historical development of all major aspects of analytic philosophy, the dominant Anglo-American philosophical tradition in the twentieth century. Features coverage of all the major subject areas and figures in analytic philosophy - including Wittgenstein, Bertrand Russell, G.E. Moore, Gottlob Frege, Carnap, Quine, Davidson, Kripke, Putnam, and many others. Contains explanatory background material to help make clear technical philosophical concepts. Includes listings of suggested further readings. Written in a clear, direct style that presupposes little previous knowledge of philosophy.

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Customer Reviews

“Schwartz’s book is, in my estimation, the most useful introduction to the history of analytic philosophy currently available for a general audience. (Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews, 15 December 2012) “With the caveats above about using it as a classroom text, I heartily recommend Schwartz’s book. (Teaching Philosophy, 1 March 2013) “Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-and upper-level undergraduates. (Choice, 1 December 2012)

Stephen Schwartz’s A Brief History of Analytic Philosophy provides an engaging, non-technical historical introduction to central themes in analytical philosophy, the dominant approach to

philosophical issues in the English-speaking world since the onset of the 20th century.Â Schwartz illuminates topics for novices and specialists alike by tracing their sources to pressing disputes among mathematicians and scientists as well as philosophers. The book, captivating in its own right, will prove especially useful when read alongside targeted original sources. There is nothing else quite like it. John Heil, Washington University in Saint Louis --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is a terrific introduction for students who are new to the subject. It is admirably clear and very well written. I will outline here some of the advantages this book offers for the beginner. 1) It is very much a brief history of the subject. Analytic philosophy has been around for a least 120 years, and like most philosophy its history has been difficult and contentious. The author exhibits great skill in illuminating the most important aspects of analytic philosophy in such a succinct venue. 2) For those with limited exposure to philosophy, at the end of each chapter there are background snippets which explain in simple language some of the important and technical concepts necessary for a full understanding of the text. 3) The breath of the discussions is impressive. It's all here---the logicism of the earliest period of analytic philosophy, insightful discussions of the founders (Frege, Russell, Moore, and Wittgenstein), the Vienna Circle and Logical Positivism, and the post WWII linguistic turn. Crucial later thinkers are also given their due (Quine, Kuhn, Putnam, Rorty). 4) More recent topics are also addressed. Philosophy of mind and philosophy of language, modal logic, ethics and metaethics, just to name a few. Here I may add some of the other giants of philosophy brilliantly analyzed---Lewis, Davidson, Grice, and Kripke. After digesting this wonderful book, you may want to climb the ladder of knowledge further. For those interested in Wittgenstein my highest recommendation goes to P.M.S. Hacker, Wittgenstein's Place in Twentieth Century Analytic Philosophy. And the definitive anthology in the field, huge, comprehensive, and sophisticated, is The Oxford Handbook of the History of Analytic Philosophy, edited by Michael Beaney.

It's a great summary of the history of contemporary philosophy. I certainly appreciated a succinct description of some of the most key philosophers and their ideas, as well as some of the initial movements that led to logical positivism, metaphysics, and the contemporary concepts of language. If looking to jump into philosophy, this would be a great place to start in laying the foundation. It's an easy read. Not as thick and heavy in its concepts. It tries to explain in a clear way, so that your average person can pick it up and understand

Very good and reasonably short.

Excellent intro for a novice.

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