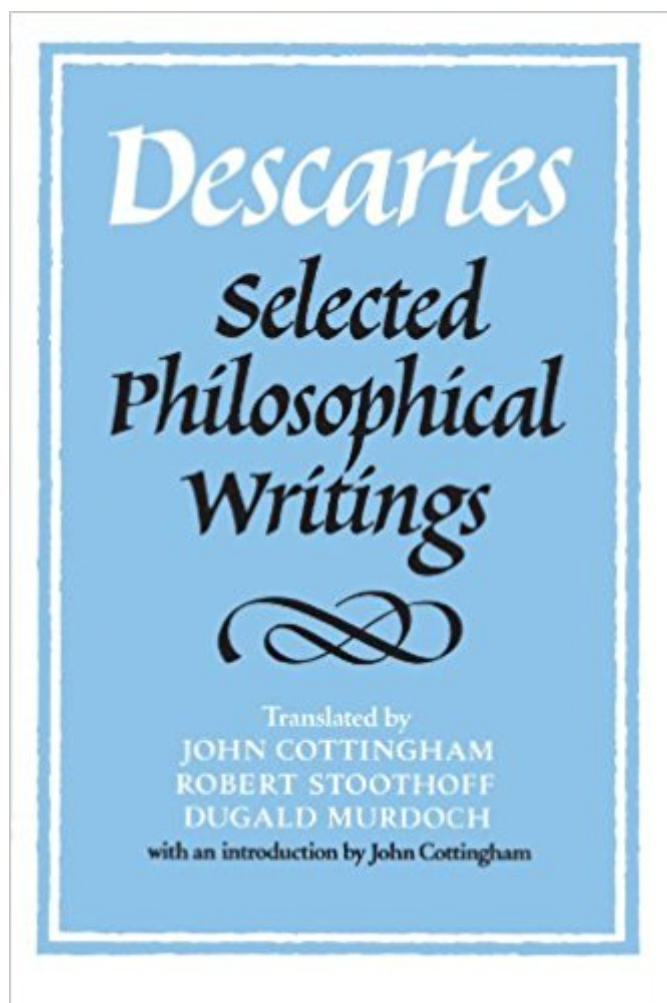


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Descartes: Selected Philosophical Writings



Synopsis

Based on the new and much acclaimed two volume Cambridge edition of The Philosophical Writings of Descartes by Cottingham, Stoothoff, and Murdoch, this anthology of essential texts contains the most important and widely studied of those writings, including the Discourse and Meditations and substantial extracts from the Regulae, Optics, Principles, Objections and Replies, Comments on a Broadsheet, and Passions of the Soul.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'This new translation is designed as a replacement for the old but still widely used translation by Elizabeth Haldane and G. R. T. Ross ... Unlike the Haldane and Ross edition which was translated from a composite text based on both the French and Latin editions, the present translation is made from the Latin text alone, with significant changes in the French edition indicated in the footnotes. This is clearly much more satisfactory. The translation is generally accurate, and is neither excessively free nor excessively literal ... There is little doubt that this will become the standard translation of Descartes' philosophical writings, and it deserves a warm welcome.' French Studies

Text: English, French (translation)

This first volume in a two-volume set contains: (1) Rules for the Direction of our Native Intelligence, (2) Discourse on the Method, (3) Optics, (4) Meditations on First Philosophy (together with Objections and Replies), (5) Principles of Philosophy, (6) Comments on a Certain Broadsheet, and

(7) The Passions of the Soul. The only book missing from this great volume is Descartes' Geometry, but given the breadth and depth of the current volume, such an omission is understandable. The translation is among the very best, with the consistent use of nouns and verbs and direct objects throughout the various texts. The book is accompanied by an excellent index, and an occasional note only when absolutely necessary. The text is allowed to speak for itself, and this it does with aplomb. My only regret is my copy is not printed on acid-free paper, and after a decade is already beginning to age prematurely. This one complaint aside, this volume is both well written and covers Descartes' best ideas. This particular volume belongs in all serious students' and collegiate libraries.

Translation is excellent and readable, with additional footnotes for further elucidation. Descartes is an important person in Western philosophy and cannot be overlooked, whatever you think of his views. This is a great starting point.

I used this book for an intro to philosophy course, but the readings were so good that I had to hold onto it for my own personal library.

It's too hard to actually critique one of the most philosophically important books of all time. While Descartes' views have been discredited over the years as views of philosophy have shifted radically in their paradigms, his work still remains foundational (pun intended). This book's binding is one of the worst I have ever seen though. It literally split as I opened to read it. I don't know what they use for glue but pages were almost falling out during my philosophy class, and I started with a brand new copy. Stay away from this edition if you intend to keep it on your shelf for years.

The best translation for the most important works by Descartes. I highly recommend this if you're looking to study Descartes' works, and you only want a single volume.

Great

Great if you're a philosophy major or are reading this for some nostalgia in Rene DeScartes theory.

Great

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