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Basic Writings Of Nietzsche (Modern Library Classics)



Synopsis

Introduction by Peter Gay Translated and edited by Walter Kaufmann Commentary by Martin Heidegger, Albert Camus, and Gilles Deleuze
One hundred years after his death, Friedrich Nietzsche remains the most influential philosopher of the modern era. Basic Writings of Nietzsche gathers the complete texts of five of Nietzsche's most important works, from his first book to his last: The Birth of Tragedy, Beyond Good and Evil, On the Genealogy of Morals, The Case of Wagner, and Ecce Homo. Edited and translated by the great Nietzsche scholar Walter Kaufmann, this volume also features seventy-five aphorisms, selections from Nietzsche's correspondence, and variants from drafts for Ecce Homo. It is a definitive guide to the full range of Nietzsche's thought.
Includes a Modern Library Reading Group Guide

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Customer Reviews

A good read. Interesting look into his writings and theories. They came from a turbulent time, but aren't they all. Nice looking book on coffee table, bookcase or restroom.

Great collection of the important works which help introduce the reader to Nietzsche. I recommend pairing this with the Viking portable collection. Kaufmann's a great translation with useful/snarky footnotes. It's a beautiful edition and dust jacket as well, if that contributes to your buying decision. The page layout is handy for notetaking if you write in your books or (if like me) you appreciate easy to read layout of print. A great and affordable buy!

Nietzsche was the greatest polemist ever. He played the role of Saint-Michael, the dragon slayer, in his Homeric battle with the existing dragons (the Christian moralists). He tried to revalue all generally accepted 'good and evil' values and really felt that mankind was pregnant with a new super-species, the 'Übermensch'. His influence on philosophy, literature, psychology and politics is immense. Of course, some aspects of his vision on mankind are unacceptable. The all important influence on his Nietzsche's life and philosophy came from Schopenhauer: 'I very earnestly denied my 'will to life' at the time when I first read Schopenhauer.' The life of a Nietzschean immoralist Life is to express one's will to and lust for power. The cardinal instinct of man is not self-preservation, but the discharge of strength. Everything evil, terrible, tyrannical in man, everything that is kin to beasts of prey and serpents serves the enhancement of the species 'man'. This enhancement has always been the work of an aristocratic society. The noble man creates his own morality, his good and bad, with egoism and exploitation as his real nature. He despises the slaves, the unfree, the doglike people who allow themselves to be maltreated. Christian morals, democracy When the aristocratic value judgments declined, the plebeians imposed their own morality of unegoism, pity, self-sacrifice, self-abnegation and ascetic ideals on mankind. The egoistic 'good' of the masters became the 'evil' of the Christian faith. This faith constitutes not less than a sacrifice of all freedom, enslavement and self-mutilation. By preserving all that is sick, it breeds 'a mediocre herd animal'. Democracy, 'the nonsense of the greatest numbers', with its 'equality of rights', is the heir of Christianity. It is a gruesome fact that an anti-life morality received the highest honors and was fixed as a law and a categorical imperative. Art Art is a saving sorceress. She alone knows how to turn the nauseous thoughts about the horrors of life into the sublime and life's absurdity into the comic. Musically speaking, Nietzsche himself was a composer. 'The Case against Wagner' compares the Dionysian opera 'Carmen' by Bizet, with the Christian opera 'Parsifal' by Wagner, the redeemer. Evaluation Besides his unacceptable profound misogyny ('woman's great art is the lie, her highest concern is mere appearance'), Friedrich Nietzsche's brutal evangel is not less than a call for war, not peace. But in an age of nuclear, bio- and chemo-weapons, of veiled State terrorism and of demographic explosions, his call for an uninhibited exploitation of man's basic instincts to fight for

the spoils should be categorically rejected. His romantic anti-rational and anti-scientific stances became pipedreams. On the other hand, his attacks on the power of the moralists, his sincere call to live in 'Dionysian' freedom and not for 'eternal bliss', as well as his vision that art is the only truly metaphysical activity of man, will continue to appeal strongly to many and remain the bright parts of his virulent diatribes. His work is a must read for all philosophers and lovers of truly essential polemics.

Great edition of Nietzsche's works to have in your library. The hardback is well made.

A real intellectual work-out. If you are looking for some light reading - say something for a beach vacation or something to fill time on public transportation or waiting rooms, look elsewhere . . . this is not for you. This is a collection of dense works that present some ideas that are not easy to translate into modern terms, such as the author's ideas on "the will to power," the ideal of "the superman." the discarding of archaic morality by going "Beyond Good and Evil," and "the will to power." The most infamous twister of these ideas, Adolf Hitler, and the most famous work to be inspired by such ideas - "Triumph of the Will" by Leni Riefenstahl (?), are easily identified as offspring of these works. But, if you're up for some mental muscle-building, boost up on your protein and carbs and dive on in.

This is a book to stay on my book shelf for years. I like The books that were contained in here. I like genealogy of Morals , Beyond good and evil and The birth of the tragedy the best. They say that Nietzsche is one of the few philosophers people read for pleasure and i find that true. A good read enough said!

These are the books that I think of first when i think of Nietzsche, and Kaufmann's translations bring them across to my imagination in ways that deepen my respect for a philosopher so often dismissed by people who have not tried him out. I want to commend especially The Birth of Tragedy, a seminal text in psychological literary criticism; Beyond Good and Evil, possibly the most powerful argument for atheism written to date; and The Genealogy of Morals, a shorter book which I teach to Christian college students to show them that atheists have not always been as dull and illiterate as Richard Dawkins. Just those three texts would be worth more than the cost of this volume, but Behold! One also gets a lively translation of Ecce Homo, the great anti-Augustinian self-promotion book! If you enjoy an afternoon of bold thinking, this book is for you, friend.

Only thing missing is the full text of 'Zarathustra', which is about 100 pages too long by itself. This volume, plus the Kaufmann translations of Zarathustra and The Gay Science, is the optimal Nietzsche set for all but the most obsessive scholars.

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