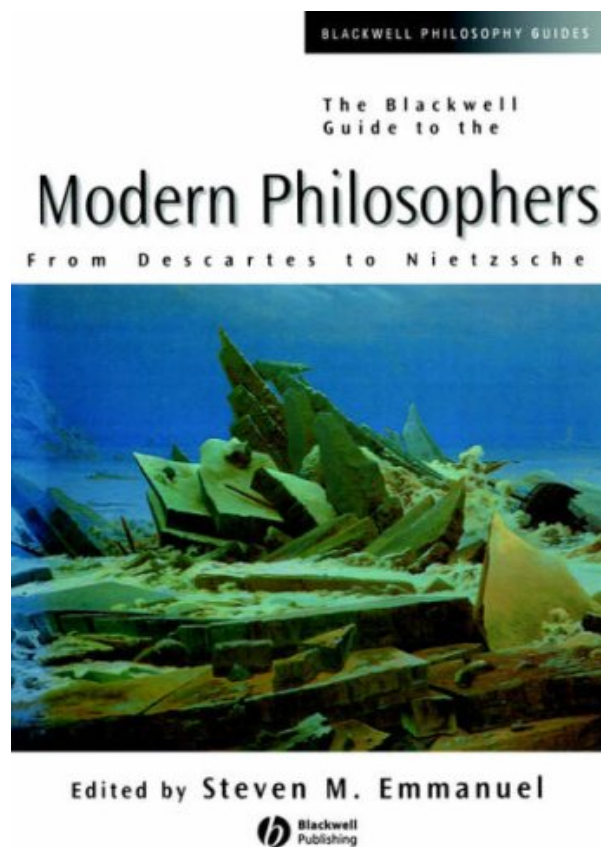


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Guide to the

Modern Philosophers

From Descartes to Nietzsche



Edited by Steven M. Emmanuel



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"Steven Emmanuel has done an impressive job of assembling a distinguished group of authors who give us a very helpful guide to the modern philosophers. With an eye to bringing us 'up to speed' on the more recent scholarship, the contributors provide a timely, readable, and highly worthwhile collection." John Fischer, University of California, Riverside

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A More In Depth Survey of Modern Philosophers

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This guide to modern philosophers is definitely not an introductory text. Although it covers the usual cast of characters - Descartes, Hume, Berkeley, etc - it also gives air time to two philosophers who are rarely discussed in these types of overviews - Malebranche and Reid. Malebranche in particular is often referred to as an influence on other philosophers, but rarely is his thought given much space. The other aspect of this book is that it covers each philosopher at what I would the next step after the introductory level. Therefore readers who are seeking to learn about these thinkers are better off reading a classic introduction than jumping into this work first. At the next level of depth, however, this book provides excellent material over which to ponder each philosophers systems or thinking. For example, with Bentham, the contributor of that essay delves into Bentham's method of "paraphrasis", where he analysis abstract concepts, like legal precepts, for example, to whittle them down to perceptual terms, and in doing so identifying the corresponding pleasure or pain associated with the abstraction. In contrast, the typical survey would only cover Bentham work at the general level of the pleasure/pain dichotomy. If you have taken your fist dip into each modern philosopher's thinking and are ready for more, this book is highly recommended.

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