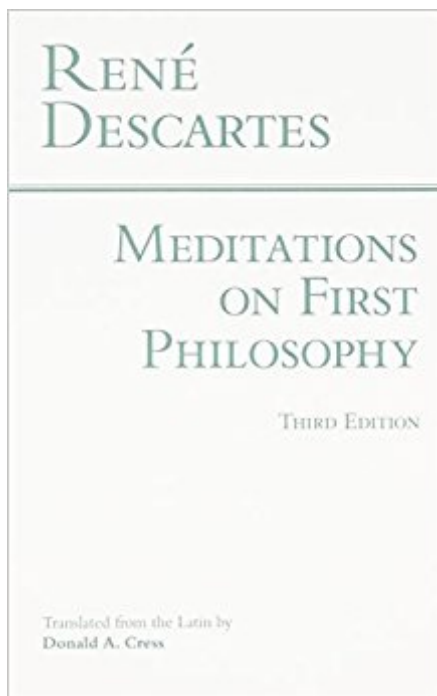


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Meditations On First Philosophy (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

Descartes's Meditations on First Philosophy, the fundamental and originating work of the modern era in Western philosophy, is presented here in Donald Cress's completely revised edition of his well-established translation, bringing this version even closer to Descartes's original, while maintaining its clear and accessible style.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The new version of Cress's translation of Descartes's Meditations has attained an unusually high degree of readability . . . and at the same time, of fidelity to the original.--Roger Ariew, University of South Florida, and Marjorie Grene (1910-2009), Virginia Polytechnic Institute

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Latin

We are 1641, Descartes or "the thinking thing", as he calls himself, is meditating about the existence of a god + telling apart soul and body. Medieval follies apart, the fun here comes from his ingenious methodology building the argument. First, he admits being aware of his ignorance therefore prone to errors. Second, he claims to be able to free his mind from senses and prejudices; also ready to demolish his own opinions given new evidences. Then he goes about defining what information his senses are providing to conclude that, in a senseless mind-set, the idea of god is still with him. In fact, when reading this in 2016, we know humans can't reach

such senseless state but Descartes is still very entertaining.

A book well worth reading for anyone interested in the history of philosophy, but even moreso for those interested in Christian theology. Herein is the basis for most Protestant Christian interpretations of Jesus and the Bible. Descartes provides those who agree with him certainty about a discrete Self that has 'free will,' and a God who 'is not a deceiver' thus rendering our perceptions and rational thought trustworthy. I disagree with him most every step of the way, but it is a fascinating read given its impact on the historical development of philosophy and western religion.

If you pick up this book thinking it exists, take a moment to clear your head of all you know to be true. To truly immerse yourself in this book, you must put aside all you know and take in every word as if it were new knowledge. This book is a great place to start for aspiring students of philosophy.

I think, therefore... What do you think? Why do you think it? You should probably think about that...

Although Descartes may have never adequately answered the questions he proposed, he cracked open the ark of modern being and released phantoms that haunt us still today. You're a fraud if you don't at least face Descartes ideas with some dignity. Get off my lawn.

A school required book for my son.

Excellent!

Very Interesting book to read. Very complex to understand at first, took me a couple times to read to understand but worth it.

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