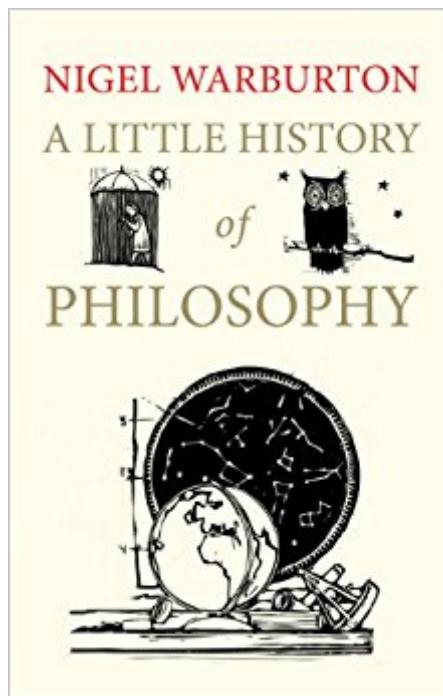


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A Little History Of Philosophy (Little Histories)



Synopsis

Philosophy begins with questions about the nature of reality and how we should live. These were the concerns of Socrates, who spent his days in the ancient Athenian marketplace asking awkward questions, disconcerting the people he met by showing them how little they genuinely understood. This engaging book introduces the great thinkers in Western philosophy and explores their most compelling ideas about the world and how best to live in it. In forty brief chapters, Nigel Warburton guides us on a chronological tour of the major ideas in the history of philosophy. He provides interesting and often quirky stories of the lives and deaths of thought-provoking philosophers from Socrates, who chose to die by hemlock poisoning rather than live on without the freedom to think for himself, to Peter Singer, who asks the disquieting philosophical and ethical questions that haunt our own times. Warburton not only makes philosophy accessible, he offers inspiration to think, argue, reason, and ask in the tradition of Socrates. *A Little History of Philosophy* presents the grand sweep of humanity's search for philosophical understanding and invites all to join in the discussion.

Book Information

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"Survey the entire history of (western) philosophy through short intellectual biographies of 40 philosophers from Socrates to Peter Singer, in as broadly approachable a style as EH Gombrich's *A Little History of the World*. A tall order; that Warburton (of the excellent podcast *Philosophy Bites*) has succeeded so well is a triumph." •Steven Poole, *The Guardian*"Forty short chapters offer an informative, clear guide to forty major Western philosophers. Warburton's casual, conversational style belies the erudition that has gone into his

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Nigel Warburton is a freelance philosopher, bestselling author of many popular introductions to philosophy, and co-host of the much-loved Philosophy Bites podcast. He lives in Oxford, UK.

This must be the best introductory book I could offer students to Western philosophy with, and I have read far too many of them. Warburton manages to grab some of the best insights of great philosophers, and bring them to the bloodflow of any intellectually curious reader outside of the narrow confines of contemporary philosophy. Very easy to read, and this covers quite a bit while managing to include a few people who are often unfortunately left out--especially Schopenhauer. People will nitpick on what is in and out of this, but we do get so much for under 300 pages and less than \$15. I have fallen in love with this little book, and now I have to hurry up and find a way to include it in my classes. The Audible version (I bought both) made for a good road trip, too!

I love this book. It's fascinating... before talking about their ideas, the author shares interesting details about what the philosophers were like as people: how they lived, what inspired them, and sometimes how they thought about each others' work. The narratives are fun and memorable, and really help frame philosophy not as an abstract academic subject but more as a practical effort by real human beings to make sense of the big questions we all wrestle with in life. I hope Nigel Warburton makes more of these books. A Little History of Philosophy offers a friendly overview of some big ideas in Western philosophy, and I'd love to read his take on some of the great Eastern philosophers' lives and ideas.

This is a splendid overview, largely of Western philosophy, with brief glimpses of other schools of thought in passing. To compress the life work of these great thinkers into six or fewer pages inevitably makes for very superficial treatment, yet all the themes are there and the progression of thought over time is coherently assembled and presented. This book would be a fabulous introduction to an inquisitive teenager (I have lent my copy to one) as well as essential background reading for anybody doing European languages, history or indeed philosophy at tertiary level. Great

for starting provocative dinner table discussions within the family! (Does anyone still sit down to dinner with their children nowadays?)

This book provides a concise and illuminating history of philosophy. It is a sort of super Cliff Note, in that its 40 chapters cover 46 philosophers (Kant has two chapters) from Socrates to Peter Singer, and they are linked together over time. My own demographic is that of a retired but still curious civil servant who is still trying to catch up on the great span of my own life and learning. My only philosophy course at Yale was taught by the renowned Professor Rorty, and it was incomprehensible to me at the time. This book clarifies and organizes the course of western philosophy from its beginnings in readable chapters. The author is very articulate and even handed. Every one of these thinkers was controversial in their times, and the author notes and balances their thoughts with competing thoughts and shows how they were linked to each other and to the history of their respective times. I give copies of this book to friends, one of whom remarked that it would help him with his cocktail conversation for all time. This is true, but the book is much better than that!

Hello all, I really enjoyed this book. In the beginning I started with audio only, however it helped me stay focused when I read along. This book gives a chronological recap about many important philosophers. I've been meaning to brush up my knowledge, this was the perfect refresher. I can't wait to explore other books about philosophy.

Wonderfully readable text on philosophy. There are a number of philosophers and concepts that I have previously read about, some several times, and this book definitely did the best job of providing clear concise explanations of complex thinkers/ideas.

Good concise history of great philosopher. Amazingly written in easy to understand complex theory. This book surprisingly is page turner. Definitely deserves 5 star.

This book is clear and gives a brief yet deep understanding about the history of philosophy throughout the century. After reading this book, I know which philosopher has which idea and how the idea of one philosopher connected to other philosopher. This book is illuminating and stimulates our interest to study philosophy even further.

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