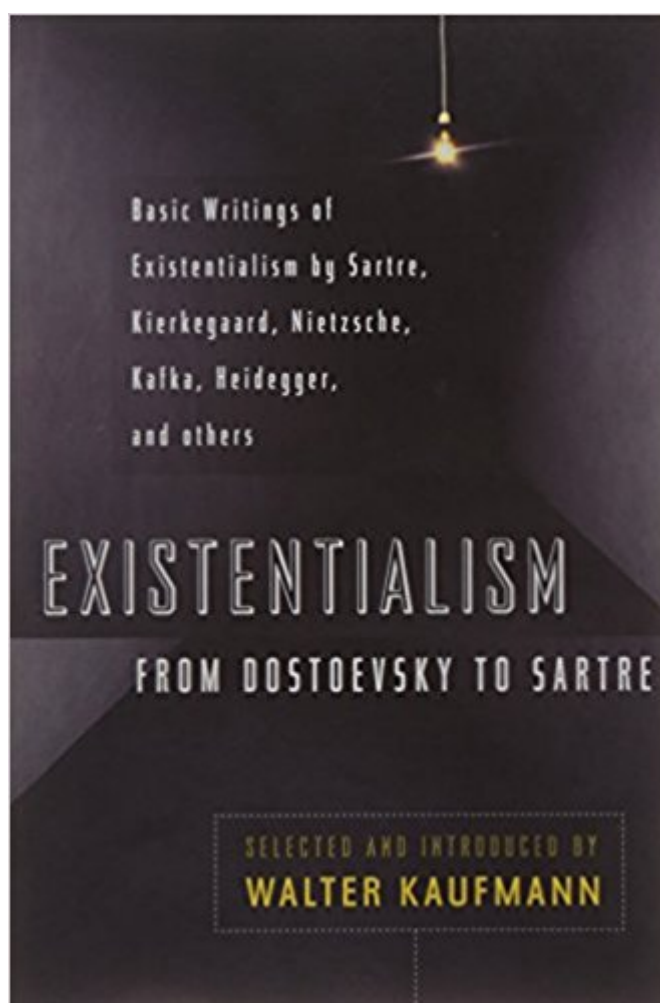


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Existentialism From Dostoevsky To Sartre, Revised And Expanded Edition



Synopsis

This volume provides basic writings of Dostoevsky, Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Rilke, Kafka, Ortega, Jaspers, Heidegger, Sartre, and Camus, including some not previously translated, along with an invaluable introductory essay by Walter Kaufmann.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Walter Kaufmann was a philosopher and poet, as well as a renowned translator of Friedrich Nietzsche. His books include Nietzsche: Philosopher, Psychologist, Antichrist, From Shakespeare to Existentialism, and Existentialism: From Dostoevsky to Sartre. He was a Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University, where he taught after receiving his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1947 until his death in 1980. He held visiting appointments at many American and foreign universities, including Columbia, Cornell, Heidelberg, Jerusalem, and the Australian National University; and his books have been translated into Dutch, German, Italian, Japanese, and Spanish.

This is the book that introduced me to Existentialism in graduate school. It has a great selection of writings, and unlike most books on Existentialism is clear, not turgid. I now think of Existentialism as being a mood rather than a system of thought, and many of these writings are literary not academic, but that is a good thing. I took a graduate seminar on Existentialism from the man who edited this book, Walter Kaufmann. He was acerbic, but a great teacher. His emphasis was not on what philosophers taught, or what arguments they gave for their positions, but what kind of men they

were. He was more concerned that his students embraced challenging, creative, heroic lives, than he was about teaching them how to parse obscure and usually fallacious arguments.

At times it was a struggle to stay focused on the complex ideas presented in this book, but taking the time to understand the content pays big dividends. This is definitely a recommended read for anybody interested in what it means to exist.

Excellent talks about subject

It is through the literature of the well known authors featured in this book that we better understand existentialism, a subject very difficult to comprehend otherwise.

Enjoyed it

Great book, great selections from existentialist philosophers.

Easiest introduction to some difficult and/or prolific existentialist thinkers. The selections with regard to Kierkegaard and Dostoevsky are especially well chosen.

A fine analysis.

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