



北京大学西学影印丛书

西方哲学史

(影印本)

A History of Philosophy

[美] 梯利(Frank Thilly) 著



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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

	PAGE
History of Philosophy	1
Science, Philosophy, and Religion	3
General Classification	3
Sources of Study	3
Bibliography	4

GREEK PHILOSOPHY

PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE

1. ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY GREEK THOUGHT	7
History of Greek Philosophy	7
Environment	7
Politics	8
Literature	9
Religion	10
Philosophy	11
Survey of Greek Philosophy	11
Bibliography	13
2. DEVELOPMENT OF PRE-SOPHISTIC PHILOSOPHY	14
3. PROBLEM OF SUBSTANCE	16
Thales	16
Anaximander	17
Anaximenes	18
4. PROBLEM OF NUMBER	18
Pythagoras and his School	19
Pythagorean Number-Theory	20
Astronomy	21
5. PROBLEM OF CHANGE	22
Heraclitus	23
Union of Opposites	23
Law of Reason	25
Psychology and Ethics	25
School of Elea	26
Theology (Xenophanes)	27
Ontology (Parmenides)	28
Dialectics (Zeno and Melissus)	29
6. EXPLANATION OF CHANGE	30
Solution of the Riddle	30

CONTENTS

Empedocles	31
Anaxagoras	33
Atomists	36

PROBLEMS OF KNOWLEDGE AND CONDUCT

7. AGE OF THE SOPHISTS	40
Progress of Thought	41
Greek Enlightenment	42
Sophists	44
Significance of Sophistry	48
8. SOCRATES	50
Life of Socrates	50
Problem of Truth	51
Socratic Method	53
Ethics	56
Pupils of Socrates	57

AGE OF RECONSTRUCTION

9. PLATO	58
Plato and his Problem	58
Dialectics	60
Doctrine of Ideas	63
Philosophy of Nature	65
Psychology	67
Ethics	69
Politics	71
Plato's Historical Position	73
Platonic School	75
10. ARISTOTLE	75
Aristotle's Problems	75
Philosophy and the Sciences	78
Logic	79
Metaphysics	82
Physics	85
Biology	87
Psychology	87
Ethics	89
Politics	93
Peripatetic School	94

ETHICAL MOVEMENT

11. THE OUTLOOK	94
12. EPICUREANISM	97
Epicurus	97
The Problem	98

CONTENTS

Logic	98
Metaphysics	99
Psychology	101
Ethics	101
Politics	103
13. STOICISM	104
Zeno and his School	104
Logic	105
Metaphysics	108
Cosmology	109
Psychology	111
Ethics	111
Politics	114
Religion	114
Résumé of Greek Ethics	115
14. SKEPTICISM AND ECLECTICISM	116
Skeptical School	116
Doctrines of the School	117
Later Sceptics	119
Eclecticism	119

RELIGIOUS MOVEMENT

15. JEWISH-GREEK PHILOSOPHY	120
Philosophy and Religion	120
Beginnings of Jewish-Greek Philosophy	122
Philo	123
16. NEOPLATONISM	125
Neopythagoreanism	125
Neoplatonism	126
Plotinus	127
Theology	127
Three Stages of Being	128
Human Soul	130
Mysticism	131
Porphyry	131
Jamblichus	132
Close of School at Athens	132

PHILOSOPHY OF THE MIDDLE AGES

RISE OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY

17. BEGINNINGS OF CHRISTIANITY	133
Revival of Religion	133
Christianity	133
Christianity and Classical Culture	134

CONTENTS

Scholastic Philosophy	136
Bibliography	137
18. DEVELOPMENT OF CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY	137
Early Theology	137
Gnostics	138
Apologists	140
Teachings of the Apologists	141
Logos-Doctrine	143
Free Will and Original Sin	146
19. WORLD-VIEW OF AUGUSTINE	147
Augustine	147
Theory of Knowledge	148
Theology	149
Psychology	150
Ethics	151
Freedom of the Will	153

BEGINNINGS OF SCHOLASTICISM

20. DARK AGES	155
New Peoples	155
Beginnings of Learning	157
21. SPIRIT OF THE MIDDLE AGES	158
Principle of Authority	158
Problem of Scholasticism	159
Characteristics of Scholasticism	161
Stages of Scholasticism	162
Sources of Scholasticism	163
22. JOHN SCOTUS ERIGENA	164
Faith and Knowledge	164
Pantheism	164
Mysticism	166
23. PROBLEM OF UNIVERSALS: REALISM AND NOMINALISM	166
Early Schoolmen	166
Roscelin's Nominalism	168
Meaning of Realism	168

DEVELOPMENT OF SCHOLASTIC REALISM

24. ANSELM OF CANTERBURY	169
His Proofs for the Existence of God	169
Contemporaries	171
25. PETER ABELARD AND THE SCHOOLMEN OF THE TWELFTH CENTURY	172
Abelard	172
The School of Chartres	174
The <i>Sentences</i>	175
John of Salisbury	175

CONTENTS

26.	MYSTICISM AND PANTHEISM	175
	Mysticism	176
	Pantheism	177
27.	SYMPTOMS OF UNREST	178
	Opposition to Scholasticism	178
	Organization of Learning	179
	Discovery of Aristotle	180

CULMINATION OF SCHOLASTICISM

28.	ARABIAN PHILOSOPHY	181
	Greek Sources	181
	Different Schools	182
	Rationalists	184
	Downfall of Philosophy in the East	185
	Spanish School	186
	Jewish Philosophy	188
29.	PREDOMINANCE OF ARISTOTLE	188
	Scholasticism and Aristotle	188
	Augustinian Theology	189
	Albert the Great	190
30.	THOMAS AQUINAS	191
	Philosophy and Theology	191
	Theory of Knowledge	193
	Metaphysics	194
	Theology	195
	Psychology	196
	Ethics	198
	Politics	202
	Followers of Thomas	203
31.	ANTI-SCHOLASTIC TENDENCIES: MYSTICISM, PANTHEISM, AND NATURAL SCIENCE	203
	Mysticism	203
	Logic	204
	Natural Science	204
	Heresy	206
	Raymond Lully	207

DECLINE OF SCHOLASTICISM

32.	JOHN DUNS SCOTUS	207
	Opposition to Thomas	207
	John Duns Scotus	208
	Faith and Knowledge	208
	Doctrine of Universals	209
	Theology	211

CONTENTS

Psychology	212
God and the Moral Law	212
33. NOMINALISM	214
Rational Theology and Universals	214
William of Occam	215
Nominalism <i>versus</i> Realism	217
Followers of Occam	217
34. MYSTICISM	218
Orthodox and Heretical Mystics	218
Meister Eckhart	219
35. THE PROGRESS OF FREE THOUGHT	221
Medieval Rationalism	221
Rise of Nationalism	222
Heretical Tendencies	224
The Spirit of Free Inquiry	225

PHILOSOPHY OF THE RENAISSANCE

36. THE NEW ENLIGHTENMENT	227
Reason and Authority	227
Bibliography	228
Humanism	228
37. NEW PHILOSOPHIES	229
Platonism	229
Nicolas of Cusa	230
The True Aristotle	231
Reform of Science and Philosophy	232
Reform of Logic	233
38. PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE AND NATURAL SCIENCE	233
Occultism	233
Paracelsus	234
Philosophy of Nature	235
Scientific Movement	236
39. GIORDANO BRUNO AND TOMMASO CAMPANELLA	238
Bruno	238
Campanella	239
40. NEW THEORIES OF THE STATE; PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION; AND SKEPTICISM	241
Scholastic Theory of the State	241
Machiavelli	241
The New Politics	243
Evolution of the Modern State	244
The New Philosophy of Religion	245
Skepticism	246
41. RELIGIOUS REFORM	246
Spirit of the Reformation	246

CONTENTS

Protestant Scholasticism	247
Mysticism of Jacob Boehme	248

MODERN PHILOSOPHY

42. THE SPIRIT OF MODERN PHILOSOPHY	250
Characteristics of the Modern Era	250
Bibliography	252
Empiricism and Rationalism	252

ENGLISH EMPIRICISM

43. FRANCIS BACON	255
Reform of Science	255
Inductive Method	257
Program of Philosophy	260
Philosophy of Man	260
Metaphysics and Theology	262
Bacon as an Empiricist	263
44. THOMAS HOBBS	263
Aim and Method	264
Theory of Knowledge	265
Metaphysics	267
Psychology	268
Politics	269

CONTINENTAL RATIONALISM

45. RENÉ DESCARTES	272
The Problem	272
Classification of the Sciences	274
Method and Criterion of Knowledge	274
Proofs for the Existence of God	277
Truth and Error	279
External World	279
Mind and Body	281
Emotions	284
Innate Ideas	286
46. SUCCESSORS OF DESCARTES	287
The Problems	287
Occasionalism	288
Arnold Geulincx	289
Idealism (Nicolas Malebranche)	289
Mysticism (Blaise Pascal)	290
Skepticism (Pierre Bayle)	291
47. BENEDICT SPINOZA	292
Rationalism	292
Method	294

CONTENTS

Universal Substance	295
Attributes of God	296
Doctrine of Modes	298
The Human Mind	300
Theory of Knowledge	302
Intellect and Will	303
Ethics and Politics	305
Notion of God	307

DEVELOPMENT OF EMPIRICISM

48.	JOHN LOCKE		307
	The Problem		307
	Origin of Knowledge		309
	Nature and Validity of Knowledge		313
	Limits of Knowledge		315
	Metaphysics		318
	Ethics		322
	Free Will		325
	Politics		326
	Education		328
49.	SUCCESSORS OF LOCKE		329
	Influence of Locke		329
	Deists		330
	Psychology		330
	Ethics		332
	Political Economy		334
50.	GEORGE BERKELEY		335
	The Problem		335
	Objects of Knowledge		336
	World of Bodies		337
	World of Spirits		339
	Objections Answered		340
	Knowledge of Ideas, Spirits, and Relations		342
	Refutation of Dualism, Atheism, and Skepticism		342
51.	DAVID HUME		345
	The Problem		345
	Science of Human Nature		346
	Origin of Knowledge		347
	Cause and Effect		348
	Validity of Knowledge		352
	Knowledge of the External World		354
	Soul-Substance		355
	Freedom and Necessity		356
	God		357
	Anti-Intellectualism		361

CONTENTS

52.	RATIONALISTIC REACTION IN ENGLAND	362
	Cambridge School	362
	Samuel Clarke	362
	Scottish Common-Sense School	363
DEVELOPMENT OF RATIONALISM IN GERMANY		
53.	GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ	364
	Rise of German Culture	364
	The Problem	365
	Notion of Force	367
	Doctrine of Monads	368
	Theology	373
	Ethics	375
	Logic and Theory of Knowledge	376
54.	SUCCESSORS OF LEIBNIZ	380
	Philosophy of Common-Sense	380
	Mysticism	381
PHILOSOPHY OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT		
55.	PROGRESS OF ENLIGHTENMENT	382
	Eighteenth Century	382
	Voltaire	383
	The Enlightenment in England	384
	The German Enlightenment	385
	Materialism and Evolutionism	386
	Sciences	388
	Jean Jacques Rousseau	389
CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF IMMANUEL KANT		
56.	IMMANUEL KANT	391
	Progress of Modern Philosophy	392
	Mysticism	393
	Problem of Kant	393
	Problem of Knowledge	397
	Theory of Sense-Perception	399
	Theory of the Understanding	402
	Validity of Judgments	403
	Knowledge of Things-in-Themselves	406
	Impossibility of Metaphysics	408
	(a) Rational Psychology	410
	(b) Rational Cosmology	410
	(c) Rational Theology	415
	Use of Metaphysics in Experience	417
	Use of Teleology in Nature	420
	Practical Use of Reason and Moral Theology	421
	Ethics	422

CONTENTS

57.	SUCCESSORS OF KANT	426
	The Problems	426
	Idealism and the Thing-in-Itself	427
	Critics of the New Philosophy (Herder, Jacobi, Fries)	428

GERMAN IDEALISM

58.	JOHANN GOTTLIEB FICHTE	431
	Post-Kantian Philosophy	431
	Fichte's Principle	433
	Aim and Method of the Science of Knowledge	435
	Knowledge of the Ego	437
	The External World	440
	Objective Idealism	441
	Moral Philosophy	445
59.	FRIEDRICH WILHELM SCHELLING	448
	The New Idealism and Romanticism	448
	Philosophy of Nature	450
	Philosophy of Mind	454
	Logic and Intuition	455
60.	FRIEDRICH SCHLEIERMACHER	458
	Philosophy of Religion	458
	Knowledge and Faith	459
	God, the World, and the Individual	460
61.	GEORG WILHELM HEGEL	462
	Hegel and his Predecessors	462
	Problem of Philosophy	464
	Dialectical Method	467
	Thought and Being	469
	Logic and Metaphysics	471
	Philosophy of Nature and Philosophy of Mind	472
	Philosophy of Right	474
	Art, Religion, and Philosophy	476
	Hegelian Schools	476

GERMAN PHILOSOPHY AFTER HEGEL

62.	REALISM OF JOHANN FRIEDRICH HERBART	478
	Opposition to Hegelianism	478
	Realistic Ideal of Philosophy	479
	Metaphysics	480
	Psychology	482
	Science of Values	484
	F. H. Beneke	485
63.	PHILOSOPHY OF WILL: SCHOPENHAUER AND HARTMANN	485
	A. Schopenhauer	485
	The World as Will and Idea	486

CONTENTS

Will in Nature and in Man	486
Ethics of Pity	488
Philosophy of the Unconscious (E. von Hartmann)	490
64. NEOKANTIANISM	491
Reaction against Speculative Philosophy	491
Materialism	492
Revival of Criticism	493
Immanent Philosophy	494
Theological Neokantians	494
65. THE NEW IDEALISM	494
Metaphysics and Natural Science	494
Hermann Lotze	495
Mechanism and Teleology	495
Gustav Theodor Fechner	498
Friedrich Paulsen	498
Wilhelm Wundt	498
Philosophy of Value	500
Wilhelm Windelband	500
H. Rickert, H. Münsterberg, W. Dilthey	501
Rudolph Eucken	502

PHILOSOPHY IN FRANCE AND ENGLAND

66. POSITIVISM AND ITS OPPONENTS IN FRANCE	503
Reaction against Sensationalism	503
Saint-Simon	504
Auguste Comte	505
Reform of Society and the Sciences	506
Evolution of Knowledge	507
Classification of the Sciences	508
Social Science	509
Ethics and the Religion of Humanity	510
Idealistic Opposition to Positivism	511
C. Renouvier	511
A. Fouillée	512
67. SCOTTISH RATIONALISTIC PHILOSOPHY	513
William Whewell	513
Sir William Hamilton	514
68. EMPIRICISM OF JOHN STUART MILL	516
Empiricism and Positivism	516
Science and Social Reform	518
Logic	519
Inductive Inference	519
Warrant of Induction	520
Law of Causation	521
<i>A priori</i> Truths	524
The External World and the Self	525

CONTENTS

Mental and Moral Sciences	527
Ethology	529
Social Science	529
Ethics	532
69. EVOLUTIONISM OF HERBERT SPENCER	535
Ideal of Knowledge	535
Relativity of Knowledge	537
Persistence of Force	539
Mind and Matter	540
Law of Evolution	541
Biology	542
Psychology	543
The External World	544
Ethics	545
Politics	547
70. NEW IDEALISM IN ENGLAND AND IN THE UNITED STATES	549
Influence of German Idealism	549
Thomas Hill Green	550
Metaphysics	551
Man's Place in Nature	552
Ethics	553
F. H. Bradley	555
Metaphysics	555
Immediate Feeling and Thought	557
The Absolute	558
Josiah Royce	559
Contemporary Idealists	562

CONTEMPORARY REACTION AGAINST RATIONALISM AND IDEALISM

New Tendencies	562
71. THE NEW POSITIVISTIC THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE	564
Ernst Mach	564
R. Avenarius	566
72. PRAGMATISM	566
William James	566
John Dewey	571
Other Pragmatists	574
Friedrich Nietzsche	574
73. THE INTUITIONISM OF HENRI BERGSON	577
Intellect and Intuition	577
Metaphysics	579
74. REALISTIC REACTION AGAINST IDEALISM	580
The Neo-Realists	580
75. RATIONALISM AND ITS OPPONENTS	582
Merits of Anti-Intellectualism	582

CONTENTS

Appeal to Reason	583
Intelligence and Reality	584
Aim of Philosophy	586
The Block-Universe	587
Intellect and Intuition	588
Conclusion	589
INDEX	593

A HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY

INTRODUCTION

The history of philosophy aims to give a connected account of the different attempts which have been made to solve the problem of existence or to render intelligible to us our world of experience. It is the story of the development of reasoned human thought from its earliest beginnings down to the present time; not a mere chronological enumeration and exposition of philosophical theories, but a study of these in their relation to one another, the times in which they are produced, and the thinkers by whom they are offered. While every system of thought is more or less dependent on the civilization in which it arises, the character of preceding systems, and the personality of its author, it in turn exercises a potent influence on the conceptions and institutions of its own and succeeding ages. The history of philosophy must, therefore, endeavor to insert each world-view in its proper setting, to understand it as a part of an organic whole, to connect it with the intellectual, political, moral, social, and religious factors of its present, past, and future. It must also attempt to trace the line of progress in the history of human speculation: show how the mental attitude called philosophy arises, how the different problems and the solutions that are offered provoke new questions and answers, and what advance has been made, on the different stages, towards reaching the goal.

In dealing with the different systems, we shall be careful to let the authors present their ideas without extensive criticism on our part. It will be found that the history of philosophy is, in a large measure, its own best critic; that a system is continued, transformed, supplemented, or overcome by its successors, that the errors and inconsistencies contained in it are brought to light; and that it is often made the starting-point of new lines