

Philosophy

History and Problems

Sixth Edition



Samuel Enoch Stumpf

James Fieser

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Late, of Vanderbilt University

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University of Tennessee at Martin



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PHILOSOPHY: HISTORY AND PROBLEMS

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This book is printed on acid-free paper.

4 5 6 7 8 9 0 FGR/FGR 0 9 8 7 6

ISBN-13: 978-0-07-240635-1

ISBN-10: 0-07-240635-6

Publisher: *Kenneth King*

Sponsoring editor: *Jon-David Hague*

Marketing manager: *Greg Brueck*

Senior project manager: *Jean Hamilton*

Lead production supervisor: *Lori Koetters*

Designer: *Matthew Baldwin/Laurie Entringer*

Cover Image: © 2002 Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/SIAE, Rome

Typeface: *10/12 Times Roman*

Compositor: *Shepherd Incorporated*

Printer: *Quebecor World Fairfield, Inc.*

Library of Congress Control Number: 2002108942

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Dedication
To Jean Stumpf and Laura Roberts-Fieser

Preface

There are two principal approaches to the study of philosophy. On the one hand, we might start with the very first philosophers thousands of years ago and work forward through time to the present day, one philosopher after another. This has the advantage of revealing theories in their proper historical contexts and showing how some ideas and people influenced others over time. On the other hand, we might look at key issues and topics that philosophy has wrestled with throughout its long history, such as questions about human knowledge, God's existence, or ethics. This method allows us to stay focused on one philosophical problem at a time and perhaps find some satisfactory resolution to the various puzzles.

This book combines both an historical and topical approach. Part One is historical and presents a sustained narrative of the great philosophers of Western civilization from ancient Greece until today. Part Two consists of a topical arrangement of philosophical writings by philosophers of the past and present. This combined text allows for several reading approaches. The two parts may be read independently of each other, or readers may follow the historical sequence in the first part of the book, and search out the relevant readings in the second. In this way, the chapter on Socrates in the first part may be supplemented with readings from the *Apology* and *Crito* in the second. In either case, the reader will have the benefit of a narrative discussion of philosophy along with selected texts by the philosophers themselves.

James Fieser
University of Tennessee at Martin

Acknowledgments

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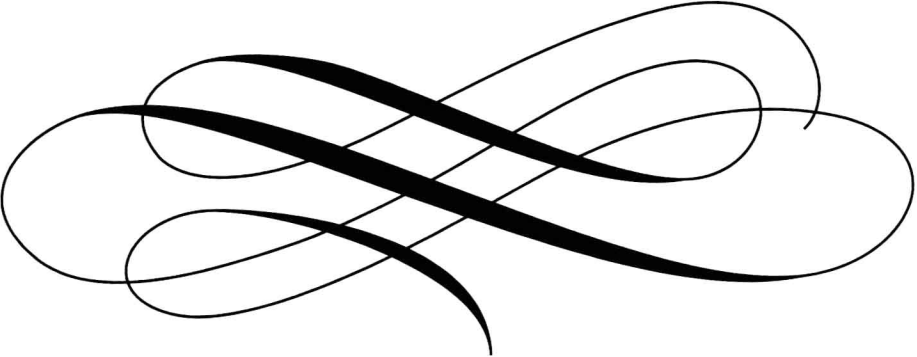
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A History of Philosophy

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