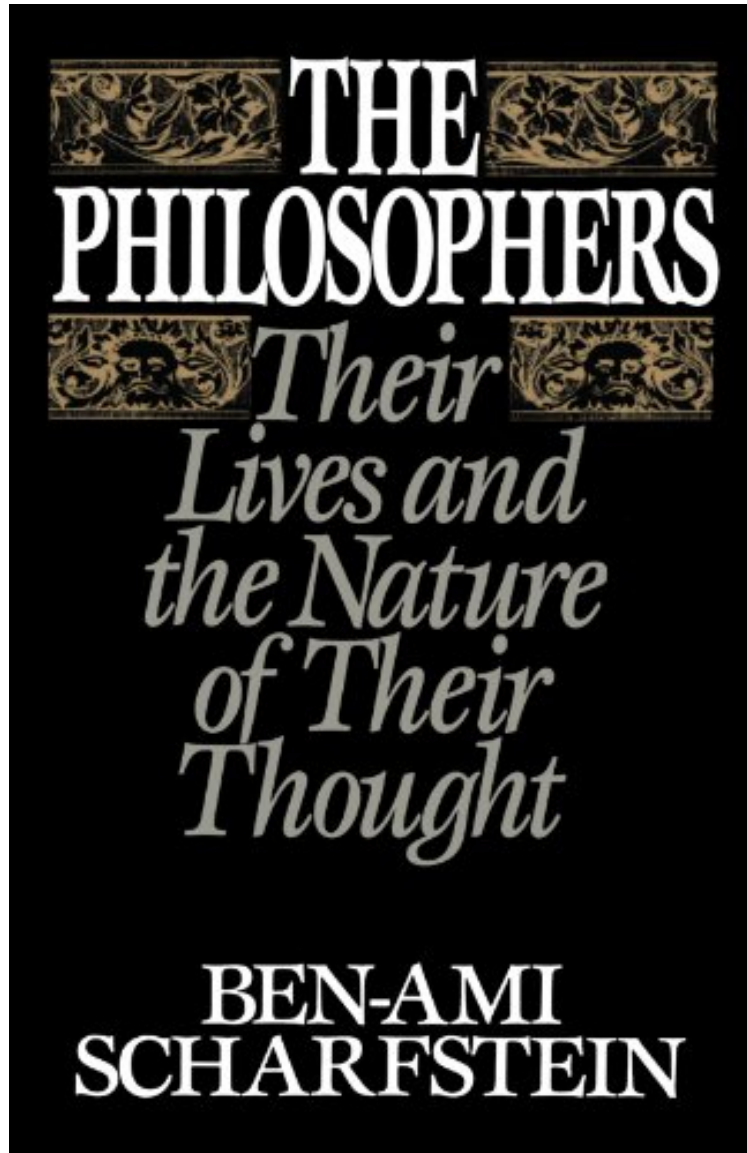


[E-BOOK] The Philosophers: Their Lives and the Nature of their Thought

The Philosophers: Their Lives and the Nature of their Thought

Ben-Ami Scharfstein

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#2208250 in Books Ben Ami Scharfstein 1989-04-20Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x 1.01 x 5.381, 1.39 #File Name: 0195059271496 pagesThe Philosophers Their Lives and the Nature of Their Thought | File size: 66.Mb

Ben-Ami Scharfstein : The Philosophers: Their Lives and the Nature of their Thought before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Philosophers: Their Lives and the Nature of their Thought:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Revisiting My Own BookBy B. ScharfsteinIt may have been only an odd mistake that led to invite me to review my own book, which was published 26 years ago, in 1980. Because I am

often critical of my books, I am somewhat surprised by how much I continue to take pleasure in this one. I value it as a still uniquely detailed, sober, and yet imaginative argument meant to persuade--really persuade--philosophers and lovers of philosophy that it is unreasonable to interpret philosophical views without considering the lives and emotions of the philosophers who created them. Most philosophers have had a stubborn but understandable prejudice against such an attempt, which they label, as if it were a fallacy, "psychologism." But a comparison of their lives and fortunes and misfortunes with their abstract thought shows how misled these philosophers have been. As I write toward the end of the book, "Neither art, philosophy, nor science alone is adequate to understand or express human experience. Life would be more intellectually rewarding if artists and scientists were more effectively interested in philosophy, and philosophers more effectively in art and science." Although excellent biographies of individual philosophers were published later than *The Philosophers*, the work I did on it was thoroughgoing, so it has not aged. And since I followed no current intellectual fashion, it has not gone out of fashion. I believe that the pleasure I took in writing my book is still infectious, and the care with which I developed my themes is still yields illumination. Not without pride, I award my book the five stars I am sure is its due. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Book condition By Jeffrey Moran Book in very good condition 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A psychological review of the great philosophers By D. Roberts While psycho-analyses of people is something I generally shy away from, Ben-Ami Sharfstein has completed a fascinating string of case-studies. What makes it interesting is that the "subjects" are the greatest philosophers who have ever lived. Sharfstein begins with some general observations about the psychological welfare of philosophers in general. He then goes on to discuss some patterns that he finds in the different personas. He also discusses the nature of truth and methods of persuasion. This covers the first 123 pages. After this elongated introduction, the author goes into each of the major modern philosophers in-turn, starting with Rene Descartes. Some of his favorites (Kant, Nietzsche) get 20+ pages devoted to them, while most of the personages get around 10 pages on their biography. Nietzsche once said that one can tell a lot about the philosophy by the life of the philosopher. Scharfstein takes this to heart and briefly examines aspects of each individual's philosophy via the lens of their lives. He examines different aspects such as their childhoods (and the relationship they had w/their parents), their relationships with women as well as major life / traumatic events. All factor in to influencing how a philosopher thinks. If you want a good book that deals with the psychological factors of philosophers, this is a great place to start. Sharfstein does not over-play his hand and I found his commentary to be insightful and reasonable. This is a very well thought-out book.

This highly readable volume offers a broad introduction to modern philosophy and philosophers. Ben-Ami Scharfstein contends that personal experience, especially that of childhood, affects philosophers' sense of reality and hence the content of their philosophies. He bases his argument on biographical studies of twenty great philosophers, beginning with Descartes and ending with Wittgenstein and Sartre. Taken together, these studies provide the beginnings of a psychological history of the philosophy of the period. Scharfstein first focuses on the philosophers' efforts to arrive at the objective truth and to persuade themselves and others of its existence. He then explores truth and relevance, both proposing the broadening of the traditional philosophical conception of relevance and considering philosophers' need to create something that belongs to and transcends them as individuals.

"The book is immensely stimulating, and the author...is prodigiously learned not merely in philosophy but in psychology."--*The Economist* "Essential for anyone who proposes to 'understand'--or even to appreciate--the intensely personal product of every specific individual's needs, fears, and longings which make up the standard canon of philosophical works." "Essential for anyone who proposes to 'understand'--or even to appreciate--the intensely personal product of every specific individual's needs, fears, and longings which make up the standard canon of philosophical works....[Scharfstein] provides, on almost every page, a new way of thinking about philosophy and philosophers."--W.A. Herr, *The Critic* "Fascinating reading."--*Inquiry* From the Back Cover The first words of a book begin a long and possibly difficult adventure. The adventure I am now undertaking is an appraisal of my profession, philosophy, of my fellow professionals, the philosophers, and, finally of myself at least as a person who philosophizes. About the Author About the Author: Ben-Ami Scharfstein is Professor of Philosophy at Tel-Aviv University and author of *Philosophy East/Philosophy West* and many other books.