



The Greek Philosophers: from Thales to Aristotle

W.K.C. Guthrie

Download now

Read Online →

The Greek Philosophers: from Thales to Aristotle

W.K.C. Guthrie

The Greek Philosophers: from Thales to Aristotle W.K.C. Guthrie

W.K.C. Guthrie has written a survey of the great age of Greek philosophy - from Thales to Aristotle - which combines comprehensiveness with brevity. Without pre-supposing a knowledge of Greek or the Classics, he sets out to explain the ideas of Plato and Aristotle in the light of their predecessors rather than their successors, and to describe the characteristic features of the Greek way of thinking and outlook on the world. Thus *The Greek Philosophers* provides excellent background material for the general reader - as well as providing a firm basis for specialist studies.

The Greek Philosophers: from Thales to Aristotle Details

Date : Published May 3rd 1968 by Routledge (first published April 13th 1960)

ISBN : 9780415040259

Author : W.K.C. Guthrie

Format : Paperback 168 pages

Genre : Philosophy, History, Nonfiction, Cultural, Greece

 [Download The Greek Philosophers: from Thales to Aristotle ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Greek Philosophers: from Thales to Aristotle ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Greek Philosophers: from Thales to Aristotle W.K.C. Guthrie

From Reader Review The Greek Philosophers: from Thales to Aristotle for online ebook

Andrew Guthrie says

After having the Greco-Roman thing dully hammered, and thus rendered uninteresting, into my apathetic pre-pubescent skull, I am finally starting to catch on/catch up. I was attracted to this in a bookstore as hospital reading for yet another kidney stone blasting, but when I opened it up and saw its ancient font and 1950 publishing date I was skeptical, but found it to be a modest, well-written and succinct summation of Greek philosophy (spending most its energy on the big three: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle). The powers of the ancient Greeks deductive reasoning, with nothing to go on but their own minds (no experimental scientific methods, let alone the contemporary fields of grammar, linguistics or psychology) makes me marvel at their prescience in dealing with many of the philosophical questions we still struggle with. I devoured this as if I was reading a novel.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

The Greek Philosophers: from Thales to Aristotle, W.K.C. Guthrie (William Keith Chambers Guthrie) W.K.C. Guthrie has written a survey of the great age of Greek philosophy - from Thales to Aristotle - which combines comprehensiveness with brevity. Without pre-supposing a knowledge of Greek or the Classics, he sets out to explain the ideas of Plato and Aristotle in the light of their predecessors rather than their successors, and to describe the characteristic features of the Greek way of thinking and outlook on the world. Thus The Greek Philosophers provides excellent background material for the general reader - as well as providing a firm basis for specialist studies.

???? ??????????: ??? ??? ???? ???? 1997 ??????
?????: ?????? ? ????? ???? ???? ???? ????? ??????. ?????? ??????: ??? ????? ?????? ??? ??? 1375? ?? 220 ??
?????: 9645838304? ??????: ????????? (?????? ?) ????? ???? (????) ?? ????? - ??? 20 ?
?????: ????????? ????? ???? ???? ???? ????? ??????. ?????? ??????: ??? ????? ?????? ??? 1388? ?? 220 ??
?????: 9789642241699?
?????? ???? ????? ?????? (??? ??? ??? 1906 ?????? ???? ???? ???? ???? (??) ??? 1981 ??????)? ??????? ?????? ???
????????? ??????. ?????? ???? ???? ?????: ?????? ?????? ?????? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ?????? 1962 ??????? ????
????????? ???? ???? ?????? ???? ???? (??) ??? 1981 ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ??????. ?????? ?????? ?????? ?????? ????
????? ???? ?????? ?????? ???? ?????. ????????? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? (8 ?????) ???? ???? ??????. ??? ????? ??????
????????? ???? ???? ???? ???? ?????? ???? ?????. ???? ??????

Alberto says

Compré este libro de segunda mano, a sabiendas de que Guthrie es un reputadísimo conocedor de la filosofía griega antigua. Este libro, al contrario que su producción magna de varios volúmenes, es una introducción somera a los primeros filósofos griegos, desde Tales a Aristóteles. El mérito es que lo que explica es lo fundamental y lo hace de una forma lo suficientemente sencilla como para que entendamos el sentido de las pajas mentales que, a nuestros ojos de occidentales del siglo XXI, nos pueden parecer más descabelladas. Nos pone en contexto y eso ayuda mucho para entender por qué los filósofos se preguntaban cosas tan raras. De hecho, aquí está la mejor explicación de la doctrina de las Ideas de Platón que he visto, haciéndonos entender el proceso por el que el filósofo llegó a tales conclusiones, situándonos en su contexto histórico y

social. Recomendadísimo para todo aquel que quiera refrescar su conocimiento sobre los primeros pasos del pensamiento occidental.

Minäpäminä says

1st reading

**** / An excellent introduction to the titans who started it all. Clear and succinct. Does just what it says on the tin, really.

2nd

**** / It's amazing how Guthrie manages to explain both the ethics and metaphysics of Plato in 40 pages. Of course it's a brutal summary, but he's able to cram all the most important stuff in there. And he explains it all in a way which the layman can understand.

A. says

An excellent introduction into the pre-Socratics and their influence on Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. Together with Thomas Szlezak's *Reading Plato*, it makes a great starting point for anyone interested in the ideas of the ancient Greeks.

Craig Prather says

This was a great read! Prior to reading this, I was not much for philosophical thought; however, this book really gives you an in-depth understanding of 3rd and 4th century B.C. philosophers and their philosophical arguments.

One thing I discovered was that most of the popular philosophers of this time period drew thoughts from their predecessors. So, for example, Plato drew inspiration from Socrates, and Aristotle expanded upon Plato's philosophies. This mirrors Einstein's philosophy which he drew from Immanuel Kant and others.

This was a great book on the origins of Greek philosophy and the semantics of Greek philosophical terms. You'll explore the deeper meaning of "Arete, Kosmos, taxis, dynamis, anthropine, ergon, and others. I highly recommend this book

Maan Kawas says

An excellent short, concise, and clear introduction to ancient Greek classical philosophy from Thales to Aristotle. I particularly appreciated Guthrie's explanation of some key words- according to their ancient

Greek meaning- such as, justice, good, virtue, etc..

Torsten says

???????? ?????????? ????? ?? ?????????? ?????? (?????????? ?????????????????????). ?????????, ?????? ???
???? ?????????? ?????????? ?????????? ??????????????????.

Yi?it Güler says

Özellikle Aristo ile ilgili k?s?mda biraz fazla felsefi terminoloji içerdi?i için sindirerek ve a??r okumak gerekiyor. Felsefeye giri? için çok da uygun bir kitap oldu?unu dü?ünmüyorum. Halihaz?rda belli bir altyap?ya sahip bir okurun daha çok verim alaca??na inan?yorum bu kitaptan. Tavsiyem internetten konuyla ilgili e?itim videolar? e?li?inde okunmas? (çok kolayc? bir yol biliyorum ama hayat k?sa ku?lar uçuyor). Bu sayede anlat?lanlar h?zla yerine oturuyor daha da önemlisi Sokrates, Platon ve Aristo aras?ndaki temel farklar daha net anla??labiliyor. Öte yandan bu kitab?n okunma sürecini uzat?p sizi yorabiliyor da.

Catorce says

Muy buena introduccion a la filosofia griega, recomendable para todos los que quieran iniciar con la filosofia

Tim says

Does a very good job of establishing the easily forgotten difference and remoteness of the ancient Greek cultural and intellectual background. Also a good synopsis of the Pre-Socratics and their concerns, putting Socrates, Plato and Aristotle in appropriate context, plus a good explanation of key Greek terms and concepts. Some of these can't really be translated directly, so this is pretty valuable. Guthrie knows his subject well and packs a lot into 175 pages. It's also an easy and pleasant read.

Tyler says

Perusing this short book has helped extend my sketchy knowledge about the inception and expansion of philosophy in ancient Greece, and the book is surprisingly friendly to its readers.

Guthrie looks at the pre-Socratic philosophers first, then the Big Three: Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. This leaves out later philosophers such as the Epicureans and the Stoics, but provides us a much stronger background on those Big Three. To my surprise, however, the book included no discussion on the development of logic, for which Aristotle is known.

Among the many interesting tidbits, the author talks about the changing meaning of the word *virtue*, the actual reason Plato made such an issue of his Forms, and the vacuum around the subject of epistemology in a tradition focused upon metaphysics and ethics. The discussion gave me an appreciation of Aristotle's stress

upon the *immanent*, and his introduction of *potentiality* as a hitherto unheard-of concept which solved many early conceptual puzzles.

As the story progresses, it shapes a picture of a society emerging from barbarism into a strikingly advanced state. I happily recommend this easy read for anyone curious about philosophy and classical studies.

Bob Nichols says

This is a concise and clear book on the early Greek philosophers.

Guthrie begins by stating that his intent is to explain Socrates, Plato and Aristotle in terms of their predecessors, rather than focusing on their subsequent influence on Western philosophy. He reviews those predecessors who struggled and debated the great themes of the day (materialism versus idealism, permanence versus change, relativism versus absolutism). Philosophy broke out into two main schools of thought, reflecting matter on the one hand and form on the other. The former, for example, was represented by Empedocles who saw change driven by strife and love. The Pythagoreans, representing the latter school, separated the soul from the body and gave it transcendence and immortality. Incidentally, they seem remarkably Vedic in outlook.

Socrates and Plato emerge from and reflect a Pythagorean-like world. The city-state was both secular and religious. In their view it needed to reflect a transcendent world that was populated by ideal forms, including especially order and beauty. These ideal forms were not abstractions from this world, but existed independent of space and time. For Plato, the soul was mind, which tied us to this ideal world. While Aristotle saw humans as biological beings, in his heart Guthrie says, he stayed aligned with Socrates and Plato in his overall worldview. God was the only pure form that was immune from change. Through reason, the human task was to imitate this perfect form as much as possible, while keeping our biological being in check by following the doctrine of the mean and guided by the Good (virtuous behavior - everyone following their 'proper nature', i.e., class).

While it is common enough to pick and choose from the thought of Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, Guthrie is clear that their respective perspectives could be traced to and were dependent on the notion of a divine world that was beyond space and time. So much time has elapsed from the days of these philosophers, and biology and physics can contribute much to how we might today understand the themes of mind and body, timelessness and change, cause and motivation, and materialism and idealism. After reading Guthrie, a fair question to ask is whether too much effort now is spent studying the relevance of these thinkers to today's reality.

Eliana says

This book was a very concise, clear account of Greek philosophers. The book seemed to be written a college level and it spends most of its time on the three biggest philosophers, Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. However, it does briefly describe some of the ideas that were around in the times before Socrates.

The book is written in a rather dry way which appealed greatly to me. It very directly describes the topics,

and is very frank about the fact that he is only including parts of each Greek's philosophy in each chapter as well as the fact that implications of many of the Greek words get lost in translation. The author tries his best to write without bias, and most of the time points out where his bias particularly comes in.

Overall, it was a great introduction to Greek philosophy, which was exactly what I was looking for when I picked the book.

Sarah says

A concise, readable, and engaging introduction to Ancient Greek thought. Guthrie is clearly passionate about his subject, and it comes across in his convictions about what is important for the reader to know and how he writes about it. This book absolutely piqued my interest in further exploring various philosophical traditions and understanding their influence on later thought, and in that I believe it achieves its aims
