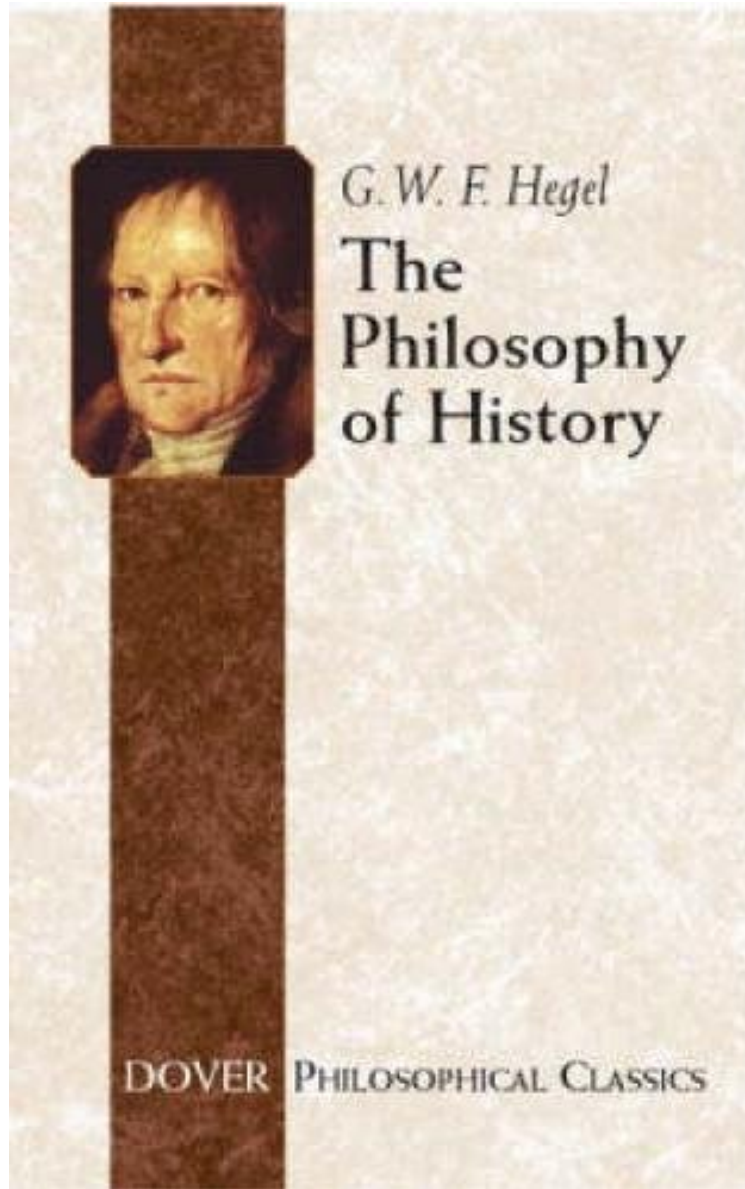


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The Philosophy of History (Dover Philosophical Classics)

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, G. W. F. Hegel
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Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, G. W. F. Hegel : The Philosophy of History (Dover Philosophical Classics) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Philosophy of History (Dover Philosophical Classics):

20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. Horrible copy for an academic textBy cbriceAn OCR copy should not be the first copy to come up on 's site. I ordered this because I was ordering roughly 30 academic texts and did not

have the time to pour through each description. There is absolutely no formatting, no table of contents, no index and the footnotes are muddled for the most part. Considering that this is already a difficult work in German, let alone in translation, it is impossible to decipher in the provided format. Worthless in an academic setting and should not be at the top of 's list when you search for the work.*This is not a review of the work itself, which is important for any understanding of Western philosophy.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. but I am glad to be familiar with the original work -- or ...By Andy HaroldRather pedantic, but I am glad to be familiar with the original work -- or at least the translation.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. BrilliantBy Taimur RahmanIts difficult to review a book with so many different and new ideas. In parts I found the book downright racist. In other parts, I found it absolutely brilliant. In certain parts, I found it plain boring. In other parts, I just didn't know how to judge the arguments advanced because I had no other knowledge of the historical incidents being described.But overall, I think its a fascinatingly ambitious book in the way that it tries to weave together nearly all of human history into a single narrative. One can very clearly see how historical materialism is only a step removed from Hegel. Aside from the rather long and abstract introduction (that lays down the Hegelian system of history) the rest of the book is actually quite easy to read (with the exceptional passages). Perhaps the best part of the book is his discussion of freedom and necessity and the connection of individual and collective interests as a stimulus to history. These parts, I thought, were absolutely brilliant.

Hegel wrote this classic as an introduction to a series of lectures on the "philosophy of history" a novel concept in the early nineteenth century. With this work, he created the history of philosophy as a scientific study. He reveals philosophical theory as neither an accident nor an artificial construct, but as an exemplar of its age, fashioned by its antecedents and contemporary circumstances, and serving as a model for the future. The author himself appears to have regarded this book as a popular introduction to his philosophy as a whole, and it remains the most readable and accessible of all his philosophical writings.Eschewing the methods of original history (written during the period in question) and reflective history (written after the period has passed), Hegel embraces philosophic history, which employs a priori philosophical thought to interpret history as a rational process. Reason rules history, he asserts, through its infinite freedom (being self-sufficient, it depends on nothing beyond its own laws and conclusions) and power (through which it forms its own laws). Hegel argues that all of history is caused and guided by a rational process, and God's seemingly unknowable plan is rendered intelligible through philosophy. The notion that reason rules the world, he concludes, is both necessary to the practice of philosophic history and a conclusion drawn from that practice.