

A Short History of
Philosophy



ROBERT C. SOLOMON
KATHLEEN M. HIGGINS

San Rafael Public Library
1100 E Street
San Rafael, CA 94901

New York Oxford
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
1996

Contents

Biographical Chronology, xiii

I. The Search for World Order: Ancient Philosophy, 1

The "Axial Period" and the Origins of Philosophy, 1

The "Miracle" of Greece, 7

Philosophy, Myth, Religion, and Science, 11

Meaning and Creation: Cosmogony and the Origins of Philosophy, 17

Vedas and Vedanta: Early Philosophy in India, 22

The First (Greek) Philosopher, 25

The Pre-Socratic Philosophers (I): The Stuff of the World, 29

The Pre-Socratic Philosophers (II): The Underlying Order, 32

The Pre-Socratic Philosophers (III): The Pluralists, 36

Enter the Sophists, 39

Socrates, 43

Plato: Metaphysician or Sublime Humorist?, 49

The Philosopher's Philosopher: Aristotle, 56

A Footnote to Plato (and Aristotle), 67

Tough Times: Stoicism, Skepticism, and Epicureanism, 68

Mysticism and Logic in Ancient India: Nagarjuna and Nyaya, 74

II. God and the Philosophers: Religious and Medieval Philosophy, 79

Religion and Spirituality: Three Philosophical Themes, 81

The Wisdom of the East (I): Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, 84

The Wisdom of the East (II): Confucius and Confucianism,	91
The Wisdom of the East (III): Lao-tzu, Chuang-tzu, and Taoism,	96
Deep in the Heart of Persia: Zoroastrianism,	99
From Athens to Jerusalem: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam,	100
The Hebrew People and the Origins of Judaism,	105
Greek Jew: Philo of Alexandria,	111
The Birth of Christianity,	114
The Opening of Christianity: St. Paul,	118
Neoplatonism and Christianity,	121
St. Augustine and the Inner Life of Spirit,	122
The First Great Split Within Christianity,	126
The Rise of Islam,	129
Mysticism,	133
Persia and the Peripatetic Tradition,	134
Diaspora, Dialectic, and Mysticism in Judaism,	139
Thinking God: Anselm, Abelard, Aquinas, and Scholasticism,	142
Late Scholasticism: Duns Scotus and William of Ockham,	147
In Search of Essences: The Alchemists,	149
Philosophical Syntheses Outside the West,	152
The Reformation: Luther and His Progeny,	154
The Counter-Reformation, Erasmus, and More,	160
After Aristotle: Bacon, Hobbes, Machiavelli, and the Renaissance,	163
Before the "Discovery": Africa and the Americas,	167

III. Between Science and Religion: Modern Philosophy and the Enlightenment, 175

Science, Religion, and the Meaning of Modernism,	175
Montaigne: The First Modern Philosopher?,	178
Descartes and the New Science,	180
Spinoza, Leibniz, Pascal, and Newton,	186
The Enlightenment, Colonialism, and the Eclipse of the Orient,	192
Locke, Hume, and Empiricism,	194
Adam Smith, the Moral Sentiments, and the Protestant Ethic,	199
Voltaire, Rousseau, and Revolution,	202
Immanuel Kant: Saving Science,	205
Kant's Moral Philosophy and the Third <i>Critique</i> ,	210

The Discovery of History: Hegel,	214
Philosophy and Poetry: Rationalism and Romanticism,	221
Romantic West Meets East: Schopenhauer,	223
After Hegel: Kierkegaard, Feuerbach, and Marx,	226
Mill, Darwin, and Nietzsche: Consumerism, Energy, and Evolution,	230
Early Philosophy in America,	235

IV. From Modernism to Postmodernism: The Twentieth Century, 243

The Rejection of Idealism: A Century of Horrors,	243
Frege, Russell, and Husserl: Arithmetic, Atomism, Phenomenology,	245
Zarathustra in the Trenches: The Limits of Rationality,	253
The American Experience in Philosophy: Pragmatism,	259
Changing Reality: Philosophies of Process,	264
Unamuno, Croce, and Heidegger: The Tragic Sense of Life,	266
Hitler, the Holocaust, Positivism, and Existentialism,	274
No Exit: The Existentialism of Camus, Sartre, and Beauvoir,	279
From Ideal to Ordinary Language: From Cambridge to Oxford,	282
Women and Gender: The Feminization of Philosophy,	286
The Return of the Oppressed: Africa, Asia, and the Americas,	292
From Postmodernism to the New Age,	299
World Philosophy: Promise or Pretense,	304

Notes,	307
Selected Bibliography,	315
Index,	325