

Contents

Foreword | 13

Introduction | 15

PART ONE ❧ Romanticism and Idealism 19

1.1 *Romanticism* 21

- 1. Origins of the Romantic movement | 22
- 2. Characteristic elements of Romanticism | 23
 - (a) *The revaluation of emotion, 24*
 - (b) *The rediscovery of the infinite, 25*
 - (c) *The interest in history and tradition, 25*
 - (d) *The new role of art as knowledge of salvation, 28*
- 3. Philosophical Romanticism | 29
 - (a) *Hamann, Herder, and Jacobi, 29*
 - (b) *F. Schlegel's philosophy of religion, 31*

1.2 *German Idealism* 35

- 1. General characteristics of idealism | 35
- 2. J. G. Fichte: Subjective idealism | 38
 - (a) *Life and works, 38*
 - (b) *The basic principles of philosophy, 39*
 - (c) *The practical deduction: Fichte's morality, 43*
 - (d) *The philosophy of religion, 45*
- 3. F. W. J. Schelling: Objective idealism | 46
 - (a) *Life and works, 46*
 - (b) *The nature and philosophy of transcendental idealism, 48*
 - (c) *The philosophy of identity, 51*
 - (d) *The doctrine of the rupture, 52*
 - (e) *The philosophy of religion, 53*
- 4. G. W. H. Hegel: Absolute idealism | 54
 - (a) *Life and works, 54*
 - (b) *From theology to philosophy, 56*
 - (c) *The purpose of philosophy, 58*
 - (d) *The absolute and the dialectic, 60*
 - (e) *The Hegelian system, 65*
 - (f) *Logic, 66*
 - (g) *The philosophy of nature, 67*

- (h) *The philosophy of mind*, 68
- (i) *The philosophy of history*, 71
- (j) *The sphere of the Absolute Spirit*, 73
- (k) *Conclusive balance*, 76

PART TWO ❧ **The Antihegelian Reaction** 79

2.1 The Hegelian Left: Ludwig Feuerbach, Karl Marx . . . 81

- 1. The Hegelian left | 81
- 2. Ludwig Feuerbach | 83
 - (a) *Life and works*, 83
 - (b) *Hegel's materialist turn*, 84
- 3. Karl Marx | 86
 - (a) *Life and works*, 86
 - (b) *Dialectical or historical materialism*, 89
 - (c) *Critique of religious alienation*, 91
 - (d) *Critique of philosophical alienation*, 93
 - (e) *Critique of political alienation*, 94
 - (f) *Critique of social alienation*, 94
 - (g) *Critique of economic alienation*, 95

2.2 Søren Kierkegaard 97

- 1. A life, a philosophy | 97
- 2. Hermeneutics of Kierkegaard's work | 100
- 3. Kierkegaard's category: The individual | 101
- 4. Existential stages | 104
 - (a) *The aesthetic stage*, 104
 - (b) *The ethical stage*, 106
 - (c) *The religious stage*, 107

2.3 Arthur Schopenhauer 111

- 1. Life and works | 111
- 2. The world as representation | 112
- 3. The world as will | 114
- 4. Liberation through contemplation and aesthetic asceticism | 115

2.4 Friedrich Nietzsche 118

- 1. Life and works | 118
- 2. Nietzsche's grand theme: Life | 120
- 3. Nihilism and the death of God | 121
- 4. The eternal return | 125

- 5. The *Übermensch* | 126
- 6. The will to power | 128
- 7. Morality and Christianity | 129

PART THREE ❧ Epistemology and the Foundations of Scientific Thought 133

3.1 *Positivism, Utilitarianism, and American Pragmatism* 135

- 1. Auguste Comte’s positivism | 135
 - (a) *Life and works, 135*
 - (b) *Positive knowledge and the theory of the three stages, 135*
 - (c) *The classification of the sciences, 138*
 - (d) *Religion and morality, 139*
- 2. The birth of utilitarianism: Jeremy Bentham | 140
 - (a) *Life and works, 140*
 - (b) *Utilitarianism, 141*
- 3. John Stuart Mill’s positivist utilitarianism | 1430
 - (a) *Life and works, 143*
 - (b) *Morals, 144*
 - (c) *Socio-political theory, 144*
- 4. American pragmatism | 147
 - (a) *Charles S. Peirce, 148*
 - (b) *William James, 151*
 - (c) *John Dewey, 153*

3.2 *Historicism and Neo-Kantianism* 156

- 1. Historicism | 156
 - (a) *General characteristics of historicism, 156*
 - (b) *The critique of historical reason, 158*
 - (c) *The natural sciences and the spiritual sciences, 159*
 - (d) *Worldviews, 162*
- 2. Neo-Kantianism | 163
 - (a) *The Marburg school, 164*
 - (b) *The Baden school, 165*

3.3 *The Philosophy of Language*. 167

- 1. Gottlob Frege | 169
 - (a) *Life and works, 169*
 - (b) *The critique of psychologism, 170*
 - (c) *Sense and reference, 172*
- 2. Bertrand Russell | 174
 - (a) *Life and works, 174*

- (b) *Logical atomism*, 175
- (c) *The foundation of morality*, 176
- 3. George Edward Moore | 177
 - (a) *Life and works*, 177
 - (b) *A gnoseology of common sense*, 178
 - (c) *Ethical intuitionism*, 179
- 4. Ludwig Wittgenstein | 180
 - (a) *Life and works*, 180
 - (b) *The Tractatus Logico-philosophicus*, 182
 - (c) *The Philosophical Investigations*, 184

3.4 *The Philosophy of Science* 187

- 1. Neopositivism | 187
 - (a) *The Vienna Circle*, 187
 - (b) *Logical positivism*, 188
- 2. Karl Popper and falsificationism | 189
 - (a) *Life and works*, 189
 - (b) *Falsificationism*, 190
 - (c) *The progress of scientific knowledge*, 192
 - (d) *Critique of historicism and of ideological thought*, 193
- 3. Post-Popperian epistemology | 194
 - (a) *The new philosophy of science*, 194
 - (b) *Michael Polanyi*, 195
 - (c) *Thomas S. Kuhn*, 195

PART FOUR ≡ Philosophies of Transcendence 199

4.1 *French Spiritualism* 200

- 1. Henri Bergson's vitalism | 201
- 2. Maurice Blondel's philosophy of action | 205

4.2 *Neo-Thomism* 209

- 1. The *Aeterni Patris* encyclical of Leo XIII (1879) and the renewal of Thomism | 209
- 2. Jacques Maritain | 212
 - (a) *Life and intellectual journey*, 212
 - (b) *Neo-Thomist or paleo-Thomist?* | 214
 - (c) *The Degrees of Knowledge* | 215
 - (d) *Political philosophy and the philosophy of history* | 216
- 3. Étienne Gilson | 218
 - (a) *The encounter with medieval philosophy*, 218
 - (b) *The keys of Thomistic thinking*, 218
 - (c) *Christian philosophy*, 220

4. The encyclical *Fides et Ratio* (1998) of John Paul II and the return to metaphysics | 221

4.3 Personalism 225

1. General characteristics | 225
2. Emmanuel Mounier | 228
3. Gabriel Marcel | 230
4. Karol Wojtyla | 233
5. Other personalist authors | 237
 - (a) *The dialogical philosophy of Martin Buber, 237*
 - (b) *Emmanuel Levinas, 240*

PART FIVE ≡ Phenomenology and Existentialism . . 241

5.1 Phenomenology 241

1. The phenomenological movement | 241
2. Edmund Husserl | 243
 - (a) *Life and Works, 243*
 - (b) *The argument against psychologism, 245*
 - (c) *The intentionality of consciousness, 246*
 - (d) *Intuition of essences, 248*
 - (e) *Phenomenological reduction, 249*
 - (f) *The world of life and the crisis of the European sciences, 252*
3. Max Scheler | 255
 - (a) *Life and works, 255*
 - (b) *A realist phenomenology, 256*
 - (c) *Criticism of formalism and Kantian apriorism, 258*
 - (d) *The material ethics of values, 260*
 - (e) *The person, 261*
 - (f) *Religious experience, 263*
4. Martin Heidegger | 264
 - (a) *Life and works, 264*
 - (b) *The meaning of being and existential analysis, 266*
 - (c) *The existentials, 268*
 - (d) *Being and metaphysics, 273*
 - (e) *Being and language, 274*

5.2 Existentialism 276

1. General considerations | 276
2. Karl Jaspers | 279
 - (a) *Life and works, 279*
 - (b) *The world, 280*
 - (c) *Existence, 281*
 - (d) *Transcendence, 282*

- 3. Jean-Paul Sartre | 283
 - (a) *Life and works*, 283
 - (b) *Sartre and phenomenology*, 285
 - (c) *Being and nothingness*, 285
 - (d) *The critique of dialectical reason*, 288

PART SIX ❧ Critical Theory, Philosophical Hermeneutics, Postmodernism, and Deconstruction 289

6.1 *Critical Theory of Society* 289

- 1. Marxism and critical theory | 289
- 2. Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno | 290
- 3. Herbert Marcuse | 292
- 4. Jürgen Habermas | 294

6.2 *Hermeneutical Philosophy* 295

- 1. From philosophical hermeneutics to hermeneutical philosophy | 295
- 2. The hermeneutical philosophy of Hans-Georg Gadamer | 296
 - (a) *Life and works*, 296
 - (b) *Truth or method?*, 297
 - (c) *Understanding and language*, 299
 - (d) *Prejudice and prior understanding*, 300
 - (e) *Hermeneutics as dialectical art*, 301

6.3 *Postmodernity and Deconstruction* 302

- 1. Structuralism and other antecedents of postmodernist thinking | 303
- 2. Jean-François Lyotard | 305
- 3. Michel Foucault | 305
 - (a) *Life and works*, 305
 - (b) *Genealogies and archaeologies of knowledge*, 307
 - (c) *Knowledge is power: techniques of social control*, 309
 - (d) *Critical observations*, 310
- 4. Jacques Derrida | 311
 - (a) *Life and works*, 311
 - (b) *Deconstruction*, 312
 - (c) *Speech and writing*, 313
 - (d) *Critical observations*, 314
- 5. Richard Rorty | 316
 - (a) *Life and works*, 316
 - (b) *From analytical philosophy to hermeneutic pragmatism*, 316

- (c) *Critique of knowledge and institutionalized philosophy*, 318
- (d) *Human nature and naturalism*, 320
- 6. Gianni Vattimo | 320
 - (a) *Life and works*, 320
 - (b) *Metaphysics as a form of violence*, 321
 - (c) *Weak thought*, 323
 - (d) *Ethical and social consequences of weak thinking*, 325
 - (e) *Critical remarks*, 326

Epilogue | 329