

CONTENTS

Foreword	9
Introduction	10
PART ONE: THE RENAISSANCE	15
1.1 General Characteristics of the Renaissance	15
1.2 Renaissance and Platonic Philosophy	18
1.3 Renaissance and Aristotelian Philosophy	30
1.4 Renaissance Scholasticism	33
a) The Situation	33
b) Francisco de Vitoria (1483-1546)	34
c) Francisco Suarez (1548-1617)	39
1.5 Between Stoicism and Epicureanism	42
PART TWO: RATIONALISM	46
2.1 General Characteristics	46
a) Erudite Libertinism	51
2.2 Rene Descartes (1596-1650)	55
a) Life and Works	55
b) The Cartesian Project	56
c) The Method	58
d) Methodical Doubt and the Cogito	60
e) Subject and Thought	62
f) The Existence and Nature of God	63
g) The Corporeal World; The Soul and the Body	68
h) Cartesian Physics	71
i) Morality	71
2.3 Blaise Pascal (1623-1662)	75
a) Life and Works	75
b) General Characteristics of Pascal's Thought	78
c) The Types of Knowledge; Reason and the Heart	79

d) The Project of an Apology of Christianity	80
e) Faith and Reason	81
2.4 Nicolas Malebranche (1638-1715)	82
a) Life and Works	82
b) Philosophy and Theology	84
c) Theory of Ideas	85
d) Vision in God	87
e) Occasionalism	89
f) Morality	92
2.5 Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677)	93
a) Life and Works	93
b) The Method and System of Spinoza	95
c) The Degrees of Knowledge	96
d) God or Substance	98
e) Man	102
f) Political Philosophy	105
2.6 Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz (1646-1716)	107
a) Life and Works	107
b) Features of the Thought of Leibniz	108
c) Logic and First Principles	110
d) Metaphysics	114
e) Dynamics and the Notion of Force	117
f) Theodicy	118
g) The Republic of Spirits or the City of God	122
2.7 Giambattista Vico (1668-1744)	124
a) Life and Works	124
b) The Critique of Cartesian Rationalism	125
c) Verum est factum	127
d) The mondo civile. The Discovery of History	127

PART THREE: EMPIRICISM **132**

3.1 Francis Bacon (1561-1626)	132
a) Life and Works	132
b) The Knowledge and Mastery of Nature	133
c) Method and Division of the Sciences	134

d) A Precursor of the Technological World	138
3.2 Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679)	140
a) Life and Works	140
b) The Formation of Hobbes' Thought	140
c) Anthropology and Morals	144
d) Political Philosophy	145
3.3 John Locke (1632-1704)	150
a) Life and Works	151
b) General Outline of Locke's Thought	151
c) Theory of Knowledge	152
d) Moral Philosophy	159
e) Political Philosophy	160
3.4 George Berkeley (1685-1753)	165
a) Life and Works	165
b) General Outline of Berkeley's Thought	166
c) The Problem of Knowledge	166
d) Immaterialism	169
e) The Existence of God	171
3.5 David Hume (1711-1776)	173
a) Life and Works	173
b) The General Outline of Hume's Thought	174
c) Theory of Knowledge	174
d) The Critique of Causality	178
e) The Outside World and the Subject's Identity	180
f) Morality	182
g) Politics and Religion	184

PART FOUR: THE ENLIGHTENMENT	187
4.1 The Enlightenment: An Introduction	187
4.2. The English Enlightenment	190
a) The Physics of Newton	190
b) English Deism	191
c) Moral Philosophy	193
4.3 The French Enlightenment	195
a) Pierre Bayle, the Precursor	195

b) The Encyclopedia	196
c) Materialism	198
d) Social and Political Theory	201
4.4 The German Enlightenment	208

PART FIVE: KANTIAN TRANSCENDENTAL PHILOSOPHY

213

a) Life and Works of Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)	214
b) The Sources of Kantian Thought	216
c) The Pre-Critical Period	217
d) The Constitution of Critical Philosophy: the Object and the Transcendental	219
e) Analysis of the Critique of Pure Reason	221
f) Kantian Morality	235
g) The Critique of Judgment	239
h) Religion, Law, History	241

EPILOGUE

245

INDEX

249