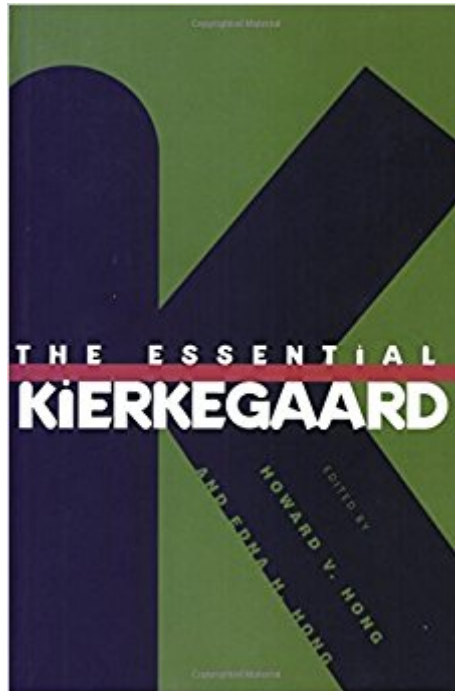




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# The Essential Kierkegaard



## Synopsis

This is the most comprehensive anthology of Søren Kierkegaard's works ever assembled in English. Drawn from the volumes of Princeton's authoritative Kierkegaard's Writings series by editors Howard and Edna Hong, the selections represent every major aspect of Kierkegaard's extraordinary career. They reveal the powerful mix of philosophy, psychology, theology, and literary criticism that made Kierkegaard one of the most compelling writers of the nineteenth century and a shaping force in the twentieth. With an introduction to Kierkegaard's writings as a whole and explanatory notes for each selection, this is the essential one-volume guide to a thinker who changed the course of modern intellectual history. The anthology begins with Kierkegaard's early journal entries and traces the development of his work chronologically to the final *The Changelessness of God*. The book presents generous selections from all of Kierkegaard's landmark works, including *Either/Or*, *Fear and Trembling*, *Works of Love*, and *The Sickness unto Death*, and draws new attention to a host of such lesser-known writings as *Three Discourses on Imagined Occasions* and *The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air*. The selections are carefully chosen to reflect the unique character of Kierkegaard's work, with its shifting pseudonyms, its complex dialogues, and its potent combination of irony, satire, sermon, polemic, humor, and fiction. We see the esthetic, ethical, and ethical-religious ways of life initially presented as dialogue in two parallel series of pseudonymous and signed works and later in the "second authorship" as direct address. And we see the themes that bind the whole together, in particular Kierkegaard's overarching concern with, in his own words, "What it means to exist; . . . what it means to be a human being.?" Together, the selections provide the best available introduction to Kierkegaard's writings and show more completely than any other book why his work, in all its creativity, variety, and power, continues to speak so directly today to so many readers around the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The crowning achievement of [the Hongs'] monumental translation of all of Kierkegaard's published writings.... A rich and stimulating volume.... A book for everyone with an interest in Kierkegaard, from the first-time reader to the more experienced." -- Bruce H. Kirmmse, editor of Encounters with Kierkegaard

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Danish --This text refers to the Unbound edition.

This is an absolutely incredible collection of Kierkegaard material, expertly crafted by Howard and Edna Hong. Classic selections of Soren Kierkegaard are supplemented by a variety of essays and other writings less-known but perhaps most engaging. Great gratitude for this gem!

A great collection! and this price!!!

If you have to read Kierkegaard, this is the right place. I discovered some new insights.

With a dizzying series of pseudonyms, from Climaticus to Anticlimaticus, this book selects from the Hong's expansive translation of all of Kierkegaard's writings. The introductions place each piece in context, but don't over interpret as some other books. Reading from the complete work presents a view of Kierkegaard's total plan ("The Authorship") and his voices of the religious, esthetic, and ethical. In light of the whole body, "Concluding Unscientific postscript" seems to have a pivotal role. Existentialists may like to claim him as he speaks of the individual about despair, fear and trembling, and anxiety, but make no mistake his work is to be a Christian ("Once and for all I must urgently request the kindly disposed reader continually to bear in mente [in mind] that the total thought in the entire work as an author is this" becoming a Christian"). He is a self appointed critic of the established church and the inclusion of the lesser known "The Lily of the Field and the Bird of the Air" shows the religious side. Present are all of Kierkegaard's "Knights": the Knight of Faith, the Knight of Infinite Resignation, and the Knight of Hidden Awareness. Humor and irony abound. Come

leap in, and have a good read!

Any students who have an interest in Kierkegaard would do well with this volume. Excellently formatted and easy to dive into.

Years ago I read almost everything Kierkegaard wrote. Wanting to return to his works and wanting a book that could go with me on my travels and on my boat, I chose this collection. It is comprehensive. It offers writings of Kierkegaard I had not read, namely his early writings. It is an exhaustive collection, carefully chosen by experts. It has met my needs of a full portable library of Kierkegaard and I recommend it.

The Essential Kierkegaard Edited by Howard & Edna Hong (Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 2000) 524 pages (ISBN: 0-691-03309-9; hardcover) (ISBN: 0-691-01940-1; paperback) (Library of Congress call number: B4372.E5 2000) After they completed the huge project of translating into English and publishing all of Søren Kierkegaard's writings, Howard & Edna chose (with the advice of other Kierkegaard scholars) the selections that make up this collection of the best of Kierkegaard. The selections are presented in historical order, offering something from every kind of writing Kierkegaard ever did. All the translations into English are the same as used for the standard collection of SK's works, called Kierkegaard's Writings, which was also edited by the Hongs. This one-volume anthology of Kierkegaard's writings will introduce many future generations to the thought of the great Dane. Before I read this collection, I had read the complete works of SK. So I was quite familiar with everything contained in this volume. Nevertheless, it was a good experience to read it thru again, to see just how well the life-work of one genius or near-genius could be compressed into one volume. If you would like to explore other writings by Kierkegaard, search the Internet for the following exact expression: "Books on Existential Spirituality". James Leonard Park, existential philosopher.

This collection provides an entry into Kierkegaard's work that doesn't overwhelm the reader as s/he begins reading one of the greatest philosophers of the last two hundred years.

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