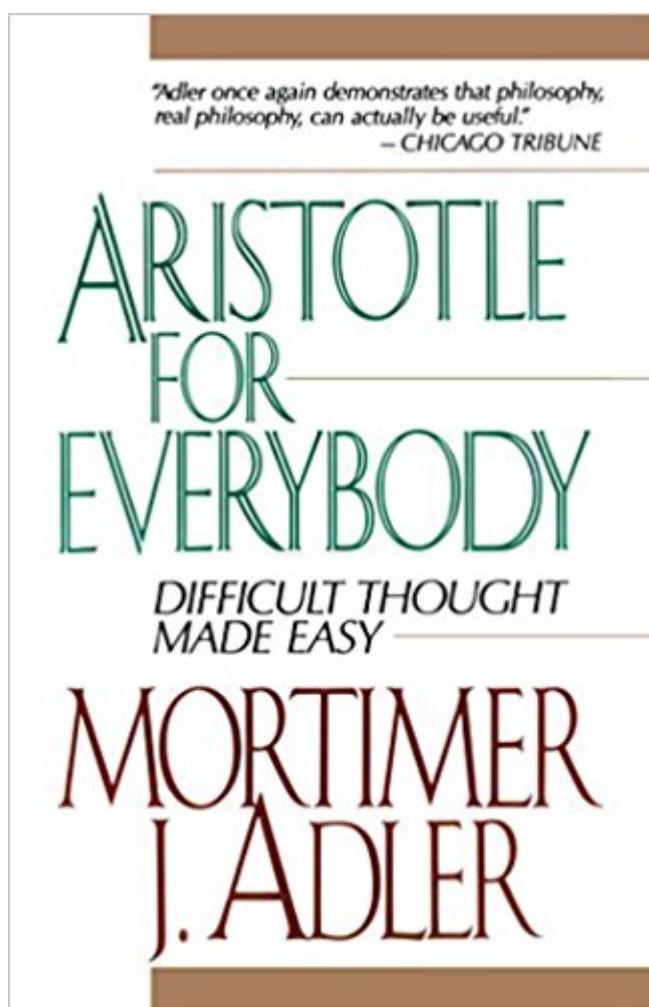


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Aristotle For Everybody: Difficult Thought Made Easy



Synopsis

Aristotle (384 - 322 B.C.) taught logic to Alexander the Great and, by virtue of his philosophical works, to every philosopher since, from Marcus Aurelius, to Thomas Aquinas, to Mortimer J. Adler. Now Adler instructs the world in the "uncommon common sense" of Aristotelian logic, presenting Aristotle's understandings in a current, delightfully lucid way. He brings Aristotle's work to an everyday level. By encouraging readers to think philosophically, Adler offers us a unique path to personal insights and understanding of intangibles, such as the difference between wants and needs, the proper way to pursue happiness, and the right plan for a good life.

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Customer Reviews

"This is a self-help book in the best sense of the term . . . The Aristotelian wisdom Adler affords us goes far beyond anything all the Norman Vincent Peales, Michael Kordas, and Wayne W. Dyers combined have to offer. Above all, Adler once again demonstrates that philosophy, real philosophy, can actually be useful." --Chicago Tribune Book World"Davidson has a wonderful voice. Far from common, it's a genuinely erudite English actor's voice. His sound is classy and classical."

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Dr. Mortimer J. Adler was Chairman of the Board of the Encyclopedia Britannica, Director of the Institute for Philosophical Research, Honorary Trustee of the Aspen Institute, and authored more than fifty books. He died in 2001.

Adler's introduction to Aristotle is a must read for anyone interested in beginning to appreciate one

of the most influential thinkers of all time. This is written for the general public, and it succeeds marvelously at what it sets out to do (although, for those wanting go deeper, the author includes a second table of contents at the end, with detailed references to original sources). The book covers the major aspects of Aristotle's thought, from his understanding of causality to his ethics, from his discussions of what it means to lead a good life to his concept of god. I found the organization of the book in broad sections, each further subdivided into bite size chapters, very easy on the reader, as it should be. Inevitably, different people will find different parts of the book more engaging than others. In my case I have a preference for Adler's discussion of Aristotle's four causes (early in the book) and how it explains the philosopher's thinking about god as prime mover of the universe (later in the volume). Particularly insightful is Adler's discussion of the difference between the Aristotelian and the Christian conceptions of god. The author strove to avoid technical language, which is admirable in this sort of books. Still, I wish he had left in a few particularly useful Greek words, especially "eudaimonia" (which simply does not translate to the English "happiness") and "akrasia" (weakness of the will). Regardless, a very good choice to get your feet wet in the area of ancient Greek philosophy, or indeed of philosophy more generally.

For a long time, I thought I could get away with understanding Aristotle by oblique references from more modern thinkers and frequent trips to philosophy encyclopedias: I kept hearing how obsolete Aristotle's thinking is now considered to be in this day and age. Fortunately, I learned my lesson and finally examined him thoroughly with the much-welcomed help of someone who actually knows what he's talking about. Make no mistake, the concepts Mortimer Adler covers in this wonderful little book cannot be understood passively and haphazardly, but if you're looking for a clear-eyed and sober commentary on ideas that will undoubtably augment your ability to reason, this work is fantastic. I'd recommend keeping pencil and paper close by while you're reading, as that helped me visualize a lot of the content.

This very short book, Mr. Adler seeks to summarize the main points of Aristotle's philosophy. I decided I needed this book after trying to read some 21st century scholastics. Although very familiar with philosophy and Aristotle, I was having a hard time keeping up. This very simple bookmade it much easier to follow along more complex material.

This is an excellent book as a primer for those who are not familiar with Aristotelian thinking.

An excellent read. Mr. Adler logically lays out the great principles of one of the great Western philosophers thoughts in language even the uninitiated philosopher-thinker of today can understand.

Essential reading for anyone who wants to truly analyze and engage in thoughtful arguments.

The author does exactly what his title claims. He makes the difficulties of Aristotle's philosophy accessible to everybody. This is a clear and lively little book which I thoroughly enjoyed.

An excellent introduction to philosophy. This book was recommended to me prior to reading Thomas Aquinas, whose philosophic framework is taken from Aristotle. The importance of the role in understanding reality is vastly underplayed by contemporary society. It's message has never been more needed than now as the skill sets required to construct appropriate questions about the nature the world around us, have their roots in the philosophy developed by Aristotle. I highly recommend this book.

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