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A Summary Of Philosophy (Hackett Classics)



Synopsis

This compact collection of philosophical texts from the Summa Theologica--on God, creation, the soul, human acts, moral good and evil, love, habits, virtue, and law--is presented newly translated in abridged form and cast in a modified version of the medieval quaestio. Included are only the most important objections and Aquinas's replies; appeals to scriptural, theological, and philosophical authorities have been omitted. Unlike the ordering of the originals, questions and answers are here presented prior to objections and replies; the result is a sharp, rich, topically organized question-answer presentation of Aquinas' major philosophical arguments within a brief compass. A general Introduction, headnotes, a glossary, an index, and a select bibliography offer expert guidance to the work of this major philosopher.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Those who want to approach [the Summa Theologiae] in English cannot do better than study Regan's volume. It will provide them with a solid and reliable basis from which to take their studies of Aquinas further. . . . Regan's translations are always accurate. . . . And, in producing them, he has managed to deliver texts written in elegant, intelligible, and idiomatic English. --Brian Davies, International Philosophical Quarterly
Those approaching Aquinas from the side of philosophy, and for the first time, have been done a great service by Richard Regan's selective translation of the first part (prima pars) and the first part of the second part (prima secundae) of the Summa Theologiae. By focusing on the questions raised and answers given by Aquinas (and including only the most

salient objections and replies), Regan reveals Thomas as a great dialectician, grappling with issues of perennial philosophical interest. Regan's general introduction and chapter introductions together enable the reader to see the point and power of Aquinas's discussions. --John Haldane, University of St. Andrews
For . . . introducing undergraduates to Aquinas' philosophy, this is a good text and should prove a useful addition to an undergraduate library. --Vivian Boland, Theological Book Review

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

Well done.

Usually I like philosophical and literary texts from Hackett, and I have used many of them in my college classroom over the years (in particular, volumes of Hesiod, Euripides, Boethius, and Milton). This one, though, I found troubling, and after reviewing it chose not to adopt it for my interdisciplinary course in Medieval Studies. As with all Hackett texts, so far as I can tell, the translation, introduction, and physical qualities (I find these so important in a book, and Hackett gets them right) are spot on. What troubles me, though, is what's left out. This text leaves us only with Aquinas' conclusion or argument on each essential question and article -- his "I answer that ..." The preceding objections, along with their refutations, are largely elided. When they are provided, they are provided out of order and are incomplete. This loses too much; the critical thing for me in teaching about St. Thomas is for students to see his methods as much as his findings. In addition, the notes to specific articles and questions are quite limited; the footnotes explain nothing and the headnotes are too short to explain much. That said, there is still some virtue in this book. I'll retain it as a quick reference to "what St. Thomas said about topic X," a service it will perform quite well. But I must be a rare bird if I have use for such a text in an age when one can download the entire Summa for free on one's Kindle (as I have done) or find it in a public domain and searchable version on the Internet.

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