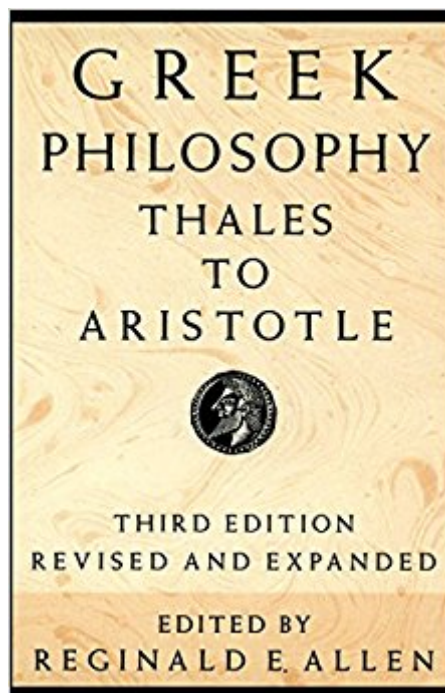




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Greek Philosophy: Thales To Aristotle (Readings In The History Of Philosophy)



Synopsis

Widely praised for its accessibility and its concentration on the metaphysical issues that are most central to the history of Greek philosophy, *Greek Philosophy: Thales to Aristotle* offers a valuable introduction to the works of the Presocratics, Plato, and Aristotle. For the Third Edition, Professor Allen has provided new translations of Socrates' speech in the *Symposium* and of the first five chapters of Aristotle's *Categories*, as well as new selections bearing on Aristotle's Theory of Infinity, Continuity, and Discreteness. The book also contains a general introduction which sets forth Professor Allen's distinctive and now widely accepted interpretation of the development of Greek philosophy and science, along with selective bibliography, and lists of suggested readings.

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Customer Reviews

Reginald E. Allen is professor of classics and philosophy at Northwestern University. He is the author of *Plato's Parmenides: Translation and Analysis*, *Socrates and Legal Obligation*, and *Plato's Symposium*.

Chapter I
THE SOURCES
No work of the Presocratics has come down in its entirety. We possess fragments preserved by later authors, and testimony. The major sources are as follows:
A.

Philosophers
(i) Plato gives useful information about his predecessors. Since he himself was not a historian of philosophy, his remarks must be treated with caution.
(ii) Aristotle surveyed his predecessors' testimony on the philosophical problems with which he himself was concerned. The Presocratics are thus made parties to his argument, not left to speak for themselves, and this often

introduces a cast into his interpretation. Nevertheless, he was not without a sense of history, and his work is, and will remain a major source of knowledge.(iii) The Stoics' method of interpretation was syncretistic: they undertook to show that their predecessors agreed with Stoic doctrine, and with each other.(iv) Sceptics, such as Sextus Empiricus, were concerned to exhibit the contradictions of earlier philosophy, but preserved valuable fragments.(v) The Neo-Platonists, especially Proclus, Alexander, and Simplicius, commented on Plato and Aristotle; with the library of the Academy at their disposal, they too preserved many fragments.B. The Doxographical TraditionTheophrastus, Aristotle's successor in the Lyceum, continued the Peripatetic interest in history. As part of the encyclopedia of knowledge projected by the school, Theophrastus wrote *On the Opinions of the Physical Philosophers*, parts of which have come down to us. He consulted the original texts of the Presocratics, but his historical judgment was much influenced by Aristotle.Theophrastus' work became the standard authority in the ancient world. The doxographers are those who derive their material, directly or indirectly, from the *Opinions* (doxai). The main sources in the doxographical tradition are Diogenes Laertius (probably third century A.D.), Plutarch (first-second century A.D.), and John Stobaeus (fifth century A.D.).Copyright © 1966, 1985, 1991 by Reginald E. Allen

From thales to aristotle5 star rating.it's an amazing book, I would recommend it to anyone who is interested in philosophical aspect of our reality. this book is so good it makes you wonder if life isn't just a dream within a dream. Thus far I've seen the lengths of my money and boy this book is worth every penny of it. This book gives you a profound understanding of life, and your role in life....

Great selection from the ancient Greeks. Got this for a philosophy class and will keep it. There's been some fraying of the plastic overlay on front cover and spine, but I've not been gentle with this book. If yours never sees the inside of a backpack, it'll probably be fine.

good book but hard to understand

book i needed tanks

Intense!

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