
James K. Feibleman

**UNDERSTANDING
PHILOSOPHY**

A Popular History of Ideas



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James K. Feibleman writes in his preface: "Over the years people have often asked me, 'What is philosophy? Can you recommend a simple account that I could understand without special training? I know nothing at all about philosophy but often feel that there must be something in it for me. This book was written for them.'"

In *Understanding Philosophy*, Mr. Feibleman has achieved what has been regarded as almost impossible: an exposition of what philosophy means and a concise history of its major figures and their ideas up to date, in a lucid and simple account written for the guidance of people with no previous training. In effect, *Understanding Philosophy* comprises a short course for beginners in philosophy as readable as a magazine.

He traces the theories of all the important philosophers from the beginnings of recorded ideas and the Greek philosophers through the era of religious philosophy, the ideas of work in the modern world and the triumph of science, to the great philosophers of Europe and America up to the present. And in so doing, he explains the relationship of the philosophers in the societies they lived in and helped to shape.

Understanding Philosophy written by a noted philosopher who has taught in the field for more than thirty years, is an ideal guide to all the significant attempts that man has made to arrive at the meaning of things in the ancient and modern world. But it is more than a textbook, for its author is a man of imagination as well as learning. "The chief business of philosophy so far as the individual is concerned," he writes, "is to intensify life."

In the tremendous diversity of his interests and his astonishing mastery in several fields, James K. Feibleman is a modern Renaissance man. After an early career in business he became a poet, novelist and philosopher; he has written over 30 books and numerous articles on science, art, literature, philosophy, politics, history, and is widely regarded as one of the most interesting thinkers of our era. Many of his writings have been translated into foreign languages.

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