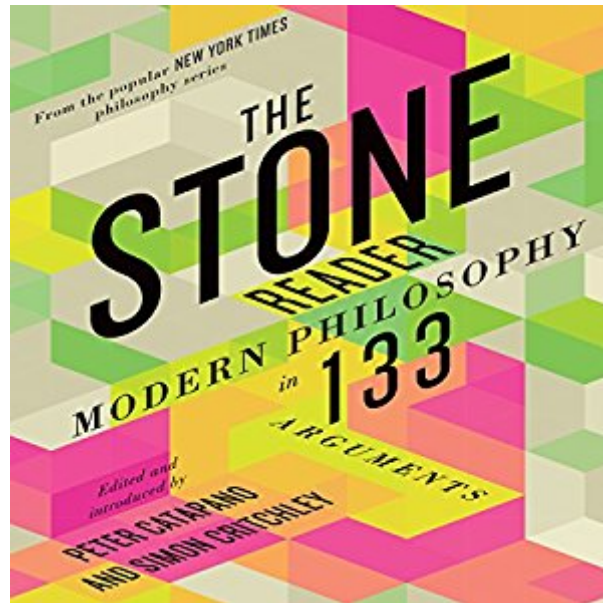


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The Stone Reader: Modern Philosophy In 133 Arguments



Synopsis

The Stone Reader provides an unparalleled overview of contemporary philosophy. Once solely the province of ivory-tower professors and college classrooms, contemporary philosophy was finally emancipated from its academic closet in 2010, when "The Stone" was launched in The New York Times. First appearing as an online series, the column quickly attracted millions of readers through its accessible examination of universal topics like the nature of science, consciousness, and morality while also probing more contemporary issues such as the morality of drones, gun control, and the gender divide. The Stone Reader presents 133 meaningful and influential essays from the series, placing nearly the entirety of modern philosophical discourse in the listener's reach. The audiobook, divided into four broad sections - philosophy, science, religion and morals, and society - opens with a series of questions about the scope, history, and identity of philosophy: What are the practical uses of philosophy? Does the discipline, begun in the West in ancient Greece with Socrates, favor men and exclude women? Does the history and study of philosophy betray a racial bias against nonwhite thinkers or geographical bias toward the West? These questions and others form a foundation for listeners as the audiobook moves to the second section, science, where some of our most urgent contemporary philosophical debates are taking place. Will artificial intelligence compromise our morality? Does neuroscience undermine our free will? Is there a legitimate place for the humanities in a world where science and technology appear to rule? Should the evidence for global warming change the way we live or die? In the book's third section, religion and morals, we find philosophy where it is often at its best, sharpest, and most disturbing - working through the arguments provoked by competing moral theories in the face of real-life issues and rigorously addressing familiar ethical dilemmas in a new light. Can we have a true moral life without belief in God? What are the dangers of moral relativism? In its final part, society, The Stone Reader returns to its origins as a forum to encourage philosophers who are willing to engage closely, critically, and analytically with the affairs of the day, including economic inequality, technology, and racial discrimination. In directly confronting events like the September 11 attacks, the killing of Trayvon Martin, and the Sandy Hook School massacre, the essays here reveal the power of philosophy to help shape our viewpoints on nearly every issue we face today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a great collection of philosophical meditations on a large and varied collection of topics. The vignettes are clearly written, updated and informational, to say the least. I feel this is a good way to approach and get acquainted with contemporary philosophical thought. Let's hope we get more of the same !

I just finished this, my copy is filled with notes that range from "Wow! I never thought of that" to "This guy is an idiot." I believe this is just what the author's intended. For those who like to inhabit a thinking world, this is a great book.

Putting together these occasional discussions into a single volume makes a great deal of sense. I have not read all of them but have read and commented on a considerable share. There are not only abstract philosophical discussions but important discussions about life- philosophy problems. I often disagree with the main line of the arguments but the discussions are always valuable and insightful. The 'Times' often gets the major experts on the question to discuss it. In a sense the whole volume taken together constitutes a miniaturized view of Philosophy Today and also in a way of the Human Situation. Important and interesting.

As a undergraduate philosophy major in the 1960's where the focus was much more on individual beliefs I fell in love with the essays that apply philosophical systems to current issues. While essays vary in length from three to five pages, this is not a book you read in a few sittings. For me, time for reflection was necessary. Hence, I exhausted my renewal options at local library. This is a book to own and return to often. I am grateful to all essayists as well as Peter and Simon for putting this gem together. So needed in this time of instant and often thoughtless discussion of the issue of our

existence and behavior.

This is the best collection in circulation with all the best minds contributing. Books on this level should be required reading if our democracy is going to survive. It is an essential without doubt. There are many choices among the 133 essays and one can find whatever aspect of thought explored depending on one's needs and interest. It is, above all, mind expanding.

Reading on Kindle, I sometimes forgot the title and author of individual "arguments" -- which in a hard copy could have been seen simply by leafing back or looking at a running head. I liked the wide range of viewpoints (and depths) of the writers; I didn't always feel as though I were out of my depth, nor did I often feel impatient with those writers who lacked a level of thought that stimulated me. Having enjoyed reading the Stone in the NYT for a long time, I appreciated having so many of them in one place for immersing myself as much as I liked even in a single sitting.

I love the NYT column but there are many I have missed over the years. The essays are grouped by general topic, and there are some fascinating exchanges when two philosophers who disagree discuss their differences, over the course of several weeks' columns. This is even more enlightening. You can follow the arguments and come to your own conclusions. This book is a treasure!

While I'm a reader and fan of the Stone in the NY Times, I found it convenient to have a large number of columns available in book form so appreciated its publication. The choice of authors, topics, and specific essays seemed excellent. And the cause of bringing philosophy to the masses and trying to directly demonstrate its current relevance is a noble one. But in trying to avoid scholarly baggage, I feel that Catapano and Critchley went a little too far re. completely banishing references or suggestions for further reading; it's as if they were suggesting that this book is the last word in philosophy. I realize that in the age of the online Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy this is something less than a mortal sin, but how hard would it have been to poll the authors and compile a short appendix containing references to some of the major books and papers in the broad areas covered by the book? In addition the lack of an index makes it even more difficult to recall and associate ideas and thinkers.

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