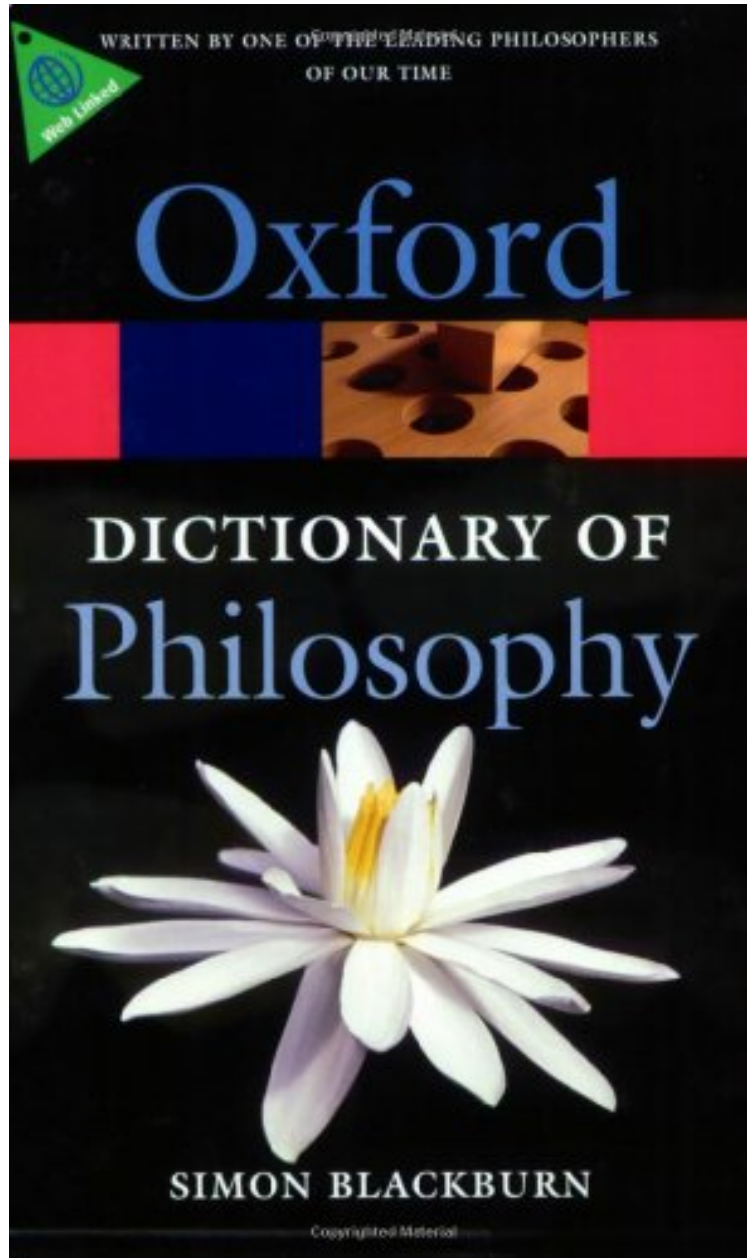


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The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy (Oxford Quick Reference)

Simon Blackburn

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1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Some Entries Biased IncorrectBy Stephen B. PacettiI wanted a small, light weight paperback instead of one of the large, multi-pound volumes like the Cambridge philosophy dictionary, and this fits that criteria perfectly. I really like the web page cross references on many entries, and the printed alphabetical "tabs" noting where B, M, X, etc, starts.BUT--the type size is very small, in order to fit everything into a light weight volume. One needs very good vision, or a magnifying glass.My biggest disappointment and strong objection is that entries ("definitions") of people are, in some instances, obviously biased, subjective, and just incorrect. So, I am left to wonder, how accurate and factual are other entries. Personal bias and slant have NO PLACE in a dictionary, IMHO. Thus, I can give this book no more than two stars. Buyer beware!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Broad but shallowBy ed conawayFrom a review I read online, I thought the book would be a summary of philosophers and their beliefs, arranged chronologically from ancient to modern, which would help show the evolution and development of philosophy over time. The chronology, however, is brief and at the back of the book. Although individual philosophers and their ideas are described in the volume, in alphabetical rather than chronological order, the entries are primarily historical and biographical, with very cursory mention of individual philosophies. The dictionary is comprehensive in scope but shallow. It would be a good pocket reference for a Philosophy 101 class.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Definitely a great but and a necessity if you are taking philosophyBy JThis dictionary definitely helps me in my philosophy class. It has a soft cover and is cheaper here than anywhere else. Definitely a great but and a necessity if you are taking philosophy. The book came super fast and was a fantastic buy. It features so many terms and they are put in a way my philosophy book does not put it. Sometimes you just need an actual book instead of using the internet to look up the words. Sometimes you get something you were not looking for. The answer is this book, it came super fast and I had it for my next class. Impress your teacher by buying this book and showing him that you are dedicated.

The Gambler's Fallacy, the Dirty Hands Argument, Pascal's Wager--philosophical terms can be both intriguing and baffling. Now, eminent philosopher Simon Blackburn offers the most authoritative and up-to-date dictionary of philosophy available in a single volume. Ranging from Aristotle to Zen, the two thousand plus entries cover the entire span of philosophy, from the Vedas (written over three thousand years ago) to the most recent technical terminology, with ample coverage of important themes from Chinese, Indian, Islamic, and Jewish philosophy. Here are all the terms one would expect to find in a comprehensive dictionary of philosophy--idealism and empiricism, ethics and aesthetics, Epicureanism and Stoicism, existentialism and logical positivism, and much more. Blackburn also defines many concepts not normally found in such reference works, including entries for apathy, laughter, and the meaning of life, and he includes relevant terms from disciplines such as mathematics, physics, biology, artificial intelligence, and linguistics. In addition, there are capsule biographies of nearly five hundred individuals, from the pre-Socratics to such contemporary figures as Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Richard Rorty, and Simone de Beauvoir.

From School Library JournalGrade 9 UpThanks to clever typography, this revision of the 1994 edition eliminates virtually nothing, adding hundreds of new entries in the same 400 pages with no loss of legibility. Most additions are biographical; under A and B alone, for instance, there are more than 40 such, including Mary Astell, Ghose Aurobindo, Charles Babbage, Abraham Bar Hayya, and Jorge Luis Borgs. More Chinese (ch'eng, yi, zhi, feng shui) and Sanscrit (samadhi, ahankara) join Latin and German terms, and occasionally a new word (education, wisdom, toxin puzzle, ecofeminism) appears. The time line is also new. This edition will double as a world-religions reference, but its original material is, reassuringly, little changed.Patricia D. Lothrop, St. George's School, Newport, RI Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From Library JournalAlmost 3000 entries-many extensively cross-referenced-cover Eastern and Western philosophy (with emphasis on the latter), all the main subdivisions of philosophy, terminology from other disciplines that is significant in philosophical discussion, and major historical figures. Occasionally, information in a definition coupled with its cross references make the term's meaning unnecessarily murky (e.g., compare the "validity"- "follow"- "entailment" sequence to the definition of "validity" in a standard elementary logic text). Some definitions are idiosyncratic (e.g., that of "straw man"), and some omit something necessary for correctness (e.g., the common knowledge condition in defining D. Lewis's "convention"). On the whole, however, the definitions are clear, correct, and useful, and the subjects of biographical entries are generally chosen sensibly. Blackburn covers more than A.R. Lacey in *A Dictionary of Philosophy* (Routledge, 1990) and a bit more than Antony Flew in *A Dictionary of Philosophy* (St. Martin's, 1984. 2d ed.), though Flew is somewhat clearer. Since these three dictionaries have different emphases, they complement one another nicely. Recommended for academic libraries.Robert Hoffman, York Coll., CUNYCopyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistBlackburn designed *The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy* "as a playground for browsers and a resource for anyone interested in general intellectual movements, as well as a simple work of reference." He was editor of the journal *Mind* from 1984 through 1990 and is currently a distinguished professor of philosophy at the University of North Carolina. He is author of *Essays in Quasi-Realism* (1993) and *Spreading the Word: Groundings in the Philosophy of Language* (1984). Blackburn operates in the Anglo-American analytic

philosophical tradition, as opposed to the existentialist or phenomenological traditions of Europe. The work is a distinctly personal one, though Blackburn's assessments of philosophical positions and discussions are objective and expository in tone. For example, of Immanuel Kant, he states, "his place as the greatest philosopher of the last 300 years is well assured. . . [w]hilst his confidence in the a priori and the structure of his idealism have been widely rejected, it is not too much to say that all modern epistemology, metaphysics, and even ethics, is implicitly affected by the architecture he created." The nearly 3,000 entries cover a wide variety of topics. Biographical entries include Aquinas, Russell, Isaiah Berlin, Michel Foucault, Darwin, and Keynes. While philosophers such as Plato and Nietzsche receive a page or more of treatment, those included for a peripheral contribution to philosophy, such as Keynes or Einstein, receive about half a column. Other entries run from a few lines to a page in length. Topics range back to the beginnings of Western and Eastern philosophy and across fields to discuss philosophical insights or approaches to economics, love, dreams, biology, and so forth. Yet the bulk of the dictionary consists of concise, focused definitions of terms used by analytic philosophers and philosophy students: falsifiability, protocol statements, liar paradox, subjectivism/objectivism, and prisoners' dilemma. Blackburn writes in an interesting and easy-to-follow style. He has made liberal use of cross-references (marked by asterisks within the text) and see and see also references at the end of entries. Some entries include bits of symbolic logic; a two-page appendix defines most of the symbols used. This book is the most recent dictionary of philosophy. Dagobert Runes edited numerous editions of his Dictionary of Philosophy between 1942 and 1984 (Littlefield). Antony Flew's Dictionary of Philosophy came out in 1979 and 1984 (St. Martin's). Peter Angeles wrote his Dictionary of Philosophy in 1981; a revised edition was published in 1992 as The HarperCollins Dictionary of Philosophy. The Oxford Dictionary is uniquely broad in its coverage. It is accessible to the general reader, while at the same time being useful for the scholar or student. It is recommended for all academic and public libraries.