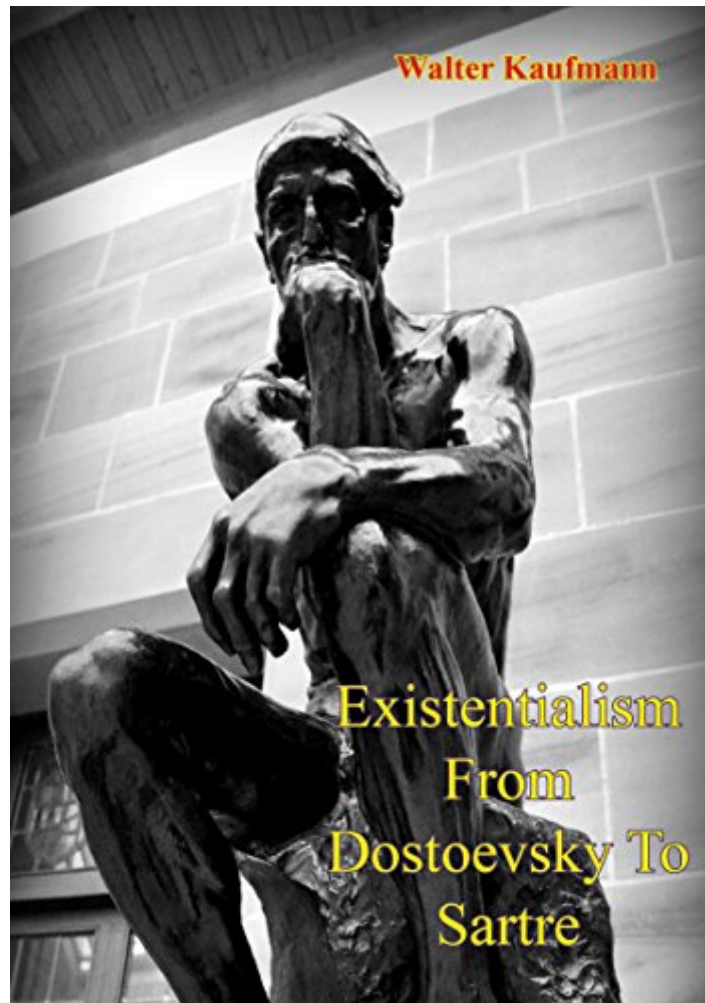




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Existentialism From Dostoevsky To Sartre



Synopsis

What is Existentialism? It is perhaps the most misunderstood of modern philosophic positionsâmisunderstood by reason of its broad popularity and general unfamiliarity with its origins, representatives, and principles. Existential thinking does not originate with Jean Paul Sartre. It has prior religious, literary, and philosophic origins. In its narrowest formulation it is a metaphysical doctrine, arguing as it does that any definition of manâs essence must follow, not precede, an estimation of his existence. In Heidegger, it affords a view of Being in its totality; in Kierkegaard an approach to that inwardness indispensable to authentic religious experience; for Dostoevsky, Kafka, and Rilke the existential situation bears the stamp of modern manâs alienation, uprootedness, and absurdity; to Sartre it has vast ethical and political implications. Walter Kaufmann, author of Nietzsche, is eminently qualified to present and interpret the insights of existentialism as they occur and

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Customer Reviews

This is the book that introduced me to Existentialism in graduate school. It has a great selection of writings, and unlike most books on Existentialism is clear, not turgid. I now think of Existentialism as being a mood rather than a system of thought, and many of these writings are literary not academic, but that is a good thing. I took a graduate seminar on Existentialism from the man who

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