



A Short History of Greek Philosophy

John Marshall

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An overview of the works that form the foundation of Western philosophy

The writings of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle have resonated through the millennia and continue to influence the lives of people today. In *A Short History of Greek Philosophy*, renowned British classicist John Marshall provides a thorough yet engaging account of the seminal philosophical movements of ancient Greece, from the Sophists to the Sceptics to the Stoics. For readers looking to dip their toes into the vast ocean of Western philosophy, Marshall's history provides the perfect springboard.

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A Short History of Greek Philosophy Details

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Anthony says

A Review by Anthony T. Riggio of “A Short History of Greek Philosophy” by John Marshall
(Originally published in 1891) 7-28-15

I down loaded this book from Kindle, it was a freebie, and I always had an interest in Philosophy but never really studied it except for an introductory college course. My instructor, was a worthless egotist who was one of the worst teacher I ever had and his main preoccupation was convincing us there was no God.

We never covered the Greek philosophers and I now understand his purpose as an avowed atheist.

This book on Greek Philosophy is not a cake walk read and will require the reader to take their time reading and using the Kindle dictionary often. What surprised me is the level of mono theism proposed in each of the philosophical schools covered. Several philosophers are covered including those expected, to wit. Socrates, Plato and Aristotle and several schools emerged from their teachings.

Philosophy is such a broad discipline and covers everything from mathematics to astral observations as well as the conduct of man. I was pleasantly surprised that every one of the Greek Philosophers believed in One God as the creator of everything. I learned that Philosophy is a search for the truth ergo the One Truth, to wit, God. Out of this came such additional studies as logic and rhetoric, known as “skills” in Philosophy. I could not help thinking of priests or rabbi’s and lawyers. One searches for truth, the other argues for convincing the audience of a particular thing to believe. As a person trained in the Law, this was of interest to me and I was able to identify with the “skill” portion. Lawyers like Retoricians seek a different kind of truth; for lawyers it is legal guilt as opposed to moral guilt.

It was also interesting to me that many of these schools of thought were developing ideas from 450 BC and 300BC. This was probably about the time that the ‘Old testament’ was being put together from oral histories. Furthermore, I found it interesting that the thoughts and conclusions arrived at by these Greek thinkers are so congruous with the morality of the biblical scholars (no wonder I was never exposed to these thoughts by my subjective Philosophy instructor).

There is a lot of material in this short history and probably will become a reference book for me and I believe most readers will agree. While I enjoyed and often struggled with some of the arguments, I believe I got a lot out of reading this work. I would recommend this book with the appropriate caveats.
