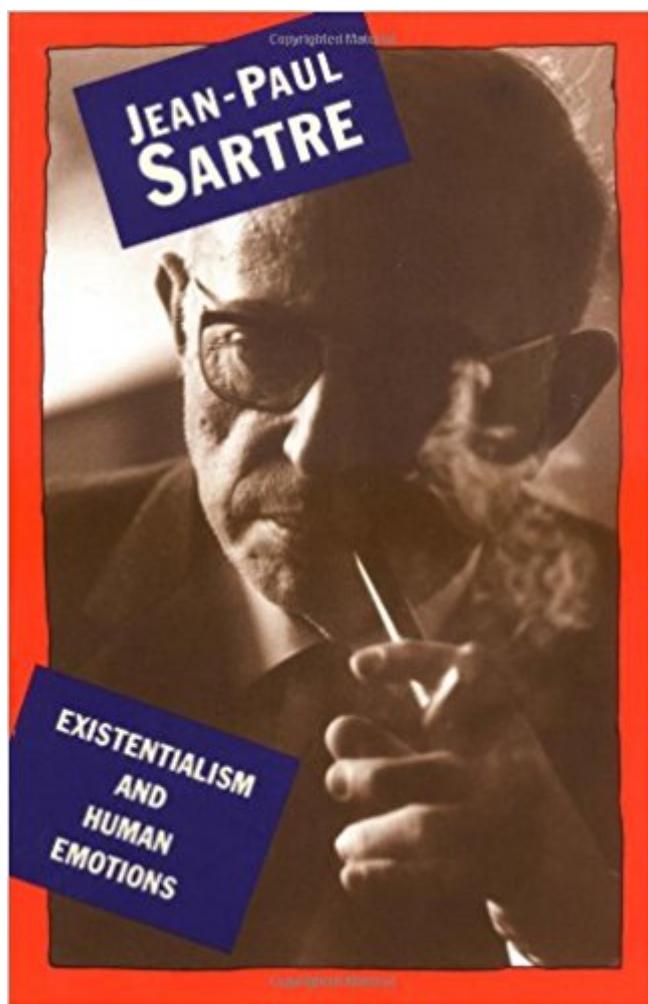


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Existentialism And Human Emotion (A Philosophical Library Book)



Synopsis

In this provocative philosophical analysis, Jean-Paul Sartre refutes the idea that existentialism drains meaning from human life, by claiming that the philosophy instead gives man total freedom to achieve his own significance. Sartre's Existentialism and Human Emotions is a stirring defense of existentialist thought, which argues that "existence precedes essence." While attacks on existentialism claim that the philosophy leads to a kind of nihilistic gloom, Sartre contends that instead existentialism is the only path toward giving man meaning. Sartre ultimately argues that by the very absence of "a priori meaning," an individual can discover and shape his or her own significance and place in the world. Sartre turns the typical nihilistic definition of existentialism on its head in this optimistic take on his best-known theory. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) was a significant voice in the creation of existential thought. His explorations of the ways human existence is unique among all life-forms in its capacity to choose continue to influence fields such as Marxist philosophy, sociology, and literary studies. He was awarded the 1964 Nobel Prize in Literature, but refused the honor. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Late into his career, Sartre once again says so much in such a small book! My only real point here is that if you have to read ONLY one work from Sartre, this probably shouldn't be it. The language that Sartre is using is very informed by a lot of his earlier publications and you risk missing out on his deeper meanings if you aren't familiar with them. I would say start with Nausea, Existentialism is a humanism, Sketch for a Theory of Emotions, or even The imagination (for the philosophically literate) first.

Helps one understand their place in existence while opening up the possibility of a meaningful life, will recommend to those suffering from a crisis or are simply curious about Existentialism. Merely a starting book, though, I would recommend buying this book in conjunction with a few of Sartre's other books. I've lent this to a friend, I know he'll love it.

Those not wishing to slog through some of Sartre's weightier work will find "Existentialism and Human Emotions" a very useful statement and summation of the principles of Sartre's beliefs. More than half a century after existentialism came to the fore, I, for one, find the ideas as compelling as ever. Sartre shows on the one hand that existentialism was a movement born out of the rejection of ideology. Ideas that come packaged and defined and handed to the individual for unquestioning acceptance hold no interest for the existentialist. While Sartre makes few, if any, explicit references to the disastrous totalitarian mass movements that gave rise to World War II, it's clear that these -- along with organized religion -- are his targets. The core of Sartre's analysis lies in his assertion that "existence precedes essence." Every other piece of existentialism flows from this idea that Man, at birth, is a being for whom nothing is determined. Man, Sartre argues, creates the story that becomes his life through living, pure and simple. From this it follows that all of our lives are shaped by choice. Another of Sartre's famous contentions emerges from the book, that even if one does nothing, that in itself is a choice. Man cannot escape that responsibility for his actions. There is, as Sartre was to famously and dramatically delineate later, "no exit." For me, the most important idea in the book is that it convincingly refutes the shallow attack often leveled at existentialism: that it is dressed-up nihilism. Sartre shows that the existentialists do not reject meaning; they simply insist that there is no a priori meaning. In fact, in their rejection of ideology and determinism, the existentialists embrace meaning, for what is meaning unless it is that which one discovers on his own, through his own questing? You can read this book in a couple of hours. For some of us, though, its material has given us a lifetime of things to think about.

The book came, it was fine.

Came just as described and in good condition!

Must read, absolute must read - you may find yourself rereading a page 3 times to understand what Sarte is communicating however upon doing so you will be filled with angst ;)

This book is excellent, it's very deep for me and has made think to much about my life and future. It's short, I read it in one day but the contents of these small book is deep and somehow life changing.I recommend it to anyone who wants to see beyond their noses and want to think about life itself!David

This book, I highly recommend to any aspiring student of Existentialism. Sartre takes the time to juxtapose Freudian psychoanalysis with his version of Existential psychoanalysis, which affords the reader an opportunity to feel the impact of Adler on Sartre. Sartre touches all the essential elements of Existentialism, Decisions, time and Existentialism as humanism. This is much better starting point for those interested in Sartre than Being and Nothingness

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