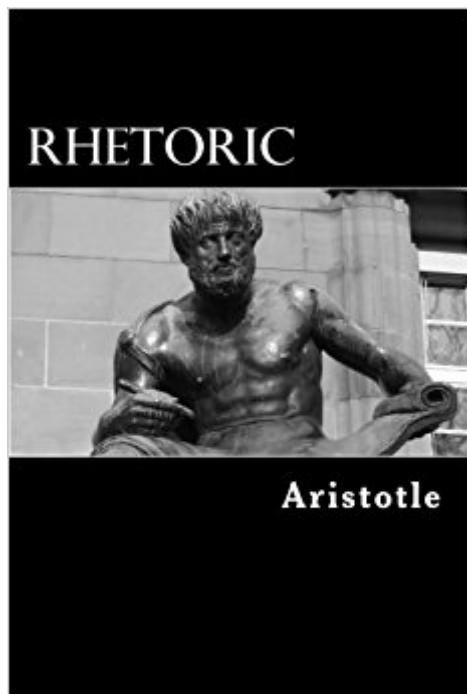


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Rhetoric



Synopsis

Aristotle's Rhetoric is an ancient Greek treatise on the art of persuasion, dating from the 4th century BC. In English, its title varies: typically it is titled the Rhetoric, the Art of Rhetoric, or a Treatise on Rhetoric. Like the other works of Aristotle that have survived from antiquity, the Rhetoric seems not to have been intended for publication, being instead a collection of his students' notes in response to his lectures. The treatise shows the development of Aristotle's thought through two different periods while he was in Athens, and illustrates Aristotle's expansion of the study of rhetoric beyond Plato's early criticism of it in the Gorgias (ca. 386 BC) as immoral, dangerous, and unworthy of serious study. Plato's final dialogue on rhetoric, the Phaedrus (ca. 370 BC), offered a more moderate view of rhetoric, acknowledging its value in the hands of a true philosopher (the "midwife of the soul") for "winning the soul through discourse." This dialogue offered Aristotle, first a student and then a teacher at Plato's Academy, a more positive starting point for the development of rhetoric as an art worthy of systematic, scientific study.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for the previous edition: "[This book] is much more than a translation; it is a guide to the literature, a mini-commentary, and a do-it-yourself manual to understanding Aristotle. . . . [It] deserves to be the standard translation for decades to come."--Quarterly Journal of Speech"George Kennedy has taken on a difficult job--providing a scholarly edition of the Rhetoric that will also serve as a textbook for students--and has succeeded admirably. His introduction gives an excellent overview of Aristotle's work and is a pleasure to read. The chapter-by-chapter outline is

magnificent."--Erika Lindemann, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill"Easy-to-read, trustworthy, and has the added distinction of bringing out more clearly than any other translation the way Aristotle's reasoning works. It will improve the general state of Aristotle studies in the English-speaking world."--Thomas Conley, University of Illinois"Kennedy's extensive use of footnotes and careful editing allow students access to Aristotle's writings as few other translations are able to do. This book is a must for any contemporary study of classical rhetorical theory."--James J. Tarbox, Oregon State University --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Aristotle (384 BC-322 BC) was a Greek philosopher, a student of Plato and teacher of Alexander the Great. His writings cover many subjects, including physics, metaphysics, poetry, theater, music, logic, rhetoric, politics, government, ethics, biology, and zoology. Together with Plato and Socrates (Plato's teacher), Aristotle is one of the most important founding figures in Western philosophy. Aristotle's writings were the first to create a comprehensive system of Western philosophy, encompassing morality and aesthetics, logic and science, politics and metaphysics. Aristotle's views on the physical sciences profoundly shaped medieval scholarship, and their influence extended well into the Renaissance, although they were ultimately replaced by Newtonian physics. In the zoological sciences, some of his observations were confirmed to be accurate only in the 19th century. His works contain the earliest known formal study of logic, which was incorporated in the late 19th century into modern formal logic. In metaphysics, Aristotelianism had a profound influence on philosophical and theological thinking in the Islamic and Jewish traditions in the Middle Ages, and it continues to influence Christian theology, especially Eastern Orthodox theology, and the scholastic tradition of the Catholic Church. His ethics, though always influential, gained renewed interest with the modern advent of virtue ethics. All aspects of Aristotle's philosophy continue to be the object of active academic study today. Though Aristotle wrote many elegant treatises and dialogues (Cicero described his literary style as "a river of gold"), it is thought that the majority of his writings are now lost and only about one-third of the original works have survived.

Ok, for what it is, it's alright but there's a redundancy throughout the text that makes me think those studying, researching and writing books on Rhetoric mostly hate it as much as I hate the topic myself. Theories in the book pretty much are recycled and repeated from chapter to chapter. I had to buy it for a class....

It was definitely definitely worth the price. I knew very little about Aristotle at the beginning of the grad level course I was taking. I bought this book on the chance it would be beneficial to my understanding of the required texts. It worked. Kennedy's analysis provided valuable insight that I wouldn't have gained from our normal textbook. Must buy :-) :-)

Kennedy's translation is considered definitive, and this version is annotated well and easy to read (especially compared to some of the other translations, like Jebb, Freese, and Roberts' versions). If you want to read Aristotle's Rhetoric, this is the way to do it. The used copy I bought was in pretty battered shape, though. It had a paper cover glued to the hardcover for some reason, and appears to have been stolen from a library in Orange County, California. But I imagine these problems won't be an issue for most people.

Aristotle is great. This translation is very easy to read.

Came in great condition!

Great book, best translation there is

Great

Like most orders, I got what I wanted, I got it fast, and I am very happy so far.

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