



The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy Volume II: Descartes through Derrida and Quine

Norman Melchert

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Ideal for courses in introductory or modern and contemporary philosophy, *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy, Volume II: Descartes through Derrida and Quine* covers the same material as the second half (chapters 12-26) of author Norman Melchert's longer volume, *The Great Conversation*. Now in its fifth edition, this historically organized introductory text treats philosophy as a dramatic and continuous story--a conversation about humankind's deepest and most persistent concerns. Tracing the exchange of ideas between history's key philosophers, the book demonstrates that while constructing an argument or making a claim, one philosopher almost always has others in mind. It addresses the fundamental questions of human life: Who are we? What can we know? How should we live? and What sort of reality do we inhabit?

The fifth edition retains the distinctive feature of previous editions: Melchert provides a generous selection of excerpts from major philosophical works and makes them more easily understandable to students with his own lucid and engaging explanations. Ranging from Descartes to Derrida and Quine, the selections are organized historically and include a translation of Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy* (the complete work). The author's commentary offers a rich intellectual and cultural context for the philosophical ideas conveyed in the excerpts. Extensive cross-referencing shows students how philosophers respond appreciatively or critically to the thoughts of other philosophers. The text is enhanced by two types of exercises--"Basic Questions" and "For Further Thought"--and more than thirty illustrations.

New to the Fifth Edition

- * A new chapter (25) on Simone de Beauvoir and her contributions to philosophy
- * New profiles of the Buddha and Jean-Jacques Rousseau
- * Review questions that are now dispersed throughout the chapters (instead of at chapter ends) to follow relevant passages and facilitate classroom discussion
- * Six new images, including explanatory cartoons that help students understand key concepts
- * A revised Instructor's Manual and Test Bank containing essential points, teaching suggestions, and multiple-choice, short-answer, and essay exam questions

Also available to suit your course needs: *The Great Conversation: A Historical Introduction to Philosophy*, Fifth Edition (combined volume covering the Pre-Socratics through Derrida and Quine) and *The Great Conversation: Volume I: Pre-Socratics through Descartes*, Fifth Edition (includes chapters 1-13 of the combined volume).

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