

PRESOCRATIC PHILOSOPHY:: A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION Pdf Free Download



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Catherine Osborne
168 pages
16 Sep 2004
Oxford University Press
9780192840943
English
Oxford, United Kingdom

Generations of philosophers, both ancient and modern, have traced their inspiration back to the Presocratics. Part of the fascination stems from the fact that little of what they wrote survives. Here Osborne invites her readers to dip their toes into the fragmentary remains of thinkers from Thales to Pythagoras, Heraclitus to Protagoras, and to try to reconstruct the moves that they were making, to support stories that Western philosophers and historians of philosophy like to tell about their past. This book covers the invention of western philosophy: introducing to us the first thinkers to explore ideas about the nature of reality, time, and the origin of the universe.

About the Series: Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, Very Short Introductions offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam. Get A Copy. Paperback, 128 pages. More Details Original Title. Other Editions 8. Friend Reviews. To see what your friends thought of this book, please sign up. To ask other readers questions about Presocratic Philosophy, please sign up. Be the first to ask a question about Presocratic Philosophy. Lists with This Book.

Community Reviews. Showing Average rating 3. Rating details. More filters. Sort order. Brilliantly lucid, readable, and remarkably comprehensive for such a short book. Some verbalism and pieces from the original texts, nothing more. Jan 16, Christopher rated it liked it. In chapters dedicated slightly more to general themes than to individual thinkers, Catherine Osborne presents some of the major contributions that they made to philosophy: the theory that everything is made of tiny bits called atoms, the famous paradox of Zeno and the tortoise, and the puzzle of how any change or development is possible if reason leads us to conclude that the universe is unchanging.

Two things make this book stand out in popular introductions to the subject, revealing the Presocratics in a different light than I got in an undergraduate philosophy course years ago. The first is that Osborne underlines how their writings have not come down to us in full, but rather as fragmentary manuscripts and quoted snippets in other ancient sources, which requires scholars to do a great deal of interpretation and guesswork, and it also means that our understanding of their thought can change when new papyri are discovered.

She uses Empedocles and an archaeological discovery in the 5th century BC as an example of this changing view. The second fresh concern of Osborne's work is to overturn the traditional presentations of the Presocratics as a straight line of development and progress, as it is unknown if they even actually read each other, and so we shouldn't think that each Presocratic figure was responding specifically to one before him. Some Very Short Introduction titles are accessible to a practically universal audience. The author also clearly ran up against the space constraints of the Very Short Introduction series, and the approach she chooses ends up feeling curiously cut off at the knees within a mere pages.

For what it is worth, Osborne does provide a Further Reading section at the end of this book. Jun 05, Sonic rated it it was amazing. This is a super excellent book! First to talk about this vast subject, is commendable, secondly to speak succinctly on this topic, is amazing, and thirdly the way Catherine Osborne engages us the readers is quite exceptional. Osborne is capable of asking good questions, and sometimes being satisfied with some good questions instead of reducing these concepts to erroneous and incomplete assumptions.

She has an engaging and down-to-earth voice that is incredibly refreshing amongst the schola This is a super excellent book! She has an engaging and down-to-earth voice that is incredibly refreshing amongst the scholarly voices of this A Very Short Introduction series. This is fabulous! Apr 14, Maya rated it liked it Shelves: philosophy, ebook. I wish that instead of talking about philosophers the way she did she would have instead taken the theories and followed them from the beginning to the end instead. She seems to jump around on the theories instead of building them up. Still a good read though. Nov 11, Erica Zahn rated it liked it Shelves: non-fiction, underpages.

He was a bit of a scientist, and greatly impressed the people of his day by applying his new ideas in real life. This enabled him to achieve some notorious instances of military success and economic advantage. But what he became most famous for was the idea that the world stays where it is because it is floating on water, and — on the same theme — the idea that all the things in the world derive from water in some way. Everyone wanted to explain, as he thought best, how the world, as we know it now, could have originated from some single undifferentiated matter. This debate went on for some time, each contributor adding a plausible theory to explain how the world might have come to look as it now does, supposing his own idea of its origin were true. It can be quite dry but the varied format pictures, text boxes, tables etc. Some of the introductory material seemed a bit obvious explanations about what a fragment is etc. I found there was good checking of our priorities i. Sep 03, Erik rated it liked it.

Potentially sad that the one I finally did finish was only pages, but its still something. In a moment where Im having to reassess life as a whole I found myself looking back at something I was trying to do before my life was swept away for over a year now. As the years have gone on I have come to understand the wisdom behind many things my Dad would say, and decided at some point along the way to search for wisdom itself. It seems clear enough to point to. Plato and Pythagoreanism. Early Greek Ethics. Parmenides and Presocratic Philosophy. Everything in Everything: Anaxagoras's Metaphysics. Note The price listed on this page is the recommended retail price for Japan. Search Items. Access to the complete content on Very Short Introductions online requires a subscription or purchase. Public users are able to search the site and view the abstracts and keywords for each book and chapter without a subscription.

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