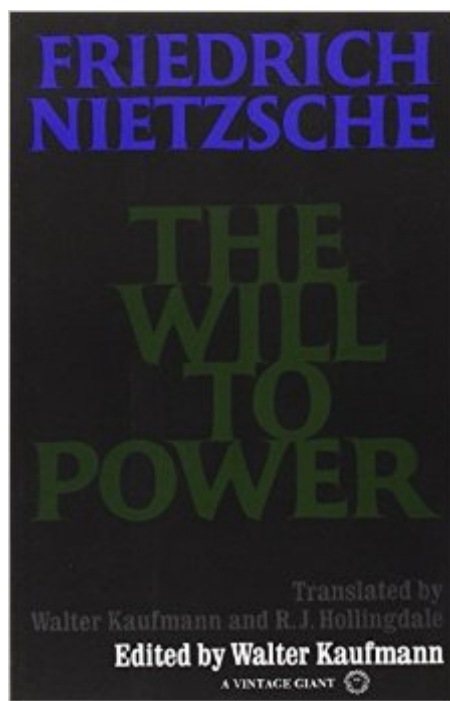


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The Will To Power



Synopsis

Represents a selection from Nietzsche's notebooks to find out what he wrote on nihilism, art, morality, religion, and the theory of knowledge, among others.

Book Information

Paperback: 608 pages

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Customer Reviews

The first thing to understand is that *The Will to Power* is not Nietzsche's magnum opus. It is a collection of his unpublished writings from the 1880's, collected by his sister and published under the title *The Will to Power*. I've studied Nietzsche for over two and half years now, extensively reading and comparing his works, specifically from *The Gay Science* on to *The Will to Power*. Those who say that this work presents ideas that contradict his published works are wrong. Nietzsche certainly does elaborate on certain concepts that are not introduced in detail in his published works. But this is to be expected. Being his notes, one can expect that these passages, aphorisms, quotes, and notes are rather unpolished and therefore lack the kind of sophisticated poetical style that characterizes his published work. However attempts to refute these notes as mere propaganda perpetuated by his sister is simply ludicrous. Certain concepts such as nihilism, breeding, the will to power, and the eternal recurrence are covered more. The writings do not usually go into great detail, and are often ambiguous, but this is what one should expect from one's notes. However you will not find ideas in this book that are really different from those in his published works. There have been two main errors that have been perpetuated upon this book. First, some take this as his magnum opus and therefore overlook his other writings, however others ignore this book and pass it off as propaganda that represented his sister's agenda. Most scholars of Nietzsche agree that this work is

very important as long as one also reads his published works.

This book changed my life. Philosophy has always interested me, but it has always seemed that most philosophical systems were so dry and abstract to be devoid of any real implications to one's life. This book, I dare say, is more practical, but not in a common everyday sense of that term. I would say this work is mystical, for lack of a better word. This is a collection of notes by a man, who not only interpreted the world in a unique way, but really felt it. To Nietzsche this was not just some various thought experiments. This work and his other works, particular his later material, are an attempt to provide a new worldview, a new way to interpret life that is almost the complete opposite of the traditional worldviews that have dominated the world, such as christianity, judaism, buddhism, i.e. the philosophies of world renunciation and the ascetic ideal. Nietzsche reveals how the world really is, not some ideal of the world, namely that the world is violent, chaotic, without any kind of theology. He then proceeds to affirm this world, otherwise affirming life for those very characteristics that had led others to deny it. The ultimate value by which all is measured in his works, particular in this work, is power. Life is seen as the will to power. In other words, life's essence is the drive, impulse to grow, to conquer, to dominate, and accumulate force, to increase and grow in every possible way, physically, mentally, and spiritual (remembering that all these are all still physiology to Nietzsche). One of the best ideas can be found when he contrasts the Dionysian worldview with the christian worldview, namely Dionysus vs. The Crucified. He says that the christian sees suffering as a means to an end, as necessary to attain holiness and heaven.

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