



**70 PHILOSOPHERS
THROUGH THE AGES**

**600 BC
2000**

**LINE-UP OF
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TIMELINE INDEX
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70 PHILOSOPHERS THROUGH THE AGES

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600BC - 2000**

**70 Philosophers through the ages
600BC to 2000**

**Line-up from Wikipedia
selected, edited, listed and bundled by
Judith Hof & Timeline Index**

**Publication and Design by Timeline Index,
timelineindex.com**

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ISBN: 9781477470008

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Intro

'70 Philosophers through the ages'
is meant as an introduction and, like our website, contains a chronological line-up of Wikipedia snippets. This hard copy may be usefull as a quick and easy reference to hold, keep, give or carry around and pick up where and whenever you feel like.

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The selection of philosophers in this book is inevitably subjective and incomplete. We welcome your suggestions for improvement at: contact@timelineindex.com

Timeline Index is an ongoing project. We aim to provide a useful structure to help put information into context.

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Philosophers through the ages

Philosophy can be traced back to ancient Greece, but has probably always been a part of our society. The easiest way to describe philosophy is as the study of general – and fundamental – questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind and language. Questions like “why are we alive?”, “what does it all mean” and “am I alive because I think or do I think because I’m alive” are some of the more well known. Probably everybody has asked at least one of those in their lives.

Many people have devoted their lives to philosophy. This started with men like Thales and Phytagoras, followed by Plato and Aristotle in the Ancient era. It also includes St. Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Simone de Beauvoir, René Decartes, and Nietzsche for example.

In this book you will find 70 of the most famous philosophers, whom each have left their mark on the centuries old history of philosophy. Some of them may sound familiar, while others are probably completely new for you. So go ahead and find out. Maybe you’ll even find yourself inspired by a few of these remarkable people.

Most well known philosophical movements

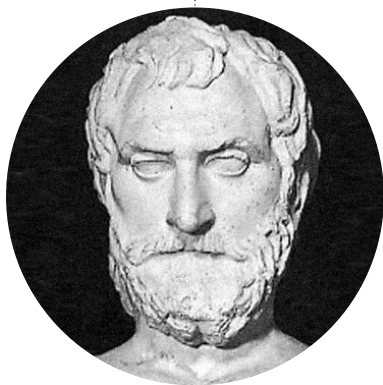
Every part of the world has its own philosophical movements and these movements change with the time. This means there are a lot of philosophical movements, some active and some history. It would take us an entire book to name them all, so that's why we'll keep in short and name only the most well known forms of philosophy.

- Nihilism
- Existentialism
- Stoicism
- Hedonism
- Marxism
- Logical Positivism
- Taoism
- Rationalism
- Relativism
- Buddhism

• Learn more: wikipedia.org/wiki/Philosophical_movement

Thales of Miletus

c. 623 BC – c. 547 BC



1st Greek Philosopher

Thales of Miletus was a Greek mathematician, astronomer and philosopher. He was one of the Seven Sages (also known as the Seven Wise Men) of Greece. Many – including most notably Aristotle – regarded him as the first philosopher in the Greek Tradition. He is historically recognized as the first individual in Western civilization known to have entertained and engaged in scientific philosophy.

It was custom in Ancient Greece to use mythology to explain the world and the universe. Thales broke with this and instead explained natural object and phenomena by naturalistic theories and hypotheses. Almost all of the other philosophers of his time

followed him in this.

Aristotle regarded him as the founder of the Ionian School and reported Thales' hypothesis that the originating principles of nature and the nature of matter was a single material substance: water.

When it came to mathematics, Thales used geometry to calculate the heights of pyramids and the distance of ships from the shore. He is the first known individual to use deductive reasoning applied to geometry, by deriving four corollaries to the so-called Thales' theorem. This theorem states that if A, B and C are distinct points on a circle where the line AC is a diameter, then the angle ABC is a right angle.

Because of this theorem, Thales' is the first to whom a mathematical discovery has been attributed.

Thales of Miletus • Born: c. 626/623 BC, Miletus, Ionia, Asia Minor • Died: c. 548/545 BC (aged c. 78) • School: Ionian / Milesiannaturalism • Main interests: Ethics, Metaphysics, Mathematics, Astronomy • Notable ideas: Water is the arche, Thales' theorem, Intercept theorem • Influences: Babylonian astronomy, Ancient Egyptian mathematics, Ancient Egyptian religion • Influenced: Pythagoras, Anaximander, Anaximenes, Xenophanes • Learn more: wikipedia.org/wiki/Thales_of_Miletus

Anaximander of Miletus

c. 610 BC – c. 546 BC



“Nature is ruled by laws”

Anaximander was a Greek philosopher who lived in Miletus, a city in Ionia (modern-day Turkey). This place might sound familiar for the attentive reader and there's a reason: Anaximander belonged to the Milesian school and learned the teachings of his master Thales, the first known philosopher in the Greek Tradition. He succeeded Thales and became the second master of that counted Anaximenes and (although arguably) Pythagoras amongst his pupils.

These days not much is known of his work. According to available historical documents, he is the first philosopher known to have written down his studies. Unfortunately only one fragment

of his work remains.

Anaximander was an early proponent of science and tried to observe and explain different aspects of the universe, with a particular interest in the universe's origins. He claimed that nature is ruled by laws, just like human societies, and anything that disturbs the balance of nature does not last long.

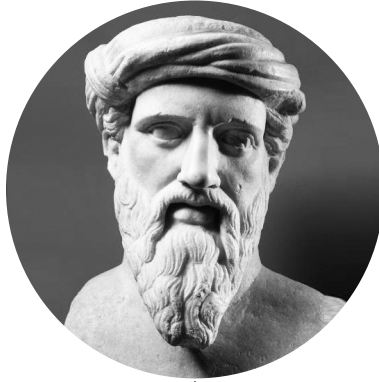
Like many thinkers of his time, Anaximander's philosophy included contributions to many disciplines. In astronomy, he attempted to describe the mechanics of celestial bodies in relation to the Earth. In physics, his postulation that the indefinite was the source of all things led Greek philosophy to a new level of conceptual abstraction.

His knowledge of geometry allowed him to introduce the gnomon in Greece. He also created a map of the world that contributed greatly to the advancement of geography.

Anaximander • Born: c. 610 BC • Died: c. 546 BC • School: Ionian / Milesian, Naturalism • Main interests: Metaphysics, astronomy, geometry, geography • Notable ideas: The apeiron is the arche, Evolutionary view of living things, Earth floats unsupported, Mechanical model of the sky, Water of rain from evaporation, World map • Influences: Thales of Miletus • Influenced: All pre-socratic philosophy, in particular: Anaximenes, Pythagoras, Democritus, Greek astronomy; Heidegger • Learn more: wikipedia.org/wiki/Anaximander

Pythagoras of Samos

c. 570 BC – c. 495 BC



Pythagorean theorem

Pythagoras of Samos was an ancient Ionian Greek philosopher and the first man to call himself a philosopher (“lover of wisdom”). He also is the eponymous founder of Pythagoreanism. His political and religious teachings were well known in Magna Graecia and influenced the philosophies of Plato, Aristotle and – through them – Western philosophy. His life is clouded by legend, but it seems he was the son of Mnesarchus, a gem-engraver on the island of Samos.

The teaching most securely identified with Pythagoras is metempsychosis, or the ‘transmigration of souls’. This holds that every soul is immortal and – upon death – enters into a new body.

He may also have devised the doctrine of 'musica universalis'. This holds that the planets move according to mathematical equations and thus resonate to produce an inaudible symphony of music.

In antiquity, Pythagoras was credited with many mathematical and scientific discoveries, including the Pythagorean theorem, Pythagorean tuning, the five regular solids, the Theory of Proportions, the sphericity of the Earth and the identity of the morning and evening stars as the planet Venus. Classical historians however debate whether Pythagoras made these discoveries and many of the accomplishments credited to him likely originated earlier or were made by his colleagues or successors.

His teachings underwent a major revival in the first century BC among Middle Platonists. Pythagoras continued to be regarded as a great philosopher throughout the Middle Ages and his philosophy had a major impact on scientists such as Copernicus, Kepler and Newton.

Pythagoras • Born: c.570 BC, Samos • Died: c.495 BC (aged around 75), Croton or Metapontum • School: Pythagoreanism • Main interests: Ethics, Mathematics, Metaphysics, Music, Mysticism, Politics, Religion • Notable ideas: Communalism, Metempsychosis, Musica universalis • Attributed ideas: Five climatic zones, Five regular solids, Proportions, • Pythagorean theorem, Pythagorean tuning, Sphericity of the Earth, Vegetarianism • Influences: Thales, Anaximander, Pherecydes, Themistoclea, Orphism • Influenced: Pythagoreanism, Xenophanes, Empedocles, Plato • Learn more: wikipedia.org/wiki/Pythagoras

Confucius

551 BC – 479 BC



**“Do not do unto others
what you do not want done to yourself”**

Confucius was a Chinese philosopher and politician of the Spring and Autumn period. The philosophy of Confucius – also known as Confucianism – emphasized personal and governmental morality, correctness of social relationships, justice, kindness and sincerity.

His followers competed successfully with many other schools during the Hundred Schools of Thought era, only to be suppressed in favor of the Legalists during the Qin dynasty. After the collapse of Qin, Confucius’ thoughts received official sanction in the new government and were further developed into a system known in

the West as Neo-Confucianism, and later New Confucianism.

Confucius is traditionally credited with having authored or edited many of the Chinese classic texts, including all of the Five Classics. Modern scholars however are cautious of attributing specific assertions to Confucius himself. Aphorisms concerning his teachings were compiled in the *Analects*, but only many years after his death.

His principles have commonality with Chinese tradition and belief. Confucius championed strong family loyalty, ancestor veneration, and respect of elders by their children and husbands by their wives. He recommended family as a basis for ideal government and espoused the well-known principle “Do not do unto others what you do not want done to yourself”. He is also a traditional deity in Daoism.

Confucius is widely considered as one of the most important and influential individuals in human history. His teaching and philosophy greatly impacted people around the world and remain influential today.

Confucius • Born: 551 BC, Kong Qiū, Zou, State of Lu (near present-day Nanxin Town, Qufu, Shandong, China) • Died: 479 BC (aged 71–2), State of Lu • School: Confucianism • Main interests: Moral philosophy, Social philosophy, Ethics • Notable ideas: Confucianism, Golden Rule • Influences: I Ching, Book of Rites, Classic of Poetry • Influenced: Many Chinese philosophers, particularly Mencius, Xun Zi, Zhu Xi and the Neotaoists and the Neoconfucians; François Quesnay, Christian Wolff, Robert Cummings Neville, Ezra Pound, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz • Learn more: wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucius

Baruch Spinoza

1632 – 1677



Prince of philosophers

Baruch (de) Spinoza was a Dutch philosopher of Portuguese Sephardi origin. One of the early thinkers of the Enlightenment and modern biblical criticism, including modern conceptions of the self and the universe, he came to be considered one of the great rationalists of 17th-century philosophy. Inspired by the groundbreaking ideas of René Descartes, Spinoza became a leading philosophical figure of the Dutch Golden Age.

Spinoza was raised in the Portuguese-Jewish community in Amsterdam. He developed highly controversial ideas regarding the authenticity of the Hebrew Bible and the nature of the Divine. Jewish religious authorities issued a herem against him, causing

him to be effectively expelled and shunned by Jewish society at age 23, including by his own family. His books were later added to the Catholic Church's *Index of Forbidden Books*. He was frequently called an 'atheist' by contemporaries, although nowhere in his work does Spinoza argue against the existence of God.

Spinoza lived an outwardly simple life as an optical lens grinder, collaborating on microscope and telescope lens designs with Constantijn and Christiaan Huygens. He turned down rewards and honours throughout his life, including prestigious teaching positions. He died at the age of 44 in 1677 from a lung illness. He is buried in the Christian churchyard of Nieuwe Kerk in The Hague.

Spinoza's magnum opus, the *Ethics*, was published posthumously in the year of his death. The work opposed Descartes' philosophy of mind-body dualism and earned Spinoza recognition as one of Western philosophy's most important thinkers.

Baruch Spinoza • Born: Baruch Espinosa, 24 November 1632, Amsterdam, Dutch Republic • Died: 21 February 1677 (aged 44), The Hague, Dutch Republic • School: Rationalism, Spinozism, Cartesianism, Foundationalism, Conceptualism, Direct realism, Correspondence theory of truth • Main interests: Ethics, epistemology, metaphysics, Hebrew Bible • Notable ideas: Spinoza's philosophical system, Spinozism, Spinozistic ethics, Spinoza's theory of the emotions, Spinoza's conception of freedom, Spinoza's conception of true religion, Immanence, Conatus, Multitude, Sub specie aeternitatis, Causa sui, Deus sive Natura ("God or Nature"), Pantheism, Determinism, Neutral monism, Psychophysical parallelism, Criticism of Mosaic authorship of some books of the Hebrew Bible, Political society as derived from power, Affect, Natura naturans–natura naturata, Secularism • Influences: Descartes, Stoics, Maimonides, Crescas, Ezra, Avicenna, Averroes, Aristotle, Democritus, Lucretius, Epicurus, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Bruno • Influenced: Enlightenment philosophy (Age of Reason), Schopenhauer, Borges, Hegel, Rousseau, Schelling, Næss, Marx, G. Wagner, Davidson, Deleuze, Einstein, G. Eliot, Fichte, Herder, Novalis, Leibniz, Goethe, Renouvier, Nietzsche, Russell, Wittgenstein, Freud, Unamuno, Althusser, Balibar, Hardt, Ilyenkov, Negri, Santayana, Coleridge, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, L. Strauss, Kotakowski, Yalom, Vygotsky • Learn more: wikipedia.org/wiki/Baruch_Spinoza

Jacques Derrida

1930 – 2004



Developer of Deconstruction

Jacques Derrida was an Algerian-born French philosopher best known for developing a form of semiotic analysis known as deconstruction, which he discussed in numerous texts, and developed in the context of phenomenology. He is one of the major figures associated with post-structuralism and postmodern philosophy.

During his career Derrida published more than 40 books, together with hundreds of essays and public presentations. He had a significant influence on the humanities and social sciences, including philosophy, literature, law, anthropology, historiography, applied linguistics, sociolinguistics, psychoanalysis and political

theory.

His work retains major academic influence throughout the US continental Europe, South America and all other countries where continental philosophy has been predominant, particularly in debates around ontology, epistemology (especially concerning social sciences), ethics, aesthetics, hermeneutics, and the philosophy of language. In most of the Anglosphere, where analytic philosophy is dominant, Derrida's influence is most presently felt in literary studies due to his longstanding interest in language and his association with prominent literary critics from his time at Yale. He also influenced architecture (in the form of deconstructivism), music, art, and art criticism.

Particularly in his later writings, Derrida addressed ethical and political themes in his work. Some critics consider *Speech and Phenomena* to be his most important work. Others cite: *Of Grammatology*, *Writing and Difference* and *Margins of Philosophy*. These writings influenced various activists and political movements. He became a well-known and influential public figure, while his approach to philosophy and the notorious abstruseness of his work made him controversial.

Jacques Derrida • Born: Jackie Élie Derrida, July 15, 1930, El Biar, French Algeria • Died: October 9, 2004 (aged 74), Paris, France • School: Continental philosophy, Post-structuralism, Deconstruction, Radical hermeneutics • Notable ideas: Deconstruction, Différance, Phallogocentrism, Free play, Arche-writing, Metaphysics of presence, Invagination, Pharmakon, Trace, Hauntology, Sous rature, Khôra • Influences: Plato, Joyce, Nietzsche, De Saussure, Heidegger, Benjamin, Levinas, Freud, Husserl, Rousseau, Marx, Lévi-Strauss, Blanchot, Kierkegaard, Hegel, Genet, Kafka • Influenced: Jean-Luc Nancy, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Paul de Man, Philippe Lacoue-Labarthe, Maebh Long, Geoffrey Hartman, John D. Caputo, James KA Smith, Judith Butler, Catherine Malabou, Bernard Stiegler, Béatrice Galinon-Méléneć, Peter Rollins, Richard Rorty, Sarah Kofman • Learn more: wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacques_Derrida,

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