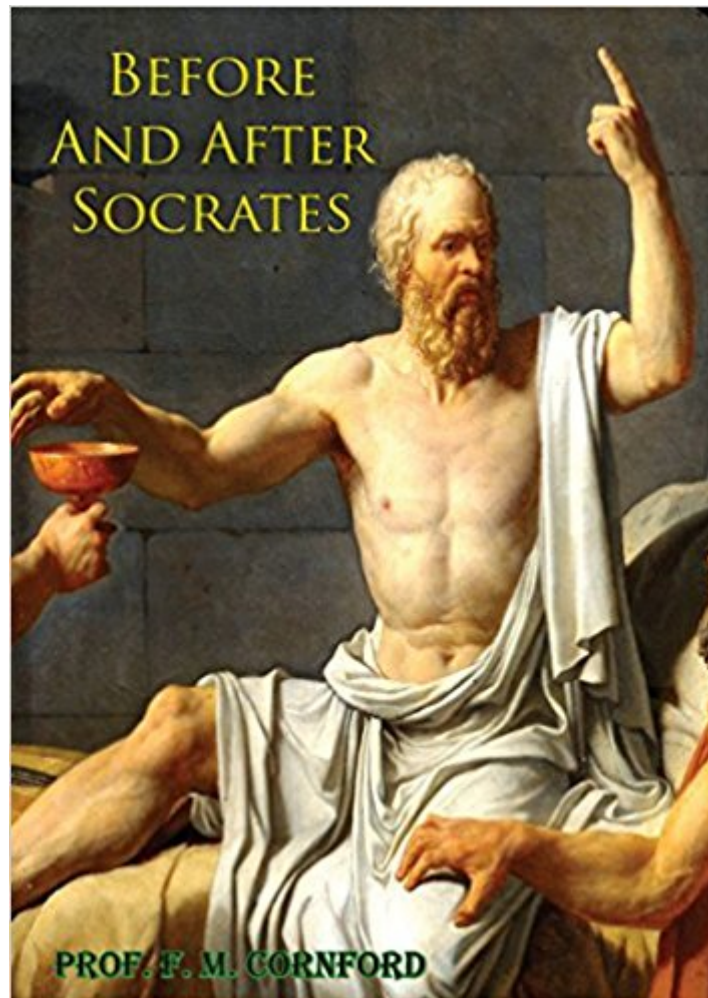




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Before And After Socrates



Synopsis

“Socrates was one of that small number of adventurers who, from time to time, have enlarged the horizon of the human spirit.” In this book, F. M. Cornford explains why the life and work of Socrates stand out as marking a turning-point in the history of thought. He shows how Socrates revolutionized the concept of philosophy, converting it from the study of Nature to the study of the human soul, the meaning of right and wrong, and the ends for which we ought to live. This is, in fact, the story of the whole creative period of Greek philosophy—the Ionian science of Nature before Socrates, Socrates himself, and his chief followers, Plato and his pupil Aristotle. It tells of the different contributions each made, and shows how within three centuries the Greek tradition grew to maturity and the fullness of intellectual power. Refreshing and stimulating...it is not only a masterly piece of condensation, nor only a delightful introduction to further reading; it is more, and it claims the attention of every serious student of the subject. “Journal of Hellenic Studies” “It can be confidently recommended to those who wish for a competent statement in a short compass of what the Greek philosophers believed and why.” “C. E. M. JOAD in New Statesman” “Provides a clear insight into the development of Greek philosophy and a brilliant commentary on the Greek mind and its attitude to life. The first chapter forms one of the most attractive introductions to philosophy that it is possible to find.” “The Times Literary Supplement”

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Customer Reviews

This is a very dated (1930s) series of lectures, republished as a book. The language is clear and conversational, Cornford presents a very useful outline of Greek thought and the development of philosophy, and the book is a quick read for a good introduction to the topic. That said, it is a dated work that has a very turn-of-the-century attitude toward social issues and the superiority of "western" culture. I will use this for my students as both a starting point for studies in Greek thought and in history of scholarship.

A pithy and concise review of pre-to-post-Socratic philosophy. Originally a series of lectures. F.M. Cornford read and thought and wrote deeply; I am in his debt.

Great book...I needed it for a class and received an 'B'!

A classic for a reason, I bought this for a university course and kept it because it is a great read!

Strangely enough very interesting ideas that are relevant to even today...a good read even if it was for school. I got something out of this.

This textbook was required for my granddaughter's Philosophy course. Book delivered was as described. No complaints.

Well I got this for my online class.. Never liked philosophy.. does the job..

But I do know that I love the writings of F.M. Cornford. He explains the writings of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle in such a way that it becomes entirely relevant to these days in which we live. Why are we the way we are? What were the beliefs of the ancient thinkers? Some of them were so tenacious in their beliefs that they were willing to give their lives for them. As a searcher of truth, this book spoke to me. Explains the "laws of nature" vs. the "laws of state" and why the former is more

preferable than the latter. Cornford is a genius.

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