

Preface

The history of Western philosophy is in many ways like an intellectual, dramatic chronology. There are ancestor thinkers who, through enormous epistemic pain, founded traditions for the pursuit of rational and scientific knowledge. There are those, like Socrates or Aristotle, who initiated trouble, invited the wrath of political authorities, and even drank the hemlock for the Cause of Philosophy and Rational Thought and Practice. There are bitter quarrels between competing systems of thought from the Pre-Socratics, the Sophists, Plato, the Epicureans, Stoics, Skeptics, and Neo-Platonists, ..., to the modern and contemporary generations (Rationalists, Empiricists, Existentialists, Marxists, Darwinians, Behaviorists, Neuro-Philosophers, etc.), often with no clear victor ever emerging. As the drama continues to unfold from one era to another, the Western Philosophic Edifice emerges and metamorphoses. Antiquated models, or paradigms, are amended, transcended, or, altogether, replaced with new ones. Thus, the history of Western philosophy (as the Eastern, Native American, African, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Middle Eastern, etc.) is an eternal adventure of ideas, concepts, perspectives, world views, This book strives to showcase a major thread of that saga.

Furthermore, and contra to the general belief, philosophy is the “mother of all sciences, arts, and humanities.” It is, also, the most universal and most precise. The most universal, as it encompasses all theoretical, practical, and productive knowledge (physics, chemistry, mathematics, computing, technology, engineering, economics, architectures, medicine, law, music, theater, sports, etc.). And, the most precise, as it zeroes in on logic – mathematical, symbolic, or formal logic; applied, informal, or critical thinking; and, meta-logic or philosophy of logic.

Exactly, this comprehensive, historically organized introduction to philosophy communicates the richness of the discipline and provides the learner with a working knowledge of the development of Western philosophy. Professor Sarri brings this Book I, to appreciate both enormous Thought and Style of Philosophy while preserving the historical, conceptual characteristics that have made it so successful. Book I covers all periods of philosophy, diagnose philosophers chronologically, and features an exceptional theory-practice of key concepts and philosophic fields. Book II shall extend such a methodology, tone, tenor, and pedagogical technique to cover Kant through Kafka.

Moreover, this new book fosters learning and the universal applicability of philosophy via: i) introducing modern learning tools, research, and creative careers in philosophy and applied global philosophy; and, ii) initiating the philosophy learner to the infinite philosophic applications as they relate to physics and chemistry; astronomy; mathematics; technology; computing; engineering; cognitive sciences; economics and finance; language; the arts; globalization; and so forth.

Samuel Sarri, PhD
Philosophy, Economics, Finance, Globalization Professor/NSHE