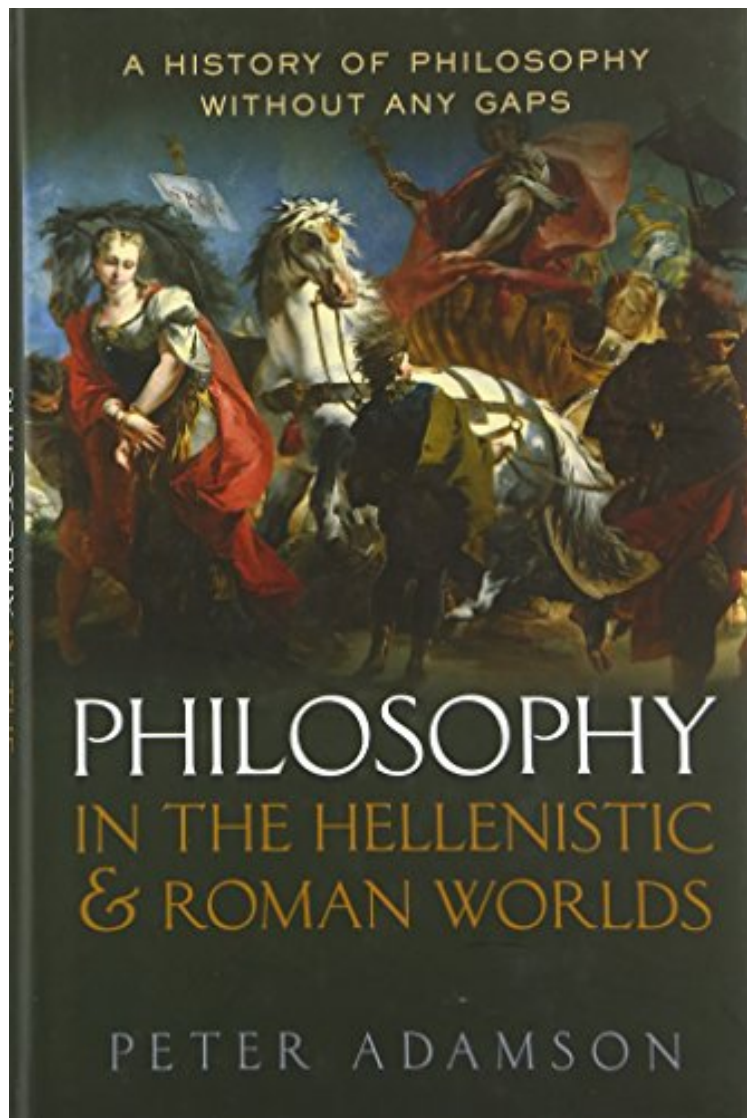


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Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds: A History of Philosophy without any gaps, Volume 2

Peter Adamson

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Peter Adamson : Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds: A History of Philosophy without any gaps, Volume 2 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds: A History of Philosophy without any gaps, Volume 2:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. History of Philosophy--just as advertised.By doctordoctorThis is a most enjoyable history of philosophy just as it claims to be; it is humorous and thorough enough. I shall buy his history of oriental philosophy if he has written it or if he does so.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Enid Merle EveringhamEasy to read with amusing anecdotes about those great old philosophers.10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A master-class to take slowly, engaging styleBy Italophile Book ReviewsThe subtitle of this book is A History of Philosophy without any gaps, Volume 2. It is the book form of a podcast available on-line. In the book you will learn about:- Hellenistic Philosophy, - Pagan Philosophy in the Roman Empire, and- (Judeo) Christian Philosophy in the Roman Empire.The book is divided into those three parts, but has many overlaps. Included for eager students are Notes, a Bibliography, an Index (in the print edition) and a Further Reading list.In this volume one meets the Sceptics, Epicurus, Stoics... all sorts of curious characters, including Plotinus, Augustine and Philo of Alexandria, and even Moses of Old Testament (Torah) fame. The author tries to engage the reader, often using popular culture references or questions:"Do you like a nice garden? Do you enjoy the company of friends? Do you believe the world is made of tiny particles, which you call atoms? Do you trust the evidence of your senses? Do you find politics tiresome, and raise a skeptical eyebrow at those who live in fear of God? If your answer to these questions is "yes", then you might want to consider becoming an Epicurean."The religious philosophers were concerned with what all philosophers are concerned with: ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, logic, philology, the mind, and even political philosophy such as how society should best be governed.A direct line is drawn from Moses to Plato to Aristotle to the Stoics to Neo-Platonism to Judeo-Christian thought. All those thinkers stress the need to turn away from the pleasure of the body (our animalistic nature) and turn toward virtue and a faithfulness to God (our divine nature). One must be aware of both our higher and lower natures, and integrate the two as a whole person, self plus soul.The author has more books in the works, and plans to cover in his works all 2500 years of western philosophical thought, without any gaps.Pre-SocraticsPlato and AristotleHellenistic period philosophersRoman era thinkersJudeo-Christian thinkersAncient philosophies preserved by Muslims, then Christian monks, leading toByzantine and Renaissance thought and philosophyThe EnlightenmentModern and Post-Modern thought and philosophyThe author aims to educate anyone who wants to know about the history of philosophy, through his podcasts, and with the books. His style is approachable and knowledgeable. He lightens the text with humor when possible.So if you are interested in learning the history of thoughts on how we should live, and what is the nature of man, truth, language and knowledge, this might be a book for you, together with Book 1 which covers Classical Philosophy, namely Plato and Aristotle.I've read other philosophy books, and attended university lectures on philosophy, so I have some basis of comparison when judging this book. To me, it reads like a really fun philosophy professor's lecture notes.The professor is modern minded, including two subjects professors of history and philosophy often skip when talking about the ancients: pervasive slavery and the negligible role of women in the paternalistic societies. I would have liked to have seen more mention of the institutional sadism of the societies in which these philosophers lived, another subject often overlooked.Please visit my full and illustrated review at Italophile Book Reviews. I received a review-copy of this book. This is my honest review.

Peter Adamson's History of Philosophy without any gaps series of podcasts is one of the most ambitious educational works on the web. It aims to do nothing less than take listeners through the entire history of philosophy 'without any gaps'. It assumes no prior knowledge making it ideal for beginners. This is the second volume to make these witty, and highly accessible, podcasts available in book form. Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds offers a tour through a period of eight hundred years when some of the most influential of all schools of thought were formed. From the counter-cultural witticisms of Diogenes the Cynic to the political philosophy of Augustine, the book gathers together all aspects of later ancient thought in a way that is a pleasure to read.

"Adamson considers a large period of history but the chapters never seem intimidating or lacking in depth. Any reader with an interest in philosophy will find this work both entertaining and educational." -- Library Journal"...Adamson's attempt to fill in the gaps provides greater context to understand the ongoing conflicts between hedonism and orthodox Abrahamic traditions that animate so much of Western thought." -- First Things About the AuthorPeter Adamson, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität MünchenPeter Adamson took his doctorate from the University of Notre Dame and first worked at King's College London. In 2012 he moved to the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, where he is Professor of Late Ancient and Arabic Philosophy. He has published widely in ancient and medieval philosophy, especially on Neoplatonism and on philosophy in the Islamic world.