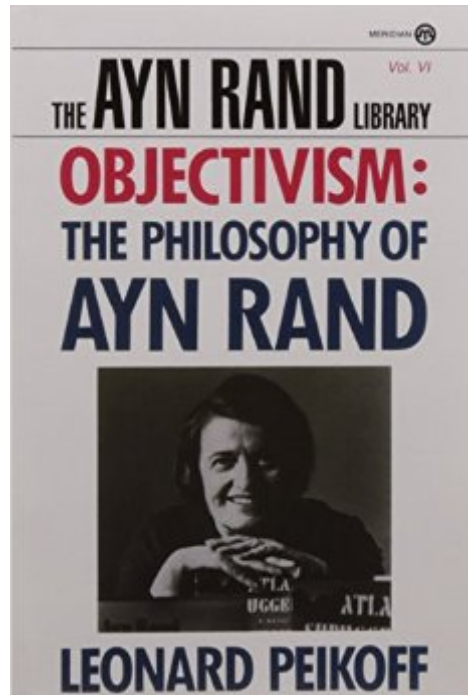


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Objectivism: The Philosophy Of Ayn Rand (Ayn Rand Library)



Synopsis

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION "The definitive statement of Ayn Rand's philosophy as interpreted by her best student and chosen heir. This brilliantly conceived and organized book is Dr. Leonard Peikoff's classic text on the abstract principles and practical applications of Objectivism, based on his lecture series "The Philosophy of Objectivism." • Ayn Rand said of these lectures: "Until or unless I write a comprehensive treatise on my philosophy, Dr. Peikoff's course is the only authorized presentation of the entire theoretical structure of Objectivism—that is, the only one that I know of my knowledge to be fully accurate." • In Objectivism, Peikoff covers every philosophic topic that Rand regarded as important—from certainty to money, from logic to art, from measurement to sex. Drawn from Rand's published works as well as in-depth conversations between her and Peikoff, these chapters illuminate Objectivism—and its creator—with startling clarity. With Objectivism, the millions of readers who have been transformed by *Atlas Shrugged* and *The Fountainhead* will discover the full philosophical system underlying Ayn Rand's work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

While other books on Objectivism are ignorant of its content and openly contemptuous of Miss Rand, *OBJECTIVISM: THE PHILOSOPHY OF AYN RAND* avoids the errors of other commentators. If you ever want an idea of the structure of Ayn Rand's philosophy, this is the **ONLY** book available for doing it. It starts at the starting premises of Rand's philosophic system and moves

step by step through the entire structure. Dr. Peikoff (whom I have seen explain Objectivism to large audiences) is by far the best authority on the subject. He studied under Ayn Rand for 30 years, so he knows her philosophy well, and is, of course, very fair in his presentation of it. When I started reading the book, my annotations were about technical philosophical issues, but my reading experience became more and more personal as I progressed through the book; I stopped saying things like "This philosophical error that Peikoff is explaining sounds like Descartes" and started saying things like "My friend John Smith needs to read this part." This book is, of course, nothing near the reading experience of Ayn Rand's own writings, but it is a must-read for those interested in her philosophy, especially since some aspects of Objectivism were never committed to paper by Rand herself. And, if your interest is not in Objectivism but in philosophy in general, I think you will be pleased to have this book in your collection. It is excellent in selling the importance of philosophy in general (and, of course, the best at explaining Objectivism in particular).

The philosophy called Objectivism, which is expounded in this book, is both an interesting one and, if judged by comparison with what was developed in philosophy in the 20th century, very original. In addition, it is one of the last attempts to build a full-scale "system" of philosophy, integrating epistemology, ethics, aesthetics, ontology, and politics. This is to be contrasted with the "microscopic" approach to philosophical problem solving, which was, one can argue with some confidence, the dominant strategy in mainstream 20th century philosophy. This is not to say of course that this strategy is not an effective one. After all, specialization in any field has the advantage of being thorough, whereas comprehensive system building is both time-consuming and exhausting for the investigator. Objectivism was constructed outside the academy and its elaboration was not reported in the accepted academic journals. This being the case, its statements and positions on philosophical matters may take a considerable amount of time to be accepted by academic circles. Even if Objectivism does not gain respect in such circles, it still could serve as an alternative to the accepted ideas and concepts that are entrenched in the academic journals. The advent of the Internet and more accessible methods of publication will no doubt encourage more thinking outside the academy. It remains to be seen if this strategy results in philosophical theories that are both non-trivial and interesting. Space does not permit a detailed review of this book, but some of the more interesting ideas that are elaborated on include: 1. The "stolen concept fallacy".

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