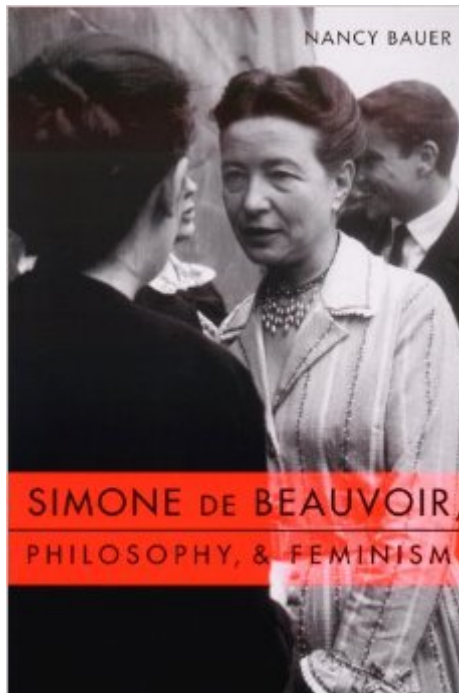


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# Simone De Beauvoir, Philosophy, And Feminism (Gender And Culture Series)



## Synopsis

In the introduction to *The Second Sex*, Simone de Beauvoir notes that "a man never begins by establishing himself as an individual of a certain sex: his being a man poses no problem." Nancy Bauer begins her book by asking: "Then what kind of a problem does being a woman pose?" Bauer's aim is to show that in answering this question *The Second Sex* dramatizes the extent to which being a woman poses a philosophical problem. This book is a call for philosophers as well as feminists to turn, or return to, *The Second Sex*. Bauer shows that Beauvoir's magnum opus, written a quarter-century before the development of contemporary feminist philosophy, constitutes a meditation on the relationship between women and philosophy that remains profoundly undervalued. She argues that the extraordinary effect *The Second Sex* has had on women's lives, then and now, can be traced to Beauvoir's discovery of a new way to philosophize—a way grounded in her identity as a woman. In offering a new interpretation of *The Second Sex*, Bauer shows how philosophy can be politically productive for women while remaining genuinely philosophical.

## Book Information

File Size: 926 KB

Print Length: 322 pages

Publisher: Columbia University Press (July 24, 2012)

Publication Date: July 24, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B008P1HZCM

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #941,316 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #75

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy >

Movements > Deconstruction #133 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics &

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