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a haunting portrait of arthur rosenberg one of nazism s chief architects and his obsession with one of history s most influential jewish thinkers in the spinoza problem irvin yalom spins fact and fiction into an unforgettable psycho philosophical drama yalom tells the story of the seventeenth century thinker baruch spinoza whose philosophy led to his own excommunication from the jewish community alongside that of the rise and fall of the nazi ideologue alfred rosenberg who two hundred years later during world war ii ordered his task force to plunder spinoza s ancient library in an effort to deal with the nazis spinoza problem seamlessly alternating between golden age amsterdam and nazi germany yalom investigates the inner lives of these two enigmatic men in a tale of influence and anxiety the origins of good and evil and the philosophy of freedom and the tyranny of terror this first extensive study of spinoza s philosophy of mind concentrates on two problems crucial to the philosopher s thoughts on the matter the requirements for having a thought about a particular object and the problem of the mind s relation to the body della rocca contends that spinoza s positions are systematically connected with each other and with a principle at the heart of his metaphysical system his denial of causal or explanatory relations between the mental and the physical in this way della rocca s exploration of these two problems provides a new and illuminating perspective on spinoza s philosophy as a system yitzhak melamed here offers a new and systematic interpretation of the core of spinoza s metaphysics in the first part of the book he proposes a new reading of the metaphysics of substance in spinoza he argues that for spinoza modes both inhere in and are predicated of god using extensive textual evidence he shows that spinoza considered modes to be god s propria he goes on to clarify spinoza s understanding of infinity mereological relations infinite modes and the flow of finite things from god s essence in the second part of the book melamed relies on this interpretation of the substance mode relation and the nature of infinite modes and puts forward two interrelated theses about the structure of the attribute of thought and its overarching role in spinoza s metaphysics first he shows that spinoza had not one but two independent doctrines of parallelism then in his final main thesis melamed argues that for spinoza ideas have a multifaceted in fact infinitely faceted structure that allows one and the same idea to represent the infinitely many modes which are parallel to it in the infinitely many attributes thought turns out to be coextensive with the whole of nature spinoza cannot embrace an idealist reduction of extension to thought because of his commitment to the conceptual separation of the attributes yet within spinoza s metaphysics thought clearly has primacy over the other attributes insofar as it is the only attribute which is as elaborate as complex and in some senses as powerful as god renowned for his metaphysics spinoza made significant contributions to understanding the human mind the emotions moral philosophy and political philosophy beginning with an overview of spinoza s life michael della rocca carefully unpacks and explains spinoza s philosophy his metaphysics of substance and argument at the center of his whole system that god is the sole independent substance his account of the human mind and its relation to the body his theory that human beings tend towards self preservation and his most famous work the ethics including the problem of free will and his writings on the state religion and scripture della rocca concludes with a chapter on spinoza s legacy and how modern philosophers hume hegel and nietzsche responded to spinoza s challenge ideal for those coming to spinoza for the first time as well as those already acquainted with his thought spinoza is essential reading for anyone studying philosophy this title was first published in 2002 this collection of essays aims to present a wide range of interpretations of central themes in spinoza s philosophy philosophical interpretations of spinoza divide into three general categories the first sets spinoza within what is taken to be his historical context special emphasis is laid here on aspects of his teaching that seem to bear the influence of spinoza s own education and self education either through concepts assimilated into his own thinking or those he undertook to refute and displace a second interpretative approach uses analytical tools in an attempt to reconstruct spinozistic issues and theories critically finally there are philosophers who explore spinoza s texts in their own terms attempting to present a coherent picture of one or more aspects of spinoza s teaching given the broad span of issues with which spinoza deals the latter is often the most difficult track to follow the 25 articles in this

collection exemplify these three attitudes to spinoza interpretation though most avail themselves of more than one in making the selection the editors preferred studies that treat their subject as a viable enduring philosophical issue whether the writer accepts spinoza s presentation or highlights his difficulties on each issue the articles critically analyze the texts rather than simply portraying the spinozistic ideas they express spinoza s philosophy has an undeserved reputation for being obscure and incomprehensible but now in this indispensable collection spinoza is portrayed in the manner he deserves as a brilliant metaphysician who paved the way for an exciting new science the volume focuses on several important areas including monism the concept of conatus the nature of and the relation between mind and body and spinoza s relationship to descartes and leibniz the new physics posed difficult questions about the existence and power of god however it was commonplace of seventeenth century metaphysics to claim that all force was god s in his philosophy spinoza solves this problem identifying god with nature but what happens to individuals after that identification and what is an individual for spinoza how does it act how are its actions explained this volume clearly addresses these and other fascinating questions it explores spinoza s account of the relationship between mind and body along with his view on the ontology of values spinoza saw the threat of deterministic physics to mind body interaction how is it possible that minds act on bodies and vice versa furthermore the volume examines the problem of the nature of values asking is there room for an independent realm of values in the new philosophy finally the collection investigates problems in the interpretation of spinoza that stem from spinoza s debatable place in seventeenth century philosophy it is often claimed that spinoza s ideas evolved from cartesian doctrines while profoundly influencing leibniz with a stellar group of contributors including michael della rocca john carriero richard mason steven barbone don garrett olli koistinen richard manning peter dalton charles jarrett charles huenemann and mark kulstad this volume serves as an excellent resource and represents the best work of a new generation of spinoza scholars doing without free will spinoza and contemporary moral problems introduces spinoza into the contemporary discussion on free will and on moral problems surrounding this discussion traditional western moral philosophy for the most part has been built on the assumption of free will as a special human capacity to freely choose actions without being determined in that choice this idea draws increasing critique fueled recently especially by the ever new findings of neuroscience but how can we develop a moral philosophy without free will spinoza faced a similar challenge when writing his ethics during the rise of modern science and its deterministic model of nature and for this reason has much to offer the current discussion not only does he provide a foundation for understanding moral responsibility without free will he also provides an explanation and solution to the classical problem of akrasia precisely because he argues the will is not free he worked out an entirely new system of moral philosophy that can help resolve the meta ethical dilemma between absolutism and relativism showing how moral values evolve naturally within society despite denying the traditional god like power of free will spinoza developed a robust concept of freedom one that is distinctly human and viable today his modernity comes to light when we look at his answers to the much discussed questions whether it is possible or even desirable to develop objective instead of reactive attitudes toward our fellow human beings his answers perhaps surprisingly resemble positions held by some contemporary philosophers harris offers his unique interpretation of spinoza as a dialectical thinker and addresses other commentators misunderstandings of some of spinoza s primary principles the opening chapters discuss spinoza s metaphysics and epistemology the problem of relating finite to infinite in his system the infinity of the attributes of substance human nature and the body mind relation politics and religion the latter part of the book addresses spinoza s influence on later philosophers and their interpretations of his doctrine in the course of his discussion harris stresses spinoza s holism and its implication both within and beyond spinoza s own writings eugene marshall presents an original systematic account of spinoza s philosophy of mind in which the mind is presented as an affective mechanism one that when rational behaves as a spiritual automaton the central feature of the account is a novel concept of consciousness one that identifies consciousness with affectivity a property of an idea paradigmatically but not exhaustively instantiated by those modes of thought spinoza calls affects inadequate and adequate ideas come to consciousness and thus impact our well being and establish or disturb our happiness only insofar as they become affects and thus conscious and ideas become affects by entering into appropriate causal relations with the other ideas that constitute a mind furthermore the topic of consciousness in spinoza provides an eminently well placed point of entry

into his system because it flows directly out of his central metaphysical epistemological and psychological commitments and it does so in a way that allows us to see spinoza s philosophy as a systematic whole further doing so provides a thoroughly consistent yet novel way of thinking about central themes in his thought marshall s reading provides a novel understanding of adequacy innateness power activity and passivity the affects the conatus bondage freedom the illusion of free will akrasia blessedness salvation and the eternity of the soul in short by explaining the affective mechanisms of consciousness in spinoza the spiritual automaton illuminates spinoza s systematic philosophical and ethical project as a whole as well as in its details in a striking new way till today spinoza s ethics is a standard for enlightened theoretical and practical reasoning his five parts are elucidated by this collective commentary an introduction sketches the historical consequences and the still relevant philosophical ambitions of the ethics an analytical discussion and overview of spinoza focussing specifically on the role of god in his seminal work the ethics until recently spinoza s standing in anglophone studies of philosophy has been relatively low and has only seemed to confirm friedrich heinrich jacobi s assessment of him as a dead dog however an exuberant outburst of excellent scholarship on spinoza has of late come to dominate work on early modern philosophy this resurgence is due in no small part to the recent revival of metaphysics in contemporary philosophy and to the increased appreciation of spinoza s role as an unorthodox pivotal figure indeed perhaps the pivotal figure in the development of enlightenment thinking spinoza s penetrating articulation of his extreme rationalism makes him a demanding philosopher who offers deep and prescient challenges to all subsequent inevitably less radical approaches to philosophy while the twenty six essays in this volume by many of the world s leading spinoza specialists grapple directly with spinoza s most important arguments these essays also seek to identify and explain spinoza s debts to previous philosophy his influence on later philosophers and his significance for contemporary philosophy and for us in this work joseph almog develops the unitarian and universalist metaphysics of spinoza spinoza s ground zero thesis is that everything including god mathematics morals our own thoughts finds its place within spinoza s capital n nature it is the place that each thing occupies within the grid of nature from god on down the cosmic tree of being that determines its fundamental lowercase n nature this leads as in the ethics to a final chapter on what it meant to spinoza to live in symbiosis with nature and therefore to be one with it and with god this volume is a collection of articles that looks at the work of baruch spinoza through his metaphysics his philosophy of politics and religion and alternative approaches to spinoza continuum s guides for the perplexed are clear concise and accessible introductions to thinkers writers and subjects that students and readers can find especially challenging concentrating specifically on what it is that makes the subject difficult to fathom these books explain and explore key themes and ideas guiding the reader towards a thorough understanding of demanding material benedict de spinoza is a major philosopher of enduring influence and importance whose work is encountered by all serious students of western philosophy his ethics is one of the seminal works of moral religious and political thought nevertheless spinoza is a considerable challenge for the modern student his language rooted in the vocabulary of late medieval scholasticism is frequently opaque while the esoteric themes explored in his work often require elucidation spinoza a guide for the perplexed provides that elucidation offering a thorough account and analysis of spinoza s key works and overall philosophical project the text equips the reader with the necessary means to draw full and clear understanding from spinoza s often inaccessible language and complex philosophical system and method his ethics and political treatises are covered in detail spinoza s geometrical approach to his subject is opened up and his obscure terminology fully explained the book concludes with a valuable assessment of spinoza s enduring influence and his relevance for contemporary philosophical debates and concerns it is an excellent support resource for anyone trying to get to grips with this challenging and important philosopher true freedom spinoza s practical philosophy focuses on the practicality of spinoza s thought this is revealed through the subsidiary themes of ethics as an experimentalism spinoza s conception of freedom and the social themes of politics religion and the environment while the book focuses primarily on spinoza s major work the ethics it also draws on the theological political treatise the political treatise and spinoza s correspondence samuel newlands provides a sweeping new account of spinoza s metaphysical system and the way it shapes and is shaped by his moral project newlands also shows how spinoza can be read fruitfully alongside recent developments in contemporary analytic philosophy according to newlands conceptual relations form the backbone of

spinoza's explanatory project and enable him to do everything from reconciling monism and diversity to motivating altruism within egoism. spinoza's conceptualism culminates in his call to a radical form of self transcendence. readers will be invited to reconceive not only spinoza's project but also the world and perhaps even themselves along the way. the 17th century philosopher spinoza faces a contemporary panel of fourteen philosophers. spinoza's ethics, politics, and his philosophy of mind are examined in the first half of this singular critique. the second half, devoted to spinoza's epistemology and metaphysics, completes the array of his ideas. spinoza has always provoked strong reaction. he was driven from the temple in amsterdam for his heretical views. the next century extolled him as the savior of rational religion. here, the 20th century begins to come to terms with this most disturbing philosopher. stuart hampshire, william frankena, and frederick c. copleston are among the modern thinkers who clarify and do battle with spinoza's major concepts. this is a crucial and exciting work in which living philosophy makes use of its past to reach out to new ideas. the scholarly bibliography complements this unique presentation, making it an invaluable asset for students. publisher: this book of 10 engaging and original essays brings spinoza outside the realm of academic philosophy and presents him as a thinker who is relevant to contemporary problems and questions across a variety of disciplines. in the metaphysics of the material world, tad m. schmaltz traces a particular development of the metaphysics of the material world in early modern thought. the route schmaltz follows derives from a critique of spinoza in the work of pierre bayle. bayle charged, in particular, that spinoza's monistic conception of the material world founders on the account of extension and its modes and parts that he inherited from descartes and that descartes in turn inherited from late scholasticism and ultimately from aristotle. after an initial discussion of bayle's critique of spinoza and its relation to aristotle's distinction between substance and accident, this study starts with the original re-conceptualization of aristotle's metaphysics of the material world that we find in the work of the early modern scholastic suarez. what receives particular attention is suarez's introduction of the modal distinction and his distinctive account of the aristotelian accident of continuous quantity. this examination of suarez is followed by a treatment of the connections of his particular version of the scholastic conception of the material world to the very different conception that descartes offered. especially important is descartes's view of the relation of extended substance both to its modes and to the parts that compose it. finally, there is a consideration of what these developments in suarez and descartes have to teach us about spinoza's monistic conception of the material world. of special concern here is to draw on this historical narrative to provide a re-assessment of bayle's critique of spinoza. spinoza is commonly perceived as the great metaphysician of coherence, the euclidean manner in which he presented his philosophy in the ethics has led readers to assume they are facing a strict and consistent philosophical system that necessarily follows from itself, as opposed to the prevailing understanding of spinoza and his work. the role of contradictions in spinoza's philosophy explores an array of profound and pervasive contradictions in spinoza's system and argues they are deliberate and constitutive of his philosophical thinking and the notion of god at its heart. relying on a meticulous and careful reading of the theological, political treatise and the ethics, this book reconstructs spinoza's philosophy of contradictions as a key to the ascending three degrees of knowledge leading to the amor intellectualis dei, offering an exciting and clearly argued interpretation of spinoza's philosophy. this book will interest students and scholars of modern philosophy and philosophy of religion, as well as jewish studies. yuval jobani is assistant professor at the department of hebrew culture studies and the school of education at tel aviv university. education and free will critically assesses and makes use of spinoza's insights on human freedom to construe an account of education that is compatible with causal determinism without sacrificing the educational goal of increasing students' autonomy and self-determination. offering a thorough investigation into the philosophical position of causal determinism, dahlbeck discusses spinoza's view of self-determination and presents his own suggestions for an education for autonomy from a causal determinist point of view. the book begins by outlining the free will problem in education before expanding on a philosophical understanding of autonomy and how it is seen as an educational ideal. it considers spinoza's determinism and discusses his denial of moral responsibility. later chapters consider the relationship between causal determinism and autonomy, the educational implications of understanding free will, and how free will can be utilized as a valuable fiction in education. this book will be of great interest to academics and postgraduate students in the field of education, especially those with an interest in moral education and philosophy of education. it will also be of

interest to those in the fields of philosophy and psychology and specifically those focusing on the free will problem on spinoza studies and on the relation between moral psychology and external influence this is the first in a seven volume series to be based on the jerusalem conferences each volume is devoted to a specific topic the first five following the division of spinoza s ethics the sixth dealing with spinoza s social and political thought and the concluding one with the philosopher s life and origins all papers are in english yet present a wide ranging picture of contemporary study of spinoza s philosophy worldwide among the contributions to the present volume are alan donagan s substance essence and attribute in spinoza edwin curley s on jonathan bennett s interpretation of spinoza s monism followed by bennett s reply alexandre matheron s essence existence and power in spinoza and herman de dijn s metaphysics as ethics papers are also presented by margaret d wilson emilia giancotti yirmiyahu yovel jean luc marion pierre macherey jacqueline lagrée don garrett yosef ben shlomo and sylvain zac all participants present major papers the book thus being the outcome of a long standing interest in spinozistic thought by a group of first rate scholars the book includes an index of subjects and proper names this book is the fullest study in english for many years on the role of god in spinoza s philosophy spinoza has been called both a god intoxicated man and an atheist both a pioneer of secular judaism and a bitter critic of religion he was born a jew but chose to live outside any religious community he was deeply engaged both in traditional hebrew learning and in contemporary physical science he identified god with nature or substance a theme which runs through his work enabling him to naturalise religion but equally important to divinise nature he emerges not as a rationalist precursor of the enlightenment but as a thinker of the highest importance in his own right both in philosophy and in religion this is another volume in the modern studies in philosophy a series of anthologies under the general editorship of prof amelie oksenberg rorty which present contemporary interpretations and evaluations of the works of major philosophers this volume consisting of a collection of papers by an impressive gallery of scholars offers a plurality of perspectives on spinoza each interpretation conflicts with some other yet each illuminates some aspect of the subject all the papers reflect the tensions and conflicts which make for very exciting and rewarding reading still the substantive puzzles remain and will continue to excite and fascinate successive generations of spinoza s critics antoni negri spells out the philosophical credo that inspired his radical renewal of marxism and his compelling analysis of the modern state and the global economy by means of an inspiring reading of the challenging metaphysics of the 17th century dutch jewish philosopher spinoza this book interrogates the ontology of mathematical entities in spinoza as a basis for addressing a wide range of interpretive issues in spinoza s epistemology from his antiscepticism and philosophy of science to the nature and scope of reason and intuitive knowledge and the intellectual love of god going against recent trends in spinoza scholarship and drawing on various sources including spinoza s engagements with optical theory and physics matthew homan argues for a realist interpretation of geometrical figures in spinoza illustrates their role in a spinozan hypothetico deductive scientific method and develops spinoza s mathematical examples to better illuminate the three kinds of knowledge the result is a portrait of spinoza s epistemology as sanguine and distinctive yet at home in the new cartesian and galilean scientific philosophical paradigm

since its publication in 1677 spinoza s ethics has fascinated philosophers novelists and scientists alike it is undoubtedly one of the most exciting and contested works of western philosophy written in an austere geometrical fashion the work teaches us how we should live ending with an ethics in which the only thing good in itself is understanding spinoza argues that only that which hinders us from understanding is bad and shows that those endowed with a human mind should devote themselves as much as they can to a contemplative life this companion volume provides a detailed accessible exposition of the ethics written by an internationally known team of scholars it is the first anthology to treat the whole of the ethics and is written in an accessible style the collected works of spinoza provides for the first time in english a truly satisfactory edition of all of spinoza s writings with accurate and readable translations based on the best critical editions of the original language texts done by a scholar who has published extensively on the philosopher s work the elaborate editorial apparatus including prefaces notes glossary and indexes assists the reader in understanding one of the world s most fascinating but also most difficult philosophers of particular interest is the glossary index which provides extensive commentary on spinoza s technical vocabulary a milestone of scholarship and

than forty five years in the making the collected works of spinoza is an essential edition for anyone with a serious interest in spinoza or the history of philosophy inside jacket flap part of the jewish encounter series in 1656 amsterdam s jewish community excommunicated baruch spinoza and at the age of twenty three he became the most famous heretic in judaism he was already germinating a secularist challenge to religion that would be as radical as it was original he went on to produce one of the most ambitious systems in the history of western philosophy so ahead of its time that scientists today from string theorists to neurobiologists count themselves among spinoza s progeny in betraying spinoza rebecca goldstein sets out to rediscover the flesh and blood man often hidden beneath the veneer of rigorous rationality and to crack the mystery of the breach between the philosopher and his jewish past goldstein argues that the trauma of the inquisition s persecution of its forced jewish converts plays itself out in spinoza s philosophy the excommunicated spinoza no less than his excommunicators was responding to europe s first experiment with racial anti semitism here is a spinoza both hauntingly emblematic and deeply human both heretic and hero a surprisingly contemporary figure ripe for our own uncertain age prefatory explanation it must be remarked at once that i am editor of this volume only in that i had the honor of presiding at the symposium on spinoza and the sciences at which a number of these papers were presented exceptions are those by hans jonas richard popkin joe vanzandt and our four european contributors in that i have given some editorial advice on details of some of the papers including translations and finally in that my name appears on the cover the choice of speakers and of additional contributors is entirely due to robert cohen and debra nails and nearly all the burden of readying the manuscript for the press has been borne by the latter in the introduction to another anthology on spinoza i opened my remarks by quoting a statement of sir stuart hampshire about interpretations of spinoza s chief work all these masks have been fitted on him and each of them does to some extent fit but they remain masks not the living face they do not show the moving tensions and unresolved conflicts in spinoza s ethics hampshire 1973 p 297 the double theme of moving tensions and unresolved conflicts seems even more appropriate to the present volume what is spinoza s relation to the sciences the answers are many and they criss cross one another in a number of complicated ways leo strauss articulates the conflict between reason and revelation as he explores spinoza s scientific comparative and textual treatment of the bible strauss compares spinoza s theologico political treatise and the epistles showing their relation to critical controversy on religion from epicurus and lucretius through uriel da costa and isaac peyrere to thomas hobbes strauss s autobiographical preface traces his dilemmas as a young liberal intellectual in germany during the weimar republic as a scholar in exile and as a leader of american philosophical thought for those interested in strauss the political philosopher and also those who doubt whether we have achieved the final solution in respect to either the character of political science or the problem of the relation of religion to the state journal of politics a substantial contribution to the thinking of all those interested in the ageless problems of faith revelation and reason kirkus reviews leo strauss 1899 1973 was the robert maynard hutchins distinguished service professor emeritus of political science at the university of chicago his contributions to political science include the political philosophy of hobbes the city and the man what is political philosophy and liberalism ancient and modern approaching the central themes of spinoza s thought from both a historical and analytical perspective this book examines the logical metaphysical core of spinoza s philosophy its epistemology and its ramifications for his much disputed attitude towards religion opening with a discussion of spinoza s historical and philosophical location as the appropriate context for the interpretation of his work the book goes on to present a non logical reading of spinoza s metaphysics a consideration of spinoza s radical repudiation of cartesian subjectivism and an examination of how spinoza wanted religion to be understood in the context of his wider thinking and the influence of his non christian background mason also assesses spinoza s significance and importance for philosophy now

The Spinoza Problem 2012-03-06 a haunting portrait of arthur rosenberg one of nazism s chief architects and his obsession with one of history s most influential jewish thinkers in the spinoza problem irvin yalom spins fact and fiction into an unforgettable psycho philosophical drama yalom tells the story of the seventeenth century thinker baruch spinoza whose philosophy led to his own excommunication from the jewish community alongside that of the rise and fall of the nazi ideologue alfred rosenberg who two hundred years later during world war ii ordered his task force to plunder spinoza s ancient library in an effort to deal with the nazis spinoza problem seamlessly alternating between golden age amsterdam and nazi germany yalom investigates the inner lives of these two enigmatic men in a tale of influence and anxiety the origins of good and evil and the philosophy of freedom and the tyranny of terror

Representation and the Mind-Body Problem in Spinoza 1996-11-21 this first extensive study of spinoza s philosophy of mind concentrates on two problems crucial to the philosopher s thoughts on the matter the requirements for having a thought about a particular object and the problem of the mind s relation to the body della rocca contends that spinoza s positions are systematically connected with each other and with a principle at the heart of his metaphysical system his denial of causal or explanatory relations between the mental and the physical in this way della rocca s exploration of these two problems provides a new and illuminating perspective on spinoza s philosophy as a system

Problem Spinoza 2012 yitzhak melamed here offers a new and systematic interpretation of the core of spinoza s metaphysics in the first part of the book he proposes a new reading of the metaphysics of substance in spinoza he argues that for spinoza modes both inhere in and are predicated of god using extensive textual evidence he shows that spinoza considered modes to be god s propria he goes on to clarify spinoza s understanding of infinity mereological relations infinite modes and the flow of finite things from god s essence in the second part of the book melamed relies on this interpretation of the substance mode relation and the nature of infinite modes and puts forward two interrelated theses about the structure of the attribute of thought and its overarching role in spinoza s metaphysics first he shows that spinoza had not one but two independent doctrines of parallelism then in his final main thesis melamed argues that for spinoza ideas have a multifaceted in fact infinitely faceted structure that allows one and the same idea to represent the infinitely many modes which are parallel to it in the infinitely many attributes thought turns out to be coextensive with the whole of nature spinoza cannot embrace an idealist reduction of extension to thought because of his commitment to the conceptual separation of the attributes yet within spinoza s metaphysics thought clearly has primacy over the other attributes insofar as it is the only attribute which is as elaborate as complex and in some senses as powerful as god

Spinoza's Metaphysics 2013-07-10 renowned for his metaphysics spinoza made significant contributions to understanding the human mind the emotions moral philosophy and political philosophy beginning with an overview of spinoza s life michael della rocca carefully unpacks and explains spinoza s philosophy his metaphysics of substance and argument at the center of his whole system that god is the sole independent substance his account of the human mind and its relation to the body his theory that human beings tend towards self preservation and his most famous work the ethics including the problem of free will and his writings on the state religion and scripture della rocca concludes with a chapter on spinoza s legacy and how modern philosophers hume hegel and nietzsche responded to spinoza s challenge ideal for those coming to spinoza for the first time as well as those already acquainted with his thought spinoza is essential reading for anyone studying philosophy

Spinoza 2008-06-30 this title was first published in 2002 this collection of essays aims to present a wide range of interpretations of central themes in spinoza s philosophy philosophical interpretations of spinoza divide into three general categories the first sets spinoza within what is taken to be his historical context special emphasis is laid here on aspects of his teaching that seem to bear the influence of spinoza s own education and self education either through concepts assimilated into his own thinking or those he undertook to refute and displace a second interpretative approach uses analytical tools in an attempt to reconstruct spinozistic issues and theories critically finally there are philosophers who explore spinoza s texts in their own terms attempting to present a coherent picture of one or more aspects of spinoza s teaching given the broad span of issues with which spinoza deals the latter is often the most difficult track to follow the 25 articles in this collection exemplify these three attitudes to spinoza interpretation though

most avail themselves of more than one in making the selection the editors preferred studies that treat their subject as a viable enduring philosophical issue whether the writer accepts spinoza's presentation or highlights his difficulties on each issue the articles critically analyze the texts rather than simply portraying the spinozistic ideas they express

The Problem of Attributes in Spinoza 1971 spinoza's philosophy has an undeserved reputation for being obscure and incomprehensible but now in this indispensable collection spinoza is portrayed in the manner he deserves as a brilliant metaphysician who paved the way for an exciting new science the volume focuses on several important areas including monism the concept of conatus the nature of and the relation between mind and body and spinoza's relationship to descartes and leibniz the new physics posed difficult questions about the existence and power of god however it was commonplace of seventeenth century metaphysics to claim that all force was god's in his philosophy spinoza solves this problem identifying god with nature but what happens to individuals after that identification and what is an individual for spinoza how does it act how are its actions explained this volume clearly addresses these and other fascinating questions it explores spinoza's account of the relationship between mind and body along with his view on the ontology of values spinoza saw the threat of deterministic physics to mind/body interaction how is it possible that minds act on bodies and vice versa furthermore the volume examines the problem of the nature of values asking is there room for an independent realm of values in the new philosophy finally the collection investigates problems in the interpretation of spinoza that stem from spinoza's debatable place in seventeenth century philosophy it is often claimed that spinoza's ideas evolved from cartesian doctrines while profoundly influencing leibniz with a stellar group of contributors including michael della rocca john carriero richard mason steven barbone don garrett olli koistinen richard manning peter dalton charles jarrett charles huenemann and mark kulstad this volume serves as an excellent resource and represents the best work of a new generation of spinoza scholars

Spinoza 2017-11-01 doing without free will spinoza and contemporary moral problems introduces spinoza into the contemporary discussion on free will and on moral problems surrounding this discussion traditional western moral philosophy for the most part has been built on the assumption of free will as a special human capacity to freely choose actions without being determined in that choice this idea draws increasing critique fueled recently especially by the ever new findings of neuroscience but how can we develop a moral philosophy without free will spinoza faced a similar challenge when writing his ethics during the rise of modern science and its deterministic model of nature and for this reason has much to offer the current discussion not only does he provide a foundation for understanding moral responsibility without free will he also provides an explanation and solution to the classical problem of akrasia precisely because he argues the will is not free he worked out an entirely new system of moral philosophy that can help resolve the meta-ethical dilemma between absolutism and relativism showing how moral values evolve naturally within society despite denying the traditional god-like power of free will spinoza developed a robust concept of freedom one that is distinctly human and viable today his modernity comes to light when we look at his answers to the much discussed questions whether it is possible or even desirable to develop objective instead of reactive attitudes toward our fellow human beings his answers perhaps surprisingly resemble positions held by some contemporary philosophers

Spinoza 2002-01-03 harris offers his unique interpretation of spinoza as a dialectical thinker and addresses other commentators' misunderstandings of some of spinoza's primary principles the opening chapters discuss spinoza's metaphysics and epistemology the problem of relating finite to infinite in his system the infinity of the attributes of substance human nature and the body/mind relation politics and religion the latter part of the book addresses spinoza's influence on later philosophers and their interpretations of his doctrine in the course of his discussion harris stresses spinoza's holism and its implication both within and beyond spinoza's own writings

Doing without Free Will 2015-10-08 eugene marshall presents an original systematic account of spinoza's philosophy of mind in which the mind is presented as an affective mechanism one that when rational behaves as a spiritual automaton the central feature of the account is a novel concept of consciousness one that identifies consciousness with affectivity a property of an idea paradigmatically but not exhaustively instantiated by those modes of thought spinoza calls affects inadequate and adequate ideas come to consciousness and thus impact our well-being and establish or disturb our happiness only insofar as they become affects and thus conscious and ideas become

affects by entering into appropriate causal relations with the other ideas that constitute a mind furthermore the topic of consciousness in spinoza provides an eminently well placed point of entry into his system because it flows directly out of his central metaphysical epistemological and psychological commitments and it does so in a way that allows us to see spinoza s philosophy as a systematic whole further doing so provides a thoroughly consistent yet novel way of thinking about central themes in his thought marshall s reading provides a novel understanding of adequacy innateness power activity and passivity the affects the conatus bondage freedom the illusion of free will akrasia blessedness salvation and the eternity of the soul in short by explaining the affective mechanisms of consciousness in spinoza the spiritual automaton illuminates spinoza s systematic philosophical and ethical project as a whole as well as in its details in a striking new way

The Substance of Spinoza 1995 till today spinoza s ethics is a standard for enlightened theoretical and practical reasoning his five parts are elucidated by this collective commentary an introduction sketches the historical consequences and the still relevant philosophical ambitions of the ethics

The Spiritual Automaton 2014-01-02 an analytical discussion and overview of spinoza focussing specifically on the role of god in his seminal work the ethics

Spinoza's Ethics 2011-04-11 until recently spinoza s standing in anglophone studies of philosophy has been relatively low and has only seemed to confirm friedrich heinrich jacobi s assessment of him as a dead dog however an exuberant outburst of excellent scholarship on spinoza has of late come to dominate work on early modern philosophy this resurgence is due in no small part to the recent revival of metaphysics in contemporary philosophy and to the increased appreciation of spinoza s role as an unorthodox pivotal figure indeed perhaps the pivotal figure in the development of enlightenment thinking spinoza s penetrating articulation of his extreme rationalism makes him a demanding philosopher who offers deep and prescient challenges to all subsequent inevitably less radical approaches to philosophy while the twenty six essays in this volume by many of the world s leading spinoza specialists grapple directly with spinoza s most important arguments these essays also seek to identify and explain spinoza s debts to previous philosophy his influence on later philosophers and his significance for contemporary philosophy and for us

The Role of God in Spinoza's Metaphysics 2007-04-26 in this work joseph almog develops the unitarian and universalist metaphysics of spinoza spinoza s ground zero thesis is that everything including god mathematics morals our own thoughts finds its place within spinoza s capital n nature it is the place that each thing occupies within the grid of nature from god on down the cosmic tree of being that determines its fundamental lowercase n nature this leads as in the ethics to a final chapter on what it meant to spinoza to live in symbiosis with nature and therefore to be one with it and with god

The Problem of Substance in Spinoza and Whitehead 2013-03 this volume is a collection of articles that looks at the work of baruch spinoza through his metaphysics his philosophy of politics and religion and alternative approaches to spinoza

The Problem of Substance in Spinoza and Whitehead 1936 continuum s guides for the perplexed are clear concise and accessible introductions to thinkers writers and subjects that students and readers can find especially challenging concentrating specifically on what it is that makes the subject difficult to fathom these books explain and explore key themes and ideas guiding the reader towards a thorough understanding of demanding material benedict de spinoza is a major philosopher of enduring influence and importance whose work is encountered by all serious students of western philosophy his ethics is one of the seminal works of moral religious and political thought nevertheless spinoza is a considerable challenge for the modern student his language rooted in the vocabulary of late medieval scholasticism is frequently opaque while the esoteric themes explored in his work often require elucidation spinoza a guide for the perplexed provides that elucidation offering a thorough account and analysis of spinoza s key works and overall philosophical project the text equips the reader with the necessary means to draw full and clear understanding from spinoza s often inaccessible language and complex philosophical system and method his ethics and political treatises are covered in detail spinoza s geometrical approach to his subject is opened up and his obscure terminology fully explained the book concludes with a valuable assessment of spinoza s enduring influence and his relevance for contemporary philosophical debates and concerns it is an excellent support resource for anyone trying to get to grips with this challenging and important philosopher

The Oxford Handbook of Spinoza 2018 true freedom spinoza s practical philosophy focuses on the

practicality of spinoza's thought this is revealed through the subsidiary themes of ethics as an experimentalism spinoza's conception of freedom and the social themes of politics religion and the environment while the book focuses primarily on spinoza's major work the ethics it also draws on the theological political treatise the political treatise and spinoza's correspondence

Das Spinoza-Problem 2015-05-11 samuel newlands provides a sweeping new account of spinoza's metaphysical system and the way it shapes and is shaped by his moral project newlands also shows how spinoza can be read fruitfully alongside recent developments in contemporary analytic philosophy according to newlands conceptual relations form the backbone of spinoza's explanatory project and enable him to do everything from reconciling monism and diversity to motivating altruism within egoism spinoza's conceptualism culminates in his call to a radical form of self-transcendence readers will be invited to reconceive not only spinoza's project but also the world and perhaps even themselves along the way

Everything in Its Right Place 2014-02 the 17th century philosopher spinoza faces a contemporary panel of fourteen philosophers spinoza's ethics politics and his philosophy of mind are examined in the first half of this singular critique the second half devoted to spinoza's epistemology and metaphysics completes the array of his ideas spinoza has always provoked strong reaction he was driven from the temple in amsterdam for his heretical views the next century extolled him as the savior of rational religion here the 20th century begins to come to terms with this most disturbing philosopher stuart hampshire william frankena and frederick c copleston are among the modern thinkers who clarify and do battle with spinoza's major concepts this is a crucial and exciting work in which living philosophy makes use of its past to reach out to new ideas the scholarly bibliography complements this unique presentation making it an invaluable asset for students publisher

The Philosophy of Baruch Spinoza 2018-03-02 this book of 10 engaging and original essays brings spinoza outside the realm of academic philosophy and presents him as a thinker who is relevant to contemporary problems and questions across a variety of disciplines

Spinoza: A Guide for the Perplexed 2007-06-11 in the metaphysics of the material world tad m schmaltz traces a particular development of the metaphysics of the material world in early modern thought the route schmaltz follows derives from a critique of spinoza in the work of pierre bayle bayle charged in particular that spinoza's monistic conception of the material world founders on the account of extension and its modes and parts that he inherited from descartes and that descartes in turn inherited from late scholasticism and ultimately from aristotle after an initial discussion of bayle's critique of spinoza and its relation to aristotle's distinction between substance and accident this study starts with the original re-conceptualization of aristotle's metaphysics of the material world that we find in the work of the early modern scholastic su rez what receives particular attention is su rez's introduction of the modal distinction and his distinctive account of the aristotelian accident of continuous quantity this examination of su rez is followed by a treatment of the connections of his particular version of the scholastic conception of the material world to the very different conception that descartes offered especially important is descartes's view of the relation of extended substance both to its modes and to the parts that compose it finally there is a consideration of what these developments in su rez and descartes have to teach us about spinoza's monistic conception of the material world of special concern here is to draw on this historical narrative to provide a re-assessment of bayle's critique of spinoza

True Freedom 2009 spinoza is commonly perceived as the great metaphysician of coherence the euclidean manner in which he presented his philosophy in the ethics has led readers to assume they are facing a strict and consistent philosophical system that necessarily follows from itself as opposed to the prevailing understanding of spinoza and his work the role of contradictions in spinoza's philosophy explores an array of profound and pervasive contradictions in spinoza's system and argues they are deliberate and constitutive of his philosophical thinking and the notion of god at its heart relying on a meticulous and careful reading of the theological political treatise and the ethics this book reconstructs spinoza's philosophy of contradictions as a key to the ascending three degrees of knowledge leading to the amor intellectualis dei offering an exciting and clearly argued interpretation of spinoza's philosophy this book will interest students and scholars of modern philosophy and philosophy of religion as well as jewish studies yuval jobani is assistant professor at the department of hebrew culture studies and the school of education at tel aviv university

Reconceiving Spinoza 2018-05-11 education and free will critically assesses and makes use of spinoza's insights on human freedom to construe an account of education that is compatible with

causal determinism without sacrificing the educational goal of increasing students autonomy and self determination offering a thorough investigation into the philosophical position of causal determinism dahlbeck discusses spinoza s view of self determination and presents his own suggestions for an education for autonomy from a causal determinist point of view the book begins by outlining the free will problem in education before expanding on a philosophical understanding of autonomy and how it is seen as an educational ideal it considers spinoza s determinism and discusses his denial of moral responsibility later chapters consider the relationship between causal determinism and autonomy the educational implications of understanding free will and how free will can be utilised as a valuable fiction in education this book will be of great interest to academics and postgraduate students in the field of education especially those with an interest in moral education and philosophy of education it will also be of interest to those in the fields of philosophy and psychology and specifically those focusing on the free will problem on spinoza studies and on the relation between moral psychology and external influence

Spinoza 1985 this is the first in a seven volume series to be based on the jerusalem conferences each volume is devoted to a specific topic the first five following the division of spinoza s ethics the sixth dealing with spinoza s social and political thought and the concluding one with the philosopher s life and origins all papers are in english yet present a wide ranging picture of contemporary study of spinoza s philosophy worldwide among the contributions to the present volume are alan donagan s substance essence and attribute in spinoza edwin curley s on jonathan bennett s interpretation of spinoza s monism followed by bennett s reply alexandre matheron s essence existence and power in spinoza and herman de dijn s metaphysics as ethics papers are also presented by margaret d wilson emilia giancotti yirmiyahu yovel jean luc marion pierre macherey jacqueline lagrée don garrett yosef ben shlomo and sylvain zac all participants present major papers the book thus being the outcome of a long standing interest in spinozistic thought by a group of first rate scholars the book includes an index of subjects and proper names

Spinoza: Essays in Interpretation 1975 this book is the fullest study in english for many years on the role of god in spinoza s philosophy spinoza has been called both a god intoxicated man and an atheist both a pioneer of secular judaism and a bitter critic of religion he was born a jew but chose to live outside any religious community he was deeply engaged both in traditional hebrew learning and in contemporary physical science he identified god with nature or substance a theme which runs through his work enabling him to naturalise religion but equally important to divinise nature he emerges not as a rationalist precursor of the enlightenment but as a thinker of the highest importance in his own right both in philosophy and in religion

Spinoza Beyond Philosophy 2015-04-08 this is another volume in the modern studies in philosophy a series of anthologies under the general editorship of prof amelie oksenberg rorty which present contemporary interpretations and evaluations of the works of major philosophers this volume consisting of a collection of papers by an impressive gallery of scholars offers a plurality of perspectives on spinoza each interpretation conflicts with some other yet each illuminates some aspect of the subject all the papers reflect the tensions and conflicts which make for very exciting and rewarding reading still the substantive puzzles remain and will continue to excite and fascinate successive generations of spinoza s critics

The Metaphysics of the Material World 2019 antoni negri spells out the philosophical credo that inspired his radical renewal of marxism and his compelling analysis of the modern state and the global economy by means of an inspiring reading of the challenging metaphysics of the 17th century dutch jewish philosopher spinoza

The Role of Contradictions in Spinoza's Philosophy 2016-01-29 this book interrogates the ontology of mathematical entities in spinoza as a basis for addressing a wide range of interpretive issues in spinoza s epistemology from his antiskepticism and philosophy of science to the nature and scope of reason and intuitive knowledge and the intellectual love of god going against recent trends in spinoza scholarship and drawing on various sources including spinoza s engagements with optical theory and physics matthew homan argues for a realist interpretation of geometrical figures in spinoza illustrates their role in a spinozan hypothetico deductive scientific method and develops spinoza s mathematical examples to better illuminate the three kinds of knowledge the result is a portrait of spinoza s epistemology as sanguine and distinctive yet at home in the new cartesian and galilean scientific philosophical paradigm

Education and Free Will 2018-09-03 14

either the character of political science or the problem of the relation of religion to the state journal of politics a substantial contribution to the thinking of all those interested in the ageless problems of faith revelation and reason kirkus reviews leo strauss 1899 1973 was the robert maynard hutchins distinguished service professor emeritus of political science at the university of chicago his contributions to political science include the political philosophy of hobbes the city and the man what is political philosophy and liberalism ancient and modern

□□□□□□□□ 1998-05 approaching the central themes of spinoza s thought from both a historical and analytical perspective this book examines the logical metaphysical core of spinoza s philosophy its epistemology and its ramifications for his much disputed attitude towards religion opening with a discussion of spinoza s historical and philosophical location as the appropriate context for the interpretation of his work the book goes on to present a non logical reading of spinoza s metaphysics a consideration of spinoza s radical repudiation of cartesian subjectivism and an examination of how spinoza wanted religion to be understood in the context of his wider thinking and the influence of his non christian background mason also assesses spinoza s significance and importance for philosophy now

The Cambridge Companion to Spinoza's Ethics 2009-08-31

The Collected Works of Spinoza, Volume 1 1985-09-21

Betraying Spinoza 2009-08-11

Spinoza and the Sciences 2012-12-06

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Spinoza 2007

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