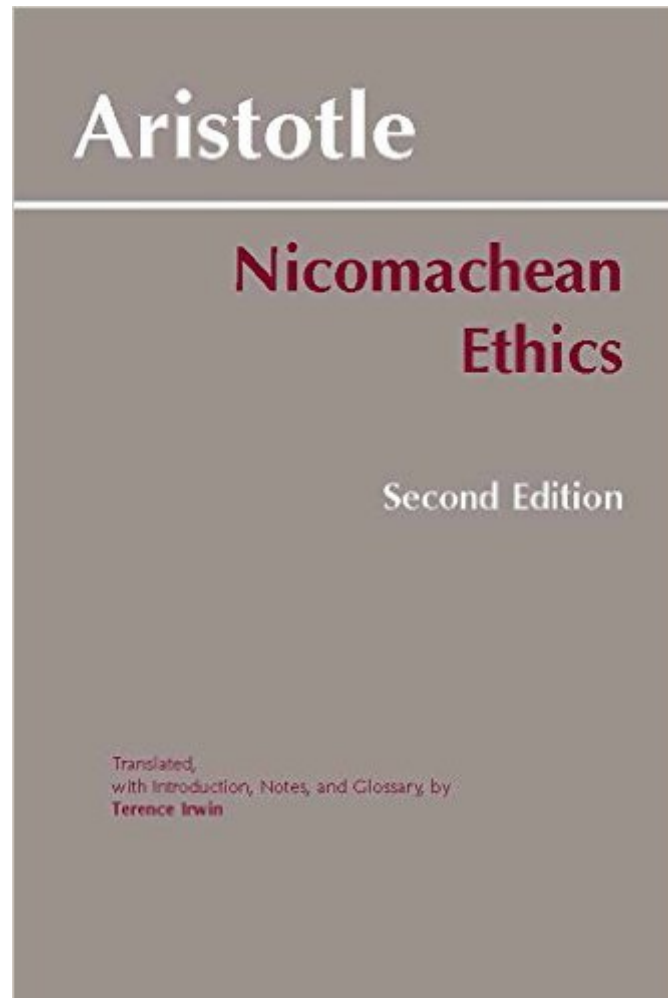


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Nicomachean Ethics



Synopsis

Building on the strengths of the first edition, the second edition of the Irwin Nicomachean Ethics features a revised translation (with little editorial intervention), expanded notes (including a summary of the argument of each chapter), an expanded Introduction, and a revised glossary.

Book Information

Paperback: 392 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (109 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I would not hesitate to recommend Irwin's Hackett edition to anyone who wants to undertake the real work of understanding Aristotle's "Nicomachean Ethics." The translation & the interpretation underlying it are not perfect. Other translations may in some (even many) cases be based on interpretations I would prefer. So why is Irwin better? Because his is the only version that lets the reader see the nuts and bolts--that is, just how trickily ambiguous Aristotle's text so often is, and just what the translator has done to interpret it and make sense of it. Only with this extra apparatus can a Greekless reader have some confidence in forming his or her own understanding. And even most of us who know Greek are dependent on commentaries and interpretations like Irwin's to force ourselves to confront real issues and possibilities of meaning that we might clumsily miss as we read the Greek. Since the strength of Irwin's translation is its clearly labelled interpretative moves, I think it is worth considering looking for the out-of-print FIRST edition (ISBN 0915145669). In the first edition, Irwin intrudes his own section headings at the rate of at least ten per Bekker page. These help you know exactly how Irwin is taking the argument (and again, even if you disagree, the value of a translation lies in offering an interpretation that makes some sense). For example, at 1143b6 and following, Irwin's headings say of understanding "It seems to grow naturally..." and then later

"...But in fact it requires experience.

After talking to the publisher about my concerns, which are outlined in my original review below, they have now produced a new version of the kindle edition of this book, thus the edit of this review, and its change from 1 star to 5 stars. The publishers have now put in the hyperlinks between text and note, wherever there is one, and a simple click on the note will take you back to the main text. It works really nicely. They have also included in the text the Bekker numbers in the form [1095a] - so if you need to do a lookup by Bekker, you can get as close as the section, and then the lines are listed in the text in groups of 10 - "[10]" - easy to see when scanning down from the section heading. The table to contents has also been updated to include all the Medieval Chapter headings under each book, so if you prefer to jump to a section via that means, this is also open to you. All in all with this new edition of the kindebook, if you are studying this work, the kindle edition, I feel, surpasses the paperback in utility in almost every way. I also cannot credit the publishers enough for taking the criticism with good grace, responding to it and going far beyond the few criticisms originally made, and producing something which is vastly superior to what was produced before and possibly one of the best academic book transfers to kindle that I've seen. _____ ORIGINAL

REVIEW _____ This is a review specifically of the Kindle edition of this book. I will start by saying that the contents of the book - the sensitive translation, the excellent notes etc are all absolutely top notch - and for these the book has the star I gave it. My issue is that the Kindle transfer is lazy on the part of the publisher.

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