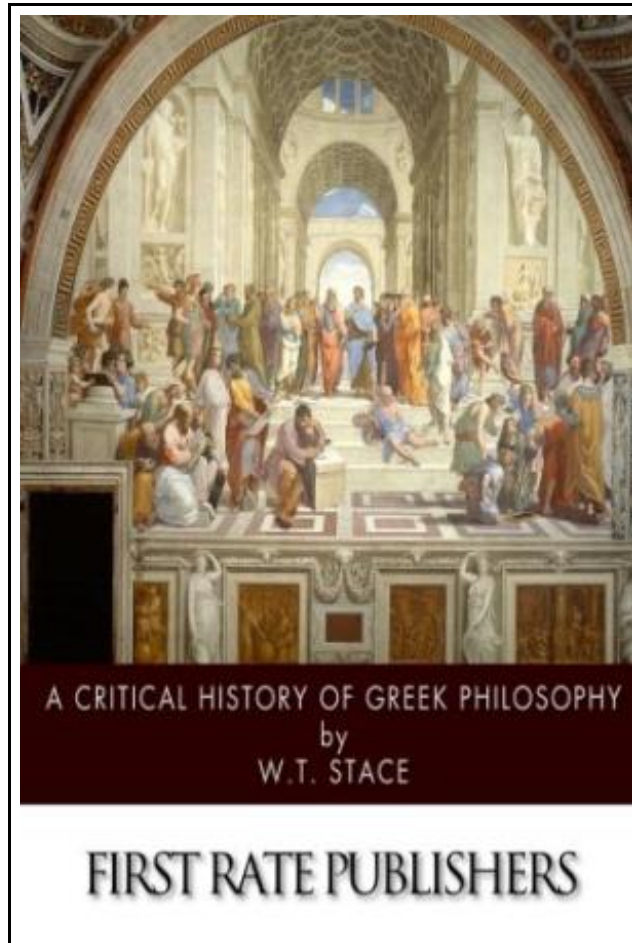# A Critical History of Greek Philosophy

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Reviews

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(Pasquale Larkin I)

A CRITICAL HISTORY OF GREEK PHILOSOPHY

Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In 427 B.C., the Ancient Greek city-state of Athens was flourishing. Approximately 80 years earlier, the Athenians had formed the first self-representative democracy in history, the Peloponnesian War against Sparta had only just started, and Socrates was only beginning to lay the foundation of what would become Western philosophy. None of Socrates works survived antiquity, so most of what is known about him came from the writings of his followers, most notably Plato. What is known about Socrates is that he seemed to make a career out of philosophy, and Plato was intent on following in his footsteps. Yet for all of the influence of Socrates life on his followers, it was Socrates death around 399 B.C. that truly shaped them. Plato was so embittered by Socrates trial in Athens that he completely soured on Athenian democracy, and Aristotle would later criticize politicians who relied on rhetoric; when Aristotle s own life was threatened, he fled Greece and allegedly remarked, I will not allow the Athenians to sin twice against philosophy. About a decade after Socrates death, Plato returned to Athens and founded his famous Platonic Academy around 387 B.C., which he oversaw for 40 years until his death. One of Plato s philosophical beliefs was that writing down teachings was less valuable than passing them down orally, and several of Plato s writings are responses to previous writings of his, so Plato s personally held beliefs are hard to discern. However, Plato educated several subsequent philosophers, chief among them Aristotle, and his writings eventually formed the backbone of Western philosophy. Alongside Socrates and Plato, Aristotle is, without question, one of the most influential ancient Greek philosophers and...

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