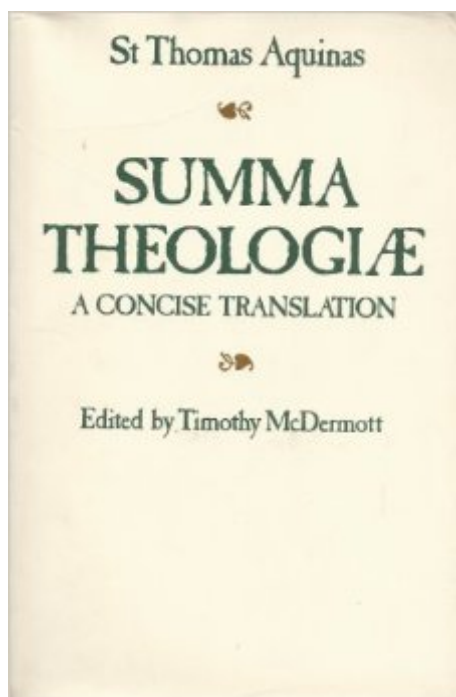


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Summa Theologiae: A Concise Translation



Synopsis

Here in one volume is a new translation of St. Thomas Aquinas' masterwork in surprisingly non-technical modern English and paragraph format. For the first time the Summa, which synthesizes with immense scholarship and brilliance Aristotelian learning on the nature of the world and the human person with biblical teaching on God's loving purpose in creating them, is available in a concisely distilled translation and in a form that will appeal both to professional students and to interested general readers. --This text refers to an alternate Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

As a research student in philosophy and a Catholic priest I have found this volume invaluable. It sits on my shelf next to my five volume 1950 Leonine edition of the Summa and acts as an expanded index. This is undoubtedly its greatest value: when seeking something in the Summa the ability to lift down this one volume, look for the appropriate text and check a summary of the Questions before turning to the real thing. I would additionally recommend it to all philosophy students and those interested in Catholic Philosophy and Theology as a text which can stand alone and whet the interest in this great thinkers magnum opus.

For those of us who do not have the time to physically sit down and read all five books of the Summa, this is most certainly the closest you will come to consuming the real thing! I found this after I had began to read the first few chapters and nothing comes so close to capturing the

essence of Aquinas's writings so thoroughly (and in only a sixth of the size of the original)! This book is a must for the true Thomistic scholar!

While any rigorous Thomistic scholarship obviously requires reference to Aquinas' unabridged works, this translation and abridgment is ideal for introducing students to Aquinas' thought. It allows students access to primary source material which would otherwise be too voluminous for easy consumption in an introductory setting. While scholars may debate the correctness of some of the translation, that is an issue for almost any translated text. Hence, I utilize this text myself in teaching Aquinas and highly recommend it to others looking for their first exposure to the Angelic Doctor's supreme achievement.

This is an impressive book. It is a collection of all of the "I answer that" sections of the Summa Theologica. This gives you a supreme one-volume version of Thomas' affirmative thought on Catholic Theology and Philosophy. This is a great "Thumbnail" and "introduction" to the hefty five-volume opus that many people love, but few have read. There are only two deficiencies with this volume. It does not have any commentary that other Thomistic books have, such as "A Summa of the Summa." Secondly, it omits the rather fascinating interplay of ideas that characterizes all of Thomas' works. Aquinas was agile at confronting and assimilating opposing ideas. He was able to intellectually meet steel to steel, and this is what makes him a mental giant. This book is good for Catholics who want to know their religion, or anyone who is not Catholic (as I am), who can appreciate a genius when he or she works.

Regardless of your religious perspective (or lack thereof), you will learn that the basis for a great deal of modern ethical rationale is rooted in the wisdom of Aquinas. This translation is regarded as most readable by those brighter than I; however, as a physician on our academic medical center's Ethics Committee and a Palliative Care Consultative Service, I enjoy the notion that this scholar's influence is profound regardless of one's existential/religious/spiritual biases. I admittedly have to read it in small portions and often cross reference to other areas in the text. At almost 60 years of age, it is especially fun to read this and think of it not as an obligatory chore and more of edification.

I am not crazy about this book simply because it is a Concise translation. Otherwise it is a fine work. If you are not familiar with the scholastic set up or how it works this is probably the work for you, or are a "casual" reader of Thomas perhaps. I cannot quite imagine a casual reader of Thomas but

that's ok. I would definitely recommend at least looking at the real thing at least once. The Benziger Bros. edition is probably one of the best, it keeps the scholastic structure that is, I think, so important especially for philosophical work. As someone familiar with medieval scholastic philosophy I could hardly imagine trying to slog through Thomas without the inherent structure to the argument that the scholastic form brings to it which is pretty much the part that gets sacrificed for conciseness in this version.

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