

Contents

Preface	ix
Part I <i>The background</i>	1
1. Descartes: a new conception of the mind	3
(1) The traditional distinction between substance, essence and accident	3
(2) Descartes' distinction between bodies and minds	5
(3) The problem of causal interaction	8
(4) The problem of representation by ideas	9
(5) The distinction between ideas and sensations	11
(6) The attack on substance: Berkeley	16
(7) The attack on substance: Leibniz	23
2. Brentano: the thesis of intentionality	29
(1) Brentano's distinction between mental and physical phenomena	29
(2) Kinds, contents, and objects of mental acts	36
(3) The nature of the intentional nexus	39
(4) The problem of nonexistent objects	45
(5) The infinite regress argument against mental acts	51
(6) The nature of 'unconscious' mental acts	56
(7) The importance of structures	58
(8) Four dogmas of Gestalt psychology	63

v

Contents

3.	Kierkegaard: a different conception of man	68
	(1) Man as the rational animal	68
	(2) The importance of being anxious	71
	(3) A Freudian interpretation of Kierkegaard's theses	73
Part II	<i>Edmund Husserl: the problem of knowledge</i>	77
4.	The distinction between particulars and universals	79
	(1) The world of being and the world of becoming	79
	(2) The riddle of the nature of exemplification	83
	(3) Perception <i>versus</i> reflection	86
5.	Husserl's early view on numbers	89
	(1) The historical background	89
	(2) What are numbers?	93
	(3) Husserl's analysis of the concept of number	97
6.	Husserl's distinction between essences and their instances	101
	(1) The Platonic dogma and eidetic intuition	101
	(2) The argument for essences	104
	(3) The objects of perception	108
7.	Husserl's distinction between individuals and their aspects	115
	(1) Aspects and partial bundles	115
	(2) Aspects as properties of sense-impressions	117
	(3) Aspects as spatial parts	122
	(4) Aspects, descriptions, and noemata	127
	(5) The exaltation of consciousness	133
8.	The phenomenological method	136
	(1) The age of method-philosophizing	136
	(2) Eidetic reduction	138
	(3) Phenomenological reduction	139
	(4) Phenomenological reflection	144

Part III	<i>Martin Heidegger: the meaning of being</i>	147
9.	Heidegger's project	149
	(1) The main question of philosophy	149
	(2) The priority of human being	152
	(3) The unity and uniqueness of human beings	154
	(4) Being-in-the-world	157
10.	Modes of being	163
	(1) Heidegger's way of multiplying modes of being	163
	(2) Existence and exemplification	165
	(3) Existence and the categories	168
	(4) Existence and being an object	173
11.	The nature of existence	178
	(1) Existence as a property	178
	(2) Existence as a property of properties	184
	(3) Attempts to define existence	189
	(4) Existence as the substance of the world	192
	(5) Another look at Heidegger's view	195
Part IV	<i>Jean-Paul Sartre: the quest for freedom</i>	199
12.	The structure of mind	201
	(1) Being-in-itself and being-for-itself	201
	(2) The existence of selves	204
	(3) The transcendence of the ego	209
	(4) The constitution of the ego	215
	(5) The accessibility of the ego	220
	(6) Bad faith	221
13.	The origin of nothingness	226
	(1) The nature of negation	226
	(2) The givenness of negation	232
	(3) The nature of nothingness	236
	(4) Being and non-being	240
	(5) Everything and nothing	242
	(6) Questioning being	245

Contents

14. The pliancy of the past	251
(1) An explication of determinism	251
(2) Freedom versus determinism	258
(3) Freedom and reasons for actions	262
(4) Freedom and original choice	267
(5) Metaphysical freedom	272
Index	275