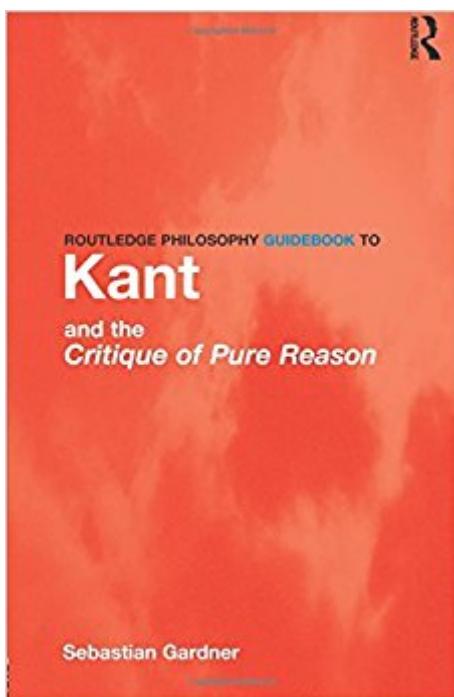


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# Routledge Philosophy GuideBook To Kant And The Critique Of Pure Reason (Routledge Philosophy GuideBooks)



## **Synopsis**

Kant's Critique of Pure Reason is arguably the single most important work in western philosophy. The book introduces and assesses: \* Kant's life and background of the Critique of Pure Reason\* the ideas and text of the Critique of Pure Reason\* the continuing relevance of Kant's work to contemporary philosophy. Ideal for anyone coming to Kant's thought for the first time. This guide will be vital reading for all students of Kant in philosophy.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

...a promising book [that] will generate interest. Sebastian Gardner's argument and analysis are carried out in a tough and vigorous way which yields a good ratio of analysis to exegesis.

Sebastian Gardner is a Lecturer in Philosophy at the University of London. He is the author of Irrationality and the Philosophy of Psychoanalysis (1993).

The nice thing about this book is that the reader feels like the author is "reading the critique" with the reader herself. Major argumentative difficulties are taken up as they occur, and Gardner analyses Kant's support for his framework keenly. Another pleasant aspect of Gardner's reading is his attempt to show how Kant's transcendental idealism is systematic, that is, how the first Critique is not merely a compendium of conveniently assembled arguments (as some great interpreters like P.F. Strawson

have claimed). Rather, by viewing Kant's project as a "metaphysics of experience" in light of the "Copernican revolution" (in which objects must conform, in some way, to the subjects who know them), Gardner unapologetically reviews the plausibility of Kant's views as a system, not as a list of claims that are supported via analytic argumentation. At times, I found Gardner's criticism of Kant's arguments somewhat dense and over-compressed. That said, this is not surprising for such a guide, and the most important arguments/developments in the book, like the Refutation of Idealism and the Transcendental Deduction, are given a full, critical, and clear treatment. For those looking to catch the Kant's overall meaning in the Critique, this book is highly recommended. Its brevity is also laudable. The guide is accessible to those with a basic knowledge of modern philosophy, though not for complete philosophy novices.

An excellent, very clear, introduction to Kant's philosophy

Outstanding. An invaluable introduction and commentary.

Correctly assessing the argument in Kant's first Critique is one of the most difficult exercises in philosophy and often overly stylized summaries induce illusions of clarity, when the real argument is in the background, almost too arcane to be grasped, and leaving one in the distressing condition of realizing one hasn't understood a thing. This account has to be the best of the lot, attempting without compromises to survey the whole majestic range. Good job.

aprupo!

I bought this book from .com a few years ago while enrolled in German Critical Philosophy--all Kant. Six books. I found Gardner's book--as well as the Routledge Guidebook (RG) on Wittgenstein--to be not as comprehensive as I wanted or needed. For example, the RG series will take some themes and break them down for the reader. While this is good, they weren't linked back up to the overarching themes. Basically, the RG series aren't deep enough or broad enough. I would not recommend buying this book if you're hoping for a quick fix to understanding CPR. Look for articles on specific topics in *Kant Studien*, a Kant journal your library should have. Beck and also Kemp Smith have good basic intro books on Kant and CPR. Also check with your professor about who is a prominent Kant scholar and check out books by them. (Henry?) Allison has a really great book on Kant's aesthetics, which is ultimately tied up with the epistemology in CPR. recent edit: obviously I'm

biased to my own review, but this book is not the best general commentary on Kant and CPR, though it may be the easiest to find or come across here on the internet. Dig deeper and you'll be rewarded. Trust me.

Exactly what I wanted. I buy books for instructors who forgot to order on time or ones that are out of print.

The person who develops an interest in philosophy is likely to discover that, much as you might prefer it weren't so, you can't get very far without a decent knowledge of Kant. Everywhere you turn, he keeps showing up. You can finesse Hegel, you can finesse Heidegger, but you can't finesse Kant. You have to bite that bullet, the only question is where to start. This is where to start. Gardner has written a superb guidebook to Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, and by far the best available introduction to Kant, period. This book has been reprinted four times since it was published in 2000, and I think that's because there is nothing else like it. A few reviewers have complained about a lack of clarity here and there. Well, maybe, (an early section on the problem of reality struck me that way on first reading), but we are talking about Kant here, after all. If you hit a patch like that, just plow ahead and come back and try that section again later on. If it's a discussion of some specialized topic that doesn't interest you, skip it. There is so much in Kant, that if you get most of it, you get a lot. Besides describing and explaining Kant's ideas themselves, Gardner also does a terrific job of discussing the major issues and controversies connected with the interpretation and implications of those ideas. Some of those, like questions about the ontological and epistemological status of ultimate reality ("things in themselves"), have never receded from philosophical debate and probably never will. Near the back is an excellent chapter that locates the CPR within the larger body of Kant's work; the final chapter describes the kind of reception the CPR got when it was originally published, and the sort of influence it has had subsequently. The bibliography is outstanding, and if you want more, the philosophy department at University College London (Gardner is a faculty member there) has outstanding bibliographic resources available on-line.

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