



Basic Writings (International Nietzsche Studies)

By Paul Ree, Robin Small

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This book contains the first English translations of *The Origin of the Moral Sensations* and *Psychological Observations*, the two most important works by the German philosopher Paul Re. These essays present Re's moral philosophy, which influenced the ideas of his close friend Friedrich Nietzsche considerably. Nietzsche scholars have often incorrectly attributed to him arguments and ideas that are Re's and have failed to detect responses to Re's works in Nietzsche's writings. Re's thinking combined two strands: a pessimistic conception of human nature, presented in the French moralists' aphoristic style that would become a mainstay of Nietzsche's own writings, and a theory of morality derived from Darwin's theory of natural selection. Re's moral Darwinism was a central factor prompting Nietzsche to write *On the Genealogy of Morals* and the groundwork for much of today's Evolutionary Ethics. In an illuminating critical introduction, Robin Small examines Re's life and work, locating his application of evolutionary concepts to morality within a broader history of Darwinism while exploring Re's theoretical and personal relationship with Nietzsche. challenges the myth of Nietzsche as a solitary thinker.

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Basic Writings (International Nietzsche Studies) By Paul Ree, Robin Small Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3437968 in Books
- Published on: 2003-04
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .80" w x 6.00" l, 1.08 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 240 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"In addition to doing an excellent job of acquainting us with the life and work of an important and influential thinker, this book fills a hole in Nietzsche studies that most people did not know existed."

Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: German

Users Review

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