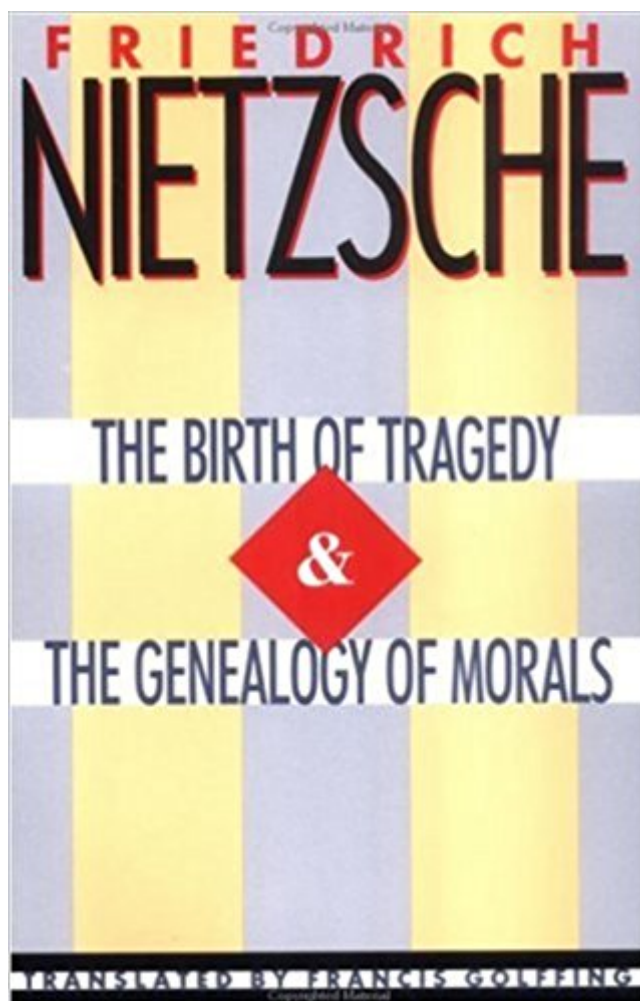


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# The Birth Of Tragedy & The Genealogy Of Morals



## Synopsis

Skillful, sophisticated translations of two of Nietzsche's essential works about the conflict between the moral and aesthetic approaches to life, the impact of Christianity on human values, the meaning of science, the contrast between the Apollonian and Dionysian spirits, and other themes central to his thinking. *The Birth of Tragedy* (1872) was Nietzsche's first book, *The Genealogy of Morals* (1887) one of his last. Though they span the career of this controversial genius, both address the problems such as the conflict between the moral versus aesthetic approaches to life, the effect of Christianity on human values, the meaning of science, and the famous dichotomy between the Apollonian and Dionysian spirits, among many themes which Nietzsche struggled throughout his tortured life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: German

Skillful, sophisticated translations of two of Nietzsche's essential works about the conflict between the moral and aesthetic approaches to life, the impact of Christianity on human values, the meaning of science, the contrast between the Apollonian and Dionysian spirits, and other themes central to his thinking.

If you like easy reading... Forget this book. Its a book for dipping into... But dip lightly at your own peril. This is deep stuff. The first book is for those interested in the deeper psychology of the greek

tragedy. It is fascinating. I had the advantage of studying this gem in university and so I had plenty of opportunities to discuss the book with others who had read it too. That helps a lot. Read a page and close the book and think, think think. Nietzsche is, above all, a great challenge to the intellect. Remember that. As for the second book, the challenge that Nietzsche poses to the established sense of morality is breathtaking. I will tell you one thing though; this is warrior philosophy. This is for the radical individualist. This is for the free thinker. You must remember that being truly alone means you are abandoned on a long and winding path. It is a rocky path that is strewn with the obstacles that the herd left there, filled with the traps of the mediocre. It is a path easily strayed from. If you are indeed one of these rare individuals, this book will provide you with energy. It is the energy of YOUR THOUGHTS reflected back at you in eloquent prose and solid logic. If you are a free thinking individualist... Nietzsche is for you. He makes you work on every page though. I wouldn't recommend this as your first Nietzsche read however. "Beyond good and evil" is a slightly easier starting point. If you already have an idea of what old boy Friedrich is babbling about, then give this gift to the world a go. He never lets you down.

At times brilliant, at others incomplete. Golfing sometimes comes up with brilliant formulations, but all too often his text skips over or omits details that should be included.

This was required reading for one of political science classes. Great book! Just keep in mind you need to expect a book on the theory of politics to have some controversial ideas.

I have to be the sensible voice of dissent on this one: having read the Hollingdale and Kaufmann translations of these books, and although Golfing was no authority par excellence on Nietzsche (but rather a poet--not utterly devoid of perspective), I think this particular pair of translated works has its necessary place among the more respected editions. Yes, it does lack the trademark styles and general passion characteristic of Nietzsche's writings--but only for the initiated reader; this is actually a perfect edition for the rookie, the newbie: it takes the overwhelming aspect away, it eases the fresh reader into the shock and rapidity of the stream of thought, it presents the subject matter in a way that would garner an undergrad or graduate student "props" as a brilliant writer with a universal style. Obviously, as one becomes more attuned to these vibes, they will want to reach for the more difficult readings--not merely to test their comprehension skills, but for personal aesthetics as well, like the feeling of accomplishment. The more seasoned reader knows that Nietzsche is all about personality (he is literary-style, personified) and passion, but they should as well note that our

author here is not accessible to everyone the same way (let alone with ease, if at all). I still found substance here, I found a less colorful rendition of thematic scope, I found a "Nietzsche for Beginners"--but why hate on Golfing as a result?; and considering the growing popularity of the author, the latecomers will all have to step through that door in some fashion, and this book does a better than average job of allowing just that.

The translator of this volume does not seem to grasp what Nietzsche is trying to do. He omits passages that are important for understanding of the text simply because the importance of them is not always clear at first. He also omits the references that Nietzsche makes to his own earlier works. This makes the text flow more smoothly, but doesn't allow the reader the opportunity get a handle on what Nietzsche is up to, and doesn't give the reader a sense of what other works by this author might be of interest. Again, this is a good work, but there are better translations available!

I'll give it 2 stars instead of 1. because it is not Nietzsche I have the problem with. I knew I was taking a chance by buying this, I like Hollingdale, and like Kaufman, but this translator, takes the fun out of Freddie. It hardly even sounds like Nietzsche speaking. For one example a famous line is "we all speak vaguely about poetry because we are all bad poets.".. When I read that line I barely realized I read it as he writes "we all speak abstractly about our poetry because we tend to be indifferent poets." The whole book reads like that. Nietzsche bold statements! poetic prose are replaced with boring textbook like translation. I realized we might have a problem when I read the "ABOUT THE AUTHOR" in the book and he had translated the title of "THE GAY SCIENCE" to "THE JOYFUL KNOWING" uhm.... I'm re-buying the book today the Kaufman version. don't buy this.

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