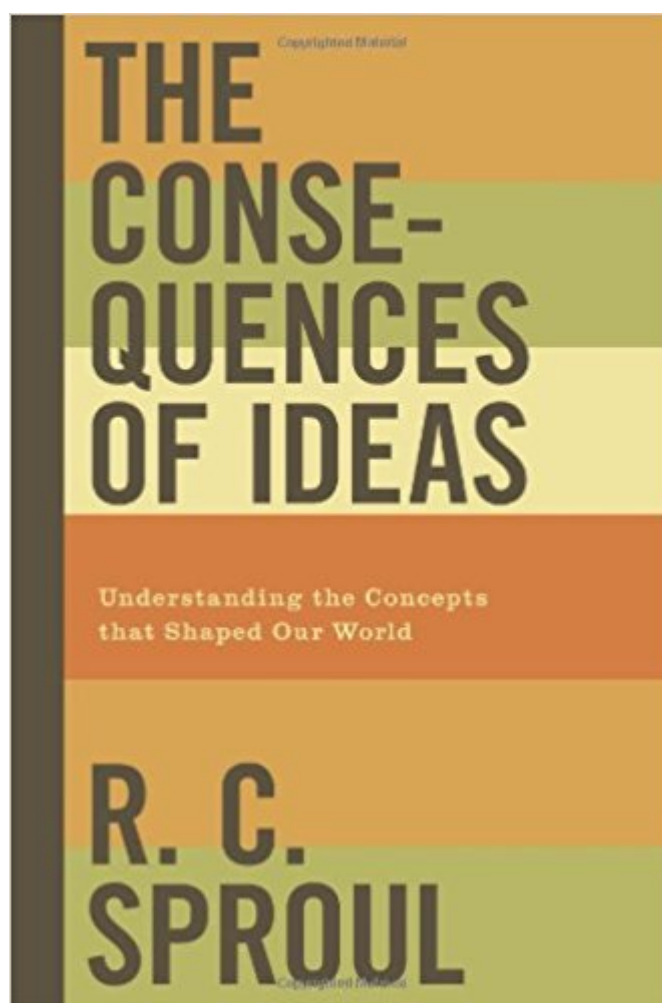


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# The Consequences Of Ideas: Understanding The Concepts That Shaped Our World



## Synopsis

Sproul's survey of the ongoing impact of history's most influential philosophies urges readers to take prevailing cultural mind-sets seriouslyâ | because ideas do have consequences. The greatest thinkers of all time are impacting us still. From public-policy decisions and current laws to world events, theology, the arts, education, and even conversations between friends, history's most influential philosophies have wrought massive consequences on nearly everything we see, think, and do. Thus it is critical for Christians to understand the ideas that are shaping them. The greater their familiarity with the streams of thought that have saturated Western culture through the ages, the greater their ability to influence this culture for Christ. With *The Consequences of Ideas*, now in paperback, R. C. Sproul expertly leads the way for thoughtful readers. Tracing the contours of Western philosophy from the ancients to the molders of modern and postmodern thought-including Plato, Aquinas, Descartes, Kant, and Freud-Sproul proves that ideas are not just passing fads; they endure for generations to come and demand our serious attention.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

R. C. Sproul (Drs, Free University of Amsterdam) serves as senior minister of preaching and teaching at Saint Andrew's Chapel in Sanford, Florida, and is the founder and president of Ligonier Ministries. He has taught at numerous colleges and seminaries, has written over seventy books, and is featured daily on *Renewing Your Mind*, an international radio broadcast.

I first ran across this book during a course on Philosophy I was taking at Ligonier. In this golden

gem of a book, Dr. Sproul examines philosophy ranging from Thales of Miletus, often considered the father of Western philosophy, through Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Hume, all the way down to Nietzsche, Darwin and Freud and more! I can not recommend this title highly enough! This book gives the reader an understanding of the impact the various philosophies have had on both western culture and the Christian church. Ideas have consequences, both good and bad, and the fallout of the ideas and philosophies examined in this book continue to have a massive effect not only our society, but the Church as well. Dr. Sproul succeeds in teaching these philosophical concepts in a manner that engages the readers mind and heart. The most difficult thing for me was putting the book down! I am convinced that "The Consequences of ideas" is a must read for the serious disciple of Christ, and will give the reader an invaluable in-depth overview of the forces that are shaping the world today.

R.C. Sproul as a writer doesn't just put words on paper, but he TEACHES complex subjects clearly and accurately in a laymans' terms. When I read a book by Dr. Sproul, I am assured that it is time and money well spent.

Noted theologian and philosopher R.C. Sproul has written a concise and clear text on the history of philosophy, its major contributors, and the ideas which sprang from these great minds. The strength of this book is its easy to read style that can attract non-philosophers who are interested in the subject and would like to understand the modern ideas and from which they come. The book begins with a brief chapter on the "First Philosophers" and then sweeps through history with chapter after chapter, reviewing and processing the greatest philosophers up to the present time: Plato, Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Kierkegaard, Marx, Sartre and many more are discussed. The reviewer who gave this book only one star has made some unfounded attacks. The first attack, is that Dr. Sproul is not a fundamentalist Christian, but a Reformed Christian, and the differences, though similar in some respects are also in others, quite different. Sproul's review of Nietzsche is on target and the one sentence quoted by the previous reviewer, needs to be read in its entire context on "The will to Power." Old Friedrich's philosophies do allow for such uses against our fellow man, even if Nietzsche himself wouldn't have done so. Further, this is a book about ideals and their consequences and Sproul does take a Christian worldview position. This is no reason to disregard a book because it may affront one's personal world-view. There is much to be learned from this text. The chapters on Aquinas and Kierkegaard are outstanding. The conclusion is the weakest point in the book and should have been better developed. It is as Sproul was tired of writing and decided

to stop; This is a problem in some of his other books Like "The Last Days According to Jesus." A highly recommended text. After reading this book, I would suggest one purchase the more detailed work called "Life's Ultimate Questions" by Nash.

A very well written book and one that I would highly recommend for several different types of people. For those marginally interested in philosophy or time-constrained and wishing an overview in philosophy, I know of no better book to recommend; the language, while still sprinkled with some progressive vocabulary, is still understandable for most people. For those with more previous exposure and formal study of philosophy, perhaps in earlier years, this book will also satisfy as a refresher. In short, which is what the book is, and masterfully so, it's a very good survey of modern philosophy. I was a bit disappointed however, as I see at least one other reviewer was in the same vein, in that R.C. didn't really tie the philosophies discussed more concretely to any societal consequences -- elements of thinking (or non-thinking as the case may be) which are tearing our world apart. The consequences of the ideas discussed on the book are left for the reader to surmise. In some cases, the consequences in our present society of the ideas presented are more easily realized. In some cases, they are not. And exactly how some of those ideas were propagated from the original "thinker" into reality in our society is not discussed at all. So in this way, I think R.C. missed a great opportunity to draw more concrete conclusions, which is precisely why I purchased the book. Nevertheless, the book turned out to be a pleasant surprise, though I feel the title is a bit misleading in that the ideas are merely presented, but not concretely concluded (as the title would have one to believe.) I would sub-title this book "A Survey Of Philosophy." Finally, I think wisdom dictates that this book only be given to him that shows proper grounding and exudes the fruit of faith in his life. To give this book to a confused person/Christian, or "free thinker" (perhaps a disillusioned teenager?), wouldn't be a good idea. R.C. does a great job of laying out the thoughts of many men -- deranged men even in some cases, and certainly few that agree with Jesus in their thinking -- without always providing proper rebuttal or antidote, so, beware that while the book is good, it would only be good in some cases. Other cases, depending on the person, it could have undesirable effects. As the greatest teacher EVER indicated, words are seeds... So, be careful. Otherwise, a very good read and worth having.

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