

The Transcendence of the Ego: A Sketch for a Phenomenological Description (Routledge Classics)

By Jean-Paul Sartre

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'I should like to show here that the Ego is neither formally or materially in consciousness: it is outside, in the world.'


Jean-Paul Sartre

The Transcendence of the Ego is one of Jean-Paul Sartre's earliest philosophical publications and essential for understanding the trajectory of his work as a whole. When it first appeared in France in 1937 Sartre was still largely unknown, working as a school teacher in a provincial French town.

Attacking prevailing philosophical theories head on, Sartre offers a brilliant and radical account of the self as a product of consciousness, situated in the world. He introduces many of the themes central to his major work, *Being and Nothingness*: the nature of consciousness, the problem of self-knowledge, other minds, and anguish.

This translation includes a thorough and illuminating introduction by Sarah Richmond, placing Sartre's essay in its philosophical and historical context.

Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980). The foremost French thinker and writer of the early post-war years. His books, which include *Being and Nothingness*, *Nausea*, *The Age of Reason* and *No Exit* have exerted enormous influence in philosophy, literature, politics and drama.

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

The *Transcendence of the Ego*, first published in France in 1937, may be regarded as a turning point in the philosophical development of Jean-Paul Sartre. Before writing this essay, Sartre had become intimately acquainted with phenomenologists such as Edmund Husserl and Martin Heidegger. In this critically significant essay, Sartre attacked Husserl's notion of a transcendental ego. This disagreement with Husserl was profoundly important for Sartre, and it facilitated his transition from phenomenology to the doctrine of Being and Nothingness.

About the Author

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