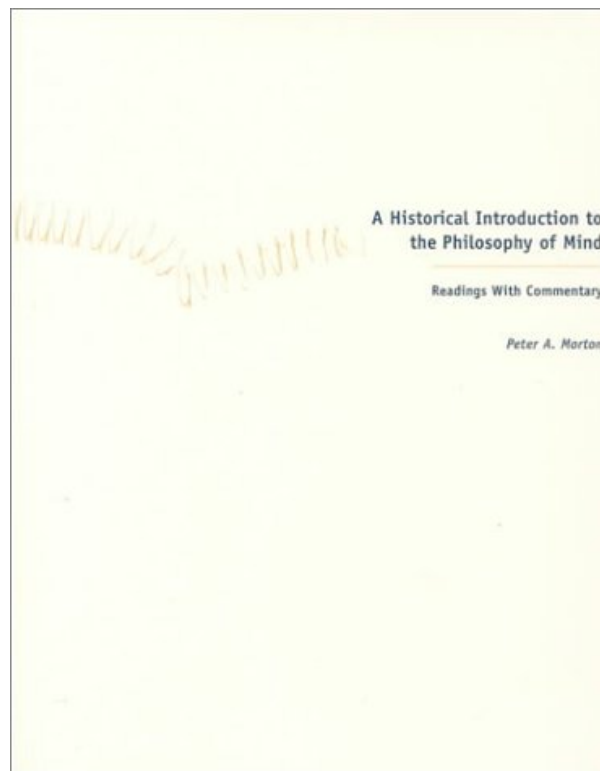
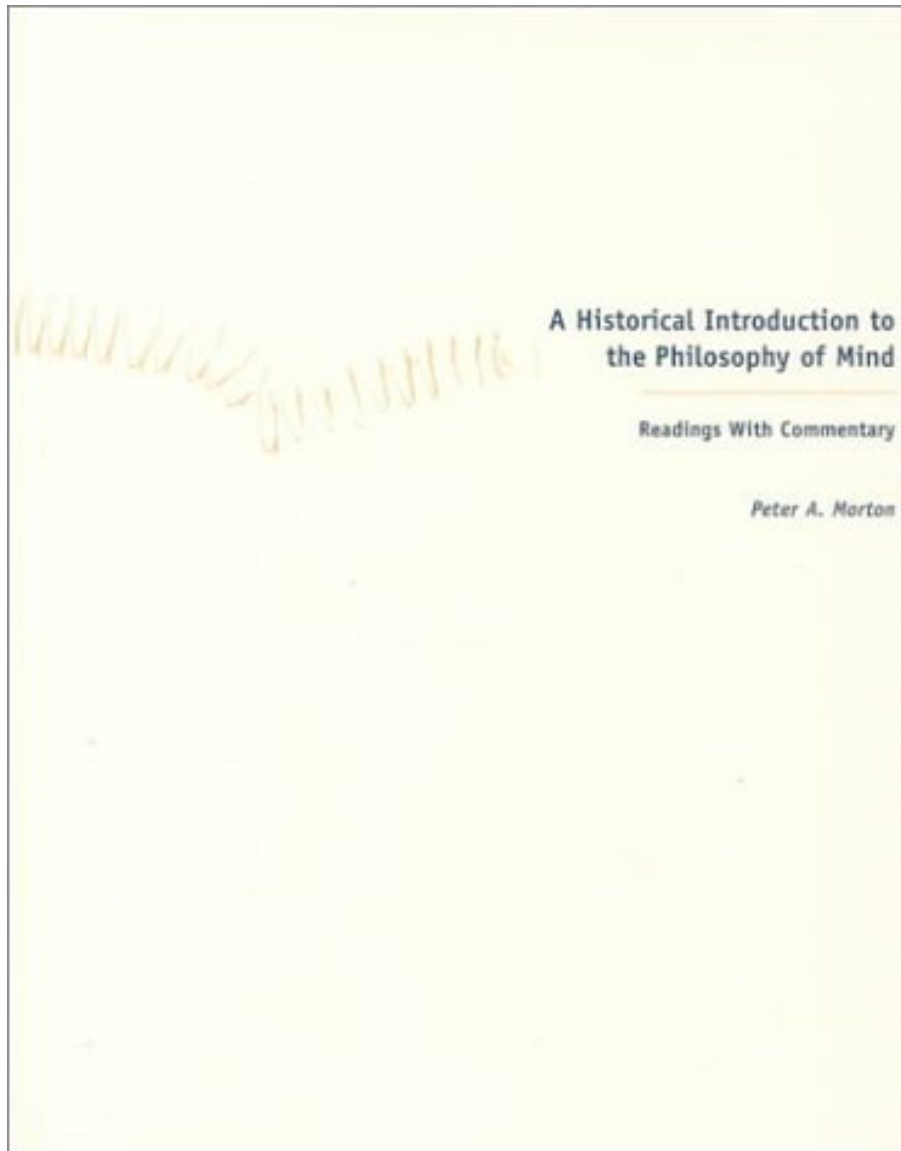


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"The format of this book combines the virtues of both text and anthology of primary readings. Morton's introductions to each section of the book will prove invaluable to the student; he not only gives lucid and nicely organized expositions of the views of the authors but also puts those views into the context of the issues which were current when the authors were writing. In this way the historical continuity and developmental character of the theories discussed in preserved and indeed illuminated." (George Pappas)

"This is a useful selection of historical material, with illuminating commentary. It fills a real gap in the literature." (Frances Egan)

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**A Historical Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind** is designed both to provide a selection of core readings on the subject and to make those readings accessible by providing commentaries to guide the reader through initially intimidating material. Each commentary explains technical concepts and provides background on obscure arguments as they arise, setting them in the historical and intellectual milieu from which they emerged. The readings concentrate on providing the student with a solid grounding in the theories of representative figures of the major philosophical movements, from Plato and Aristotle to important recent figures such as Fodor and Dennett. A glossary of key terms is also included.

## About the Author

Peter A. Morton is a Chair of the Humanities Department at Mount Royal College, Calgary.

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an overview over the development of philosophy of mind

By meli

Great book! Instructive, pedagogic, easy to read and serious. It gives a broad idea about the basis of what we now discuss as philosophy of mind (AI, consciousness, etc) Very useful selection of texts includedA Historical Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind: Readings with Commentary

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textbook, or teach yourself

By Simone

This book could serve as either a textbook for a philosophy of mind class or as a tool with which one can teach oneself these concepts. The basic setup of the book is quite helpful and informative. Morton begins each section with a lengthy commentary on the readings that will follow; these typically involve a discussion of the historical background of a particular philosophy, key terms, and a detailed discussion of the excerpt or essay contained in the section. The book includes a glossary but suffers from a lack of an index; the process of locating a term mentioned in an introduction, for example, tends to be quite complicated. The text "begins at the beginning" with Plato, Aristotle, Galileo, and a great deal of information and readings about and by Descartes. The actual philosophies it covers are: dualism, monism (materialism and idealism), logical behaviorism, linguistic philosophy, mind-brain identity theory, artificial intelligence, functionalism, and eliminative materialism. Each of these typically has 2-3 thinkers represented in terms of essays and excerpts, and the sections vary from about 20 to 40 pages apiece. Morton almost always provides a large and well-excerpted chunk of reading, which, coupled with the detail he provides in his commentary, will help in making a person able to discuss and understand the positions detailed here. The book concludes with a lengthy section on consciousness (featuring Nagel's famous essay "What Is It Like to Be a Bat?" plus three other readings) and a somewhat confusing section on Intentionality (perhaps the most confusing section of the book). Morton's commentary, overall, is clear and helpful; the philosophies covered here are quite complex, but his writing and careful choosing of reading material makes them easier to grasp.

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